PSC REF#:204332

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Phil Montgomery, Chairperson
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610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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May 12, 2014

Re: Joint Application of American Transmission Company LLC and Northern States Power Company–Wisconsin, as Electric Public Utilities, for Authority to Construct and Operate a New Badger-Coulee 345 kV Transmission Line from the La Crosse area, in La Crosse County, to the Greater Madison area in Dane County, Wisconsin. 5-CE-142

To Whom It May Concern:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) received an application for the construction of a high-voltage electric transmission line from La Crosse to Madison (also known as the **Badger Coulee 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 PSC 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 PSC 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.

Public Outreach/Scoping Sessions
The agencies encourage persons with local information or environmental concerns to attend one of the following public meetings. Identical sessions will be held at each location 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 PSC website at http://psc.wi.gov under Public Comments for the docket 5-CE-142.

The deadline for submitting EIS scoping comments is Tuesday, July 15, 2014.

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

Scoping Sessions Details
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Locations and Dates

Wednesday, May 28th Waunakee Village Community Center 333 S. Madison Street Waunakee, WI	Monday, June 2 Town of Holland Town Hall W7937 County Road MH Holland, WI
Tuesday, June 3 Cashton Community Hall 811 Main Street Cashton, WI	Thursday, June 5 Kalahari Resorts 1305 Kalahari Drive Wisconsin Dells, WI
Monday, June 9 Comfort Inn and Suites W10170 Holiday Drive Black River Falls, WI	Tuesday, June 10 Best Western 1017 East McCoy Boulevard Tomah, WI

Brief Project Description
American Transmission Company LLC (ATC) and Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin (NSPW) have jointly filed an application with the PSC for approval to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line. The line, if approved, would be constructed, owned, and operated primarily by ATC and NSPW with three other passive investors.

The applicants are proposing to construct the new high-voltage transmission line from the Briggs Road Substation in the town of Onalaska, La Crosse County to Dane County, first connecting to the North Madison Substation in the town of Vienna and ending at the Cardinal Substation in the town of Middleton. No new substations are proposed for this project.

The line would be approximately 156 to 185 miles long depending on the route selected. The two proposed routes cross 9 counties and 74 municipalities and towns. A map of the proposed routes is attached to this letter. The segments in the application are identified as Segments A through P with two alternatives, P-east and B-north. Each segment is further subdivided into sub-segments. The application segments are named differently than those used by the applicants prior to submitting the application. Tables containing the different segment and sub-segment labels are attached to this letter (Tables 1 and 2). For help in identifying specific locations along the potential routes or other types of project information, the application is available on the PSC's Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) system website at http://psc.wi.gov and at local libraries and municipal/township clerks' offices. A list of libraries that have received a copy of the application is included at the end of this letter. Additionally, you may find the interactive map located on the ATC project webpage http://www.atc-projects.com/projects/badger-coulee/ useful. And as always, questions can be directed to the PSC contacts listed at the end of this letter.

State and Federal Agency Jurisdiction
The proposed project requires a Certificate of Public convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the PSC before construction can begin. Based on the record of analyses of need, cost, and potential impacts, the Commissioners will decide whether to approve, modify, or deny the applicants' proposal. DNR will consider the applicants' application for wetland and waterway permits under Wis. Stat. ch. 30, potential impacts to protected species, and other issues under its jurisdiction. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will prepare an Agricultural Impact Statement under Wis. Stat. § 32.035 to identify and protect fragile soils and to aid farmers in potential easement negotiations. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will consider permits to build in or across state and federal highway rights-of-way and will examine impacts to scenic easements. The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) may request adjustments in routes or structure placements to avoid or reduce any potential adverse impacts to listed cultural resources under Wis. Stat. § 44.40. Other reviews, approvals, and permits will likely be necessary from federal agencies.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
This project is a Type I project under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(1). It requires an EIS to be prepared as specified under the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act, Wis. Stat. § 1.11. The EIS will cover the need for the project, its cost, and potential environmental, community, and private property impacts. The draft EIS will likely be issued in the fall of 2014 and 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 viewable on the PSC's website. You can also request a free paper or electronic copy of the draft and the final EIS by contacting the project docket coordinator.

