



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Summer Strand, Chairperson
Kristy Nieto, Commissioner
Marcus Hawkins, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

October 29, 2024

Re: Application of American Transmission Company LLC, as an Electric Public Utility, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct and Operate the Western Feed Transmission Line Project, Consisting of the Jupiter and Cosmos 345 kV Substations, Two Sets of Double-Circuit 345 kV Transmission Lines, One Set of Double-Circuit 138/345 kV, and One Single-Circuit 345 kV to Interconnect the Jupiter and Cosmos Substations Located Primarily in the Villages of Yorkville and Mount Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin 137-CE-209

To the Person Addressed:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) received an application from American Transmission Company (ATC, or the applicant) for the construction of two new substations, two new double-circuit 345 kV transmission lines, one new 138/345 kV double-circuit transmission line, and a new 345 kV single-circuit transmission line. ([PSC REF#: 516992](#)). The proposed project facilities would be located in the Villages of Yorkville, Mount Pleasant, and Sturtevant in Racine County, Wisconsin.

The Commission is sending this letter to notify property owners near the proposed transmission lines and substation facilities, as well as individuals who have asked to be placed on our mailing list, that the Commission will be conducting an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project. This letter is also being sent to public officials who may wish to place this notification in a location where it can be viewed by the public.

Commission and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff are now reviewing the application and analyzing the environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the construction of the proposed project. This letter is intended to notify interested persons that the scoping period for the proposed project has begun and encourage persons with local information or environmental concerns to submit comments of the proposed project to the Commission. Comments regarding the scope of the environmental assessment of the proposed project can be submitted through:

- The Commission's website at <https://psc.wi.gov> where you can scroll down to the eServices heading toward the bottom of the webpage, then click "File a Public Comment" in the middle of the page, then locate docket 137-CE-209, or
- A letter addressed to the Commission's Environmental Assessment Coordinator for this docket (see contacts at the end of this letter).

Please note that comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's Electronic Records Filing System. Personally-identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions. Effective topics to mention in comments on the scope of the environmental assessment may include:

- potential human and environmental impacts from the proposed project facilities,
- specific comments regarding particular locations of the proposed project infrastructure, or
- specific actions or changes to the proposed project that could minimize or mitigate potential impacts from the proposed project.

The deadline for submitting scoping comments on the environmental assessment for the Racine County Western Feed Project is Friday November 15, 2024.

There will be additional public comment periods during the Commission's review process of the proposed project where the Commission will solicit comments from the public regarding the preliminary determination of the EA and comments submitted as part of the public hearing.

General Project Description

ATC is seeking approval to construct, install, operate, and maintain the Racine County Western Feed Project ("Project") in the Villages of Yorkville, Mount Pleasant, and Sturtevant in Racine County, Wisconsin. The project would require two new substations, named the Jupiter and Cosmos substations, and multiple new transmission lines to interconnect the new substations to existing facilities. Each substation would have a 33.5-acre site, which would be prepared and graded for ATC by the end-use customer prior to construction of this project. Two new double-circuit 345 kV transmission lines would connect ATC's existing Paris-Arcadian 345 kV line (W-30) and Pleasant Prairie-Arcadian 345 KV line (PLPL81) to the new Jupiter and Cosmos substations. New 138/345 kV double-circuit transmission lines would interconnect the new Cosmos substation to ATC's existing Mount Pleasant substation. The project would also require a new 345 kV single-circuit transmission line, which would be designed for an ultimate double-circuit configuration, to interconnect the new Jupiter substation to ATC's existing Mount Pleasant Substation. The Primary Route would be 3.6 miles in length including a total Right-of-Way (ROW) ranging between 151.64 acres and 151.70 acres depending on the optional segment selected. The Alternate Route would be 3.7 miles in length including a total of 158.69 acres of ROW. The Common Route would be 6.0 miles in length including a total of 171.02 acres of ROW. The routes are occurring almost entirely within new ROW, ranging between zero percent shared and three percent shared with existing ROW depending on the route.

American Transmission, LLC and its corporate manager ATC Management, Inc. propose to construct the proposed project, which would be 100 percent-owned by ATC.

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 potential

environmental and societal impacts, the Commission will decide whether to approve, modify, or deny American Transmission Company's proposal. The DNR will consider the 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. Other reviews, approvals, or permits may be necessary from state or federal agencies.

Environmental Assessment

This is a Type II action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10 (2). The Commission will prepare an EA for this project jointly with DNR to determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary under Wis. Stats. § 1.11.

The EA will evaluate the location of the project and its potential environmental, community, and private property impacts. There will be a preliminary determination when the EA is complete that will determine whether the preparation of an EIS is necessary. Comments on this preliminary determination will be accepted and considered before a final determination is made. At the time of the preliminary determination, the Commission shall make copies of the EA available to those persons that request it.

Public Hearings and Commission Decision

The Commission will hold a technical and public hearing on the proposed project. At least 30 days before the hearings, the Commission will issue a Notice of Hearing and notify the local news media. The Notice will include the time, date, and location of the hearings, as well as 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. People can speak and submit comments about the project at the hearing. 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 where it will make its decision on the project.

Additional opportunities for public participation include the opportunity to comment on the preliminary determination on the need to prepare an EIS for the project, and the public hearing comment period. Notification for the preliminary determination comment period will be sent to the mailing list for this project. You can be added to this mailing list by contacting the PSC Case Coordinator for this project listed below under project contacts.

For more information on becoming involved in the Commission review of construction cases, please visit our public participation page ([PSC Public Participation \(wi.gov\)](#)) or call one of the project contacts listed below.

Information and Contacts

To review project application materials and additional related documents, refer to the following:

- PSC website (<https://psc.wi.gov>) under the docket's "E-Services" tab, docket search number 137-CE-209.
- PSC website (<https://psc.wi.gov>) type "Racine County Western Feed Project" in the search field to navigate to the project webpage.
- An interactive web map of the proposed project can be accessed through the project webpage.

Agency Contacts:

- PSC Environmental Assessment Coordinator
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Sincerely,



Jessica McDonald
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Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs