



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

May 7, 2025

Re: Joint Application of American Transmission Company LLC and Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin, as Electric Public Utilities, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Rebuild Existing Transmission Infrastructure and Construct and Operate Long Range Transmission Planning Tranche 1 Project 6, a New 345 kV Transmission Line Connecting the Tremval-Arpin-Columbia Substations in the Counties of Trempealeau, Wood, and Columbia, Wisconsin, to be known as the Grid Forward Central Wisconsin Project

5-CE-157

To the Person Addressed:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) received a joint application from American Transmission Company LLC (ATC) and Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin for authorization to rebuild existing transmission infrastructure and the construction and operation of a new 345 kV transmission line in the counties of Trempealeau, Wood, and Columbia, Wisconsin, to be known as the Grid Forward – Central Wisconsin Transmission Line Project (project). The project is proposed to rebuild approximately 175 miles of existing transmission lines to support the construction of a new 200 to 205 mile 345 kV transmission line from the Tremval Substation in Trempealeau County, to an intermediate substation, the expanded Arpin Substation, in Wood County, and connecting the expanded Arpin Substation to the Columbia Substation in Columbia County. The Commission is sending this letter to property owners near the proposed project area, as well as individuals who have asked to be placed on our mailing list or have expressed interest in the project. It is also being sent to public officials in the project area. If you are a municipal clerk receiving this letter, please post it in a location where it can be viewed by the public.

This a Type I action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(1). Type I actions are major actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of Wis. Stat. § 1.11 (2) (c).

The purpose of this letter is to provide notice that the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed project is available, and to describe how you can view or obtain a copy of the draft EIS.

The purpose of the draft and final EIS documents is to provide decision makers, the public, and other stakeholders with an analysis of the economic, social, cultural, and environmental impacts

that could result from the construction of the proposed project. The draft EIS describes both quantifiable (e.g. acres likely to be impacted) and unquantifiable (e.g. effect on aesthetics) impacts to the environment related to the proposed project. The document has been prepared jointly by the Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

You are encouraged to comment on the draft EIS. The state agency comment period on the draft EIS ends on Monday, June 23, 2025. Please use the PSC docket number 5-CE-157 on all e-mail and correspondence.

Written comments should be addressed to:

Andrew Craft
Environmental Review Coordinator
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Comments may also be submitted electronically at the Commission's website at <http://psc.wi.gov>. Once at the site, click on the "File a Public Comment" link under E-Services at the bottom of the page. On the next page select the "File a comment" link that appears on the left side of the page associated with the Grid Forward – Central Wisconsin Transmission Line docket (5-CE-157) and file a comment.

You can access the draft EIS in the following ways:

- All documents in this docket are filed on the Commission's Electronic Records Filing system. To view the draft EIS or any other document: (1) go to the Commission's E-Services Portal at <http://apps.psc.wi.gov>, (2) enter "5-CE-157" in the box labeled "Quick Single Docket Search," and (3) select "Documents."
- To obtain a copy of the draft EIS in another format, please contact the EIS coordinator, Andrew Craft, at (608) 266-3375 or andrew.craft@wisconsin.gov.

Comments received during the comment period will be used to prepare the final EIS, which will become part of the record used by the Commission to make its final decisions on this project. At