Public Hearing and Public Service Commission Decision
The PSC will hold technical and public hearings on the project approximately 30 days after the release of the final EIS. At least 30 days before the hearing, the PSC will notify the local news media and mail a Notice of Hearing to everyone on the project mailing list. The Notice will include the time, date, and location of the hearings. If you have any concerns about the project, you should attend the hearing to make the PSC aware of your concerns. The PSC must base its decision about the project on the record of the hearing. At this time, the hearing is anticipated to be in December 2014. The PSC will decide the disposition of this project at a meeting open to the public in the spring of 2015.

Information and Contacts

Review the project application at:

- Local libraries (see list below) and municipal clerks' offices in the project area
- PSC website under the docket's "Documents" tab at: http://psc.wi.gov/apps40/dockets/content/detail.aspx?dockt_id=5-CE-142

Contacts:

- PSC Docket Coordinator
  Jim Lepinski
  (608) 266-0478
  jim.lepinski@wisconsin.gov

  DNR Contact
  Ben Callan
  (608) 266-3524
  benjamin.callan@wisconsin.gov

- PSC Environmental Impact Statement Coordinator
  Marilyn M. Weiss
  (608) 266-1613
  marilyn.weiss@wisconsin.gov

- PSC Media Contact
  Nathan Conrad
  (608) 266-9600
  nathan.conrad@wisconsin.gov

Review the Project Application at the Following Libraries*

Baraboo Public Library
Black River Falls Public Library
Blair-Preston Public Library
Cashton Memorial Library
Cross Plains - Rosemary Garfoot Public Library
Deforest Area Public Library
Elroy Public Library
Ettrick Public Library
Galesville Public Library
Hillsboro Public Library
Kendall Public Library
La Crosse County Library – Bangor Branch
La Crosse County Library – Holmen Area Branch
La Crosse County Library – Onalaska Branch
La Crosse County Library – West Salem Branch
La Crosse Public Library
Lodi Woman's Club Public Library
Madison Public Library
Mauston - Hatch Public Library
Middleton Public Library
New Lisbon Memorial Library
Norwalk Public Library
Ontario Public Library
Portage Public Library
Poynette Area Public Library
Sparta Free Library
Taylor Memorial Library
Tomah Public Library
Waunakee Public Library
Wilton Public Library
Wisconsin Dells - Kilbourn Public Library
Wonewoc Public Library

*Applications are also available for review at the municipal and township clerk's offices in the project area.

