



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Lon Roberts, Chairperson
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4822 Madison Yards Way
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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
RECEIVED: 10/24/2018 10:05:01 AM

October 24, 2018

Re: Joint Application of American Transmission Company, ITC
Midwest LLC, and Dairyland Power Cooperative, for
Authority to Construct and Operate a New 345 kV
Transmission Line from the Existing Hickory Creek
Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, to the Existing
Cardinal Substation in Dane County, Wisconsin, to be
Known as the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Project

5-CE-146

To the Person Addressed:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) received an application for the construction of a new intermediate substation and a high-voltage electric transmission line from a river crossing at Cassville, Wisconsin to an existing substation in the town of Middleton, Wisconsin (also known as the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project). Your property may be affected by the proposed project. This letter is being sent to property owners directly along the proposed routes and individuals who have asked to be placed on our mailing list. It would be appreciated if public officials would place this notice in a location where it can be viewed by the public.

The Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are now identifying issues and conducting analyses to include in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of this effort, the agencies are holding public outreach/scoping sessions throughout the project area. At these sessions, Commission staff will explain the regulatory review process and solicit input from the public to help the state agencies determine the scope of the EIS that must be prepared regarding the proposed project.

The agencies encourage persons with local information or environmental concerns to attend the public scoping session. The session will be held in an open house format. Anyone interested in this proposed project is invited to attend. Comments on the scope of the EIS can be submitted: (1) at these public scoping sessions; (2) by letter addressed to the EIS coordinator for the docket (see contacts at the end of this letter); or (3) through the Commission's website at <http://psc.wi.gov> where you can go to the "e-services" tab toward the top of the webpage, then click "file a comment" on the left hand side of the page, then locate docket 5-CE-146.

The deadline for submitting EIS scoping comments is January 4, 2019.

There will be additional public comment periods throughout the review process, including comments on the draft EIS and testimony submitted at the public hearing.

Locations and Dates

Thursday, November 8, 2018 Dodger Bowl Lanes – Banquet Center 318 King St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Time: 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., identical sessions.
Monday, November 12, 2018 Madison Marriott West-Salon A 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr. Middleton, WI 53562 Time: 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., identical sessions.
Wednesday, November 14, 2018 Grant County Fairgrounds UWEX Youth and Agriculture Center Auditorium 916 E. Elm St. Lancaster, WI 53813 Time: 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., identical sessions.

Brief Project Description

American Transmission Company LLC (ATC), Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), and ITC Midwest (ITC) have jointly filed an application with the Commission for approval to construct a new intermediate substation, proposed to be called Hill Valley, and a new proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line, of approximately 84 to 105 miles in length, depending on possible route combinations. The line, if approved, would be owned 45.5 percent each by ATC and ITC, and 9 percent by DPC. ATC would own the new Hill Valley substation.

The applicants are proposing to construct the new high-voltage transmission line from the Cardinal substation in Dane County, Wisconsin to the Hickory Creek substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, along with a new connecting intermediate substation to be constructed in Grant County, Wisconsin (the Hill Valley substation).

The proposed routes would cross 4 counties and 38 municipalities and towns. A map of the proposed routes and substation is attached to this letter. The proposed project cost for the new lines, modifications, and substation is estimated between \$492 and \$543 million, depending on possible route combinations.

State and Federal Agency Jurisdiction

The proposed project requires a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Commission before construction can begin. Based on the record of analysis of need, cost,

engineering performance, and potential environmental and societal impacts, the Commission will decide whether to approve, modify, or deny the applicants' proposal. DNR will consider the applicants' application for wetland and waterway permits, if applicable under Wis. Stat. ch. 30, potential impacts to rare species, and other affected resources under its jurisdiction. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection will produce an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) under Wis. Stat. § 32.035. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will consider permits to build in or across state and federal highway rights-of-way and will examine impacts to scenic easements, if applicable. The Wisconsin Historical Society may review the proposed project for any potential adverse impacts to listed cultural resources under Wis. Stat. § 44.40. Other reviews, approvals, or permits may be necessary from federal agencies.

The Rural Utilities Service, with the cooperation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), is currently conducting an environmental review of the project and will conclude with its review by issuing a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision. The applicants will apply for a special use permit from the USFWS for crossing the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Environmental Impact Statement

This proposed electric transmission project is a Type I project under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(1). An EIS is required as specified under the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act, Wis. Stat. § 1.11. The EIS will cover the need of for the project, its cost, and potential environmental, community, and private property impacts. The draft EIS will likely be issued in the first quarter of 2019 and will be followed by a 45-day comment period. Comments on the draft EIS will be used to prepare the final EIS.

When completed, the draft EIS will be made available and a notice of its availability will be provided to the public.

Public Hearings and Commission Decision

The Commission will hold technical and public hearings on the project no less than 30 days after the release of the final EIS. At least 30 days before the hearings, the Commission will mail a Notice of Hearing to those on the project mailing list and notify the local news media. The Notice will include the time, date, and location of the hearings, and also instructions regarding how to provide testimony for the hearing record. If you have any concerns about the project, you should attend the hearing to make the Commission aware of your concerns. The Commission must base its decisions about the project, in part, on the record of the hearing. The Commission will discuss the record for this project at a meeting open to the public.

Information and Contacts

For more information about the Commission's review procedures and information about how to participate, please see the Commission's website: <https://psc.wi.gov/>.

To the Person Addressed
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To review project application materials and additional related documents

- Local libraries and municipal clerks' offices in the project area
- Commission website under the docket's "E-Services" tab, docket search number 5-CE-146, at:
<http://apps.psc.wi.gov/vs2017/dockets/content/detail.aspx?id=5&case=CE&num=146>
- A project specific web page is available at:
<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/CardinalHickoryCreek.aspx>

Contacts

- Commission Docket Coordinator DNR Contact
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- Commission Environmental Impact Statement Coordinator
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- Commission Media Contact
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Sincerely,

/s/ Akanksha Craft

Akanksha Craft
Docket Coordinator
Division of Energy Regulation

AC:jlt:DL: 01654732

Attachment

Cardinal-Hickory Creek Electric Transmission Project 5-CE-146

