

BARNHART-BRANCH RIVER ELECTRIC RELIABILITY PROJECT

Overview

American Transmission Co. is proposing to reinforce the 345-kilovolt, or 345-kV, electric transmission facilities in eastern Wisconsin.

Need for the project

The network of 345-kV transmission lines and substations form the backbone of ATC's grid in Wisconsin, and are used to transfer large amounts of electricity across long distances, from the power plants where the energy is generated to the local distribution utilities that serve homes and businesses.

Changes at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Electric, including an increase in generating capacity, require reinforcement of the network in Manitowoc, Calumet and Sheboygan counties.

Project Description

Substations

Two new substations are required. The Branch River Switching Station would be constructed in Manitowoc County and the Barnhart Substation would be constructed in Sheboygan County.

Transmission lines

Convert a 345-/138-kV double-circuit line that runs about 51 miles in Manitowoc, Calumet and Sheboygan counties to a double-circuit 345-kV line that will connect the new substations, and construct a new, 18-mile, 138-kV line in Sheboygan County or

Construct a new 345-kV line that links the Branch River and Barnhart facilities (about 40 miles).

Regulatory review process

Projects of this size require the preparation of a regulatory application for permits and approvals from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Prior to submitting the application, ATC works with local officials, community leaders, landowners and other interested parties to identify possible route alternatives for the location of new transmission lines. ATC is required to submit at least two route alternatives for consideration by the agencies.

Routing and siting priorities for new transmission lines

In siting transmission lines, ATC works to identify co-location opportunities within existing corridors to minimize impacts to people and the environment. Existing utility corridors (transmission lines and pipelines), transportation corridors (highways and railroads) and recreation trails are reviewed before creating new corridors using section, property or field lines.

Public involvement

Public input is an important part of the transmission line siting process. ATC seeks to gather as much local input and feedback at the outset in order to design projects that minimize impacts to landowners and communities. This local area information helps ATC design projects that address the concerns of those most affected by our plans. Information is gathered through personal visits, public meetings and informational open houses. ATC incorporates written public comments in its regulatory filing seeking approval to build the project.

Anticipated schedule

Identify potential transmission line routes with public involvement	Early 2011-Summer 2012
Environmental analysis	2011-2012
File CPCN application	Fall 2012
Regulatory review & public comment	2013
Anticipated decision from PSCW	Early 2014
Construction start	Fall 2016
Line in service	2018

For more information

LANDOWNERS:

David Hovde

Local Relations Consultant

P.O. Box 6113

De Pere, WI 54115

dhovde@atcllc.com

920-338-6550, or

Toll-free: 866-899-3204, ext. 6550

MEDIA:

Jackie Olson

Communications Consultant

P.O. Box 6113

De Pere, WI 54115

jolson@atcllc.com

920-338-6574, or

Toll-free: 866-899-3204, ext. 6574



ATC is a Green Tier company, selected by the Wisconsin DNR for demonstrating superior environmental performance and continual improvement.

Information current as of June 2011



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