Sincerely,

Jim Lepinski, P.E.
Docket Coordinator
Gas and Energy Division

JAL:MMW:cmk:DL:00922601

Table 1 Northern Route Segments

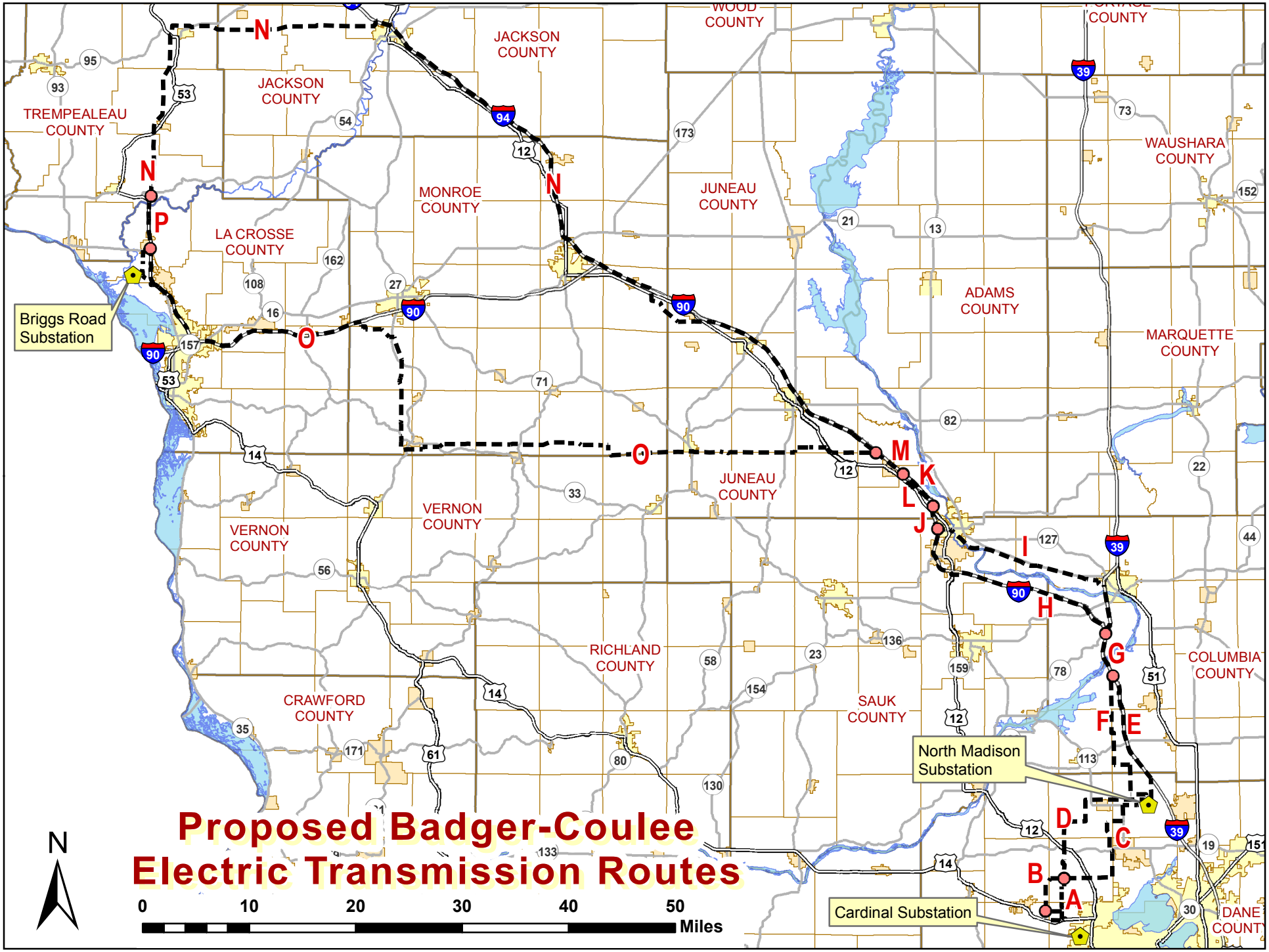
Application Route	Pre-Application Segments	Application Segments	Application Subsegments
Northern	A140	D	D0, D1
Northern	A142	A	A3
Northern	A142c	D	D1
Northern (B)	A143	A, B	A6b
Northern	A143	A	A5, A6a,
Northern	A300	E	E0, E2
Northern	A304	E	E2
Northern (B)	A847b	M	M1
Northern	A849	N	N23
Northern (B)	A849	M	M1
Northern	D547	P	P1, P2
Northern	D640	P	P5
Northern	I001c	E	E1
Northern (B)	I001d	G	G1 - G3
Northern	I020e1	H	H1
Northern (B)	I020e2	J	J1
Northern	I020e3	K	K1
Northern	I020e5	N	N15 - N22
Northern	I020e7	N	N9
Northern	I021a	H	H5 - H9
Northern	I021c	H	H1 - H3
Northern	I040	N	N9
Northern	I041	N	N6 - N9
Northern	I100	N	N6
Northern	I120	N	N6
Northern	N0640	A, D	A1, D2
Northern	N0640a	A	A3, A4
Northern	N0640d	A	A4, A5
Northern	N0640e	A	A2, A3
Northern	N0840	N	N14
Northern	N0840c	N	N12, N13
Northern	N1880	N	N10, N11
Northern	N2000	H	H3 -H5
Northern	N2040	N	N11, N12
Northern	N2080	P	P6 - P8
Northern	N2100	P	P2, P3, P4
Northern	U020	A	A0
Northern (B)	U020a	A, B	A7, A8
Northern	U020a	A	A0
Northern	U065	P	P9, P11 - P14
Northern	U067	N	P9
Northern	X264	N	N1
Northern	X265a	N	N1, P10
Northern	X265a2	P	P10
Northern	X700	N	N3a, N3b, N4, N5
Northern	X820	N	N3a
Northern	X840	N	N1, N2, N3a

Northern (B) - Route segment is found in both the Southern and Northern Routes.

Table 2 Southern Route Segments

Application Route	Pre-Application Segments	Application Segments	Application Subsegments
Southern	A061	B	B4
Southern	A080	C	C6
Southern (B)	A143	A, B	A6b
Southern	A201a	C	C0, C1
Southern	A260	C	C3
Southern	A260a	C	C2
Southern	A481	I	I9 - I11
Southern	A520a	I	I12
Southern	A680	I	I8, I9
Southern	A680a	I	I6 - I8
Southern	A682	I	I4 - I6
Southern	A842	I	I2
Southern	A844	I	I1, I2
Southern	A847	L	L1
Southern (B)	A847b	M	M1
Southern (B)	A849	M	M1
Southern	D100	O	O22 - O24
Southern	D100b	O	O24 - O26
Southern	D160	O	O17
Southern	D300	O	O11a, O11b, O12
Southern (B)	I001d	G	G1 - G3
Southern	I001e	I	I13
Southern	I020c1	O	O6
Southern (B)	I020e2	J	J1
Southern	N0180	O	O15, O16
Southern	N0560	C	C5
Southern	N0600a	C	B1, C7, C8, C9
Southern	N0680	C	C5
Southern	N0700	F	F3
Southern	N0720a	F	F3
Southern	N1160	O	O26
Southern	N1280	B	B3a, B3b
Southern	N1300	B	B2
Southern	N1580	O	O7a - O7d
Southern	N1600	O	O13, O14
Southern	N1620	O	O18 - O21
Southern	N1640	O	O27
Southern	N1680	F	F0, F4, F5
Southern	N1720	F	F1 - F3
Southern	N1840	B	B1
Southern	R140c	L	L2
Southern	S042	C	C4
Southern	S165b	O	O13
Southern	S220a	I	I1
Southern	S220b	I	I2, I3
Southern	U020	B	B0, B5
Southern (B)	U020a	A, B	A7, A8
Southern	U059	O	O26
Southern	U062	O	O4 - O6
Southern	U063	O	O4
Southern	U064	O	O0, O1 - O4
Southern	X001	O	O7 - O9, O10a, O10b
Southern	X262	O	O5
Southern	X267	O	O1, O2

Southern (B) - Route segment is found in both the Southern and Northern Routes.


Proposed Badger-Coulee
Electric Transmission Routes
N
0
10
20
30
40
50
Miles
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY
JACKSON COUNTY
JACKSON COUNTY
MONROE COUNTY
LA CROSSE COUNTY
JUNEAU COUNTY
JUNEAU COUNTY
ADAMS COUNTY
WAUSHARA COUNTY
MARQUETTE COUNTY
VERNON COUNTY
VERNON COUNTY
RICHLAND COUNTY
CRAWFORD COUNTY
SAUK COUNTY
COLUMBIA COUNTY
DANE COUNTY
Briggs Road Substation
North Madison Substation
Cardinal Substation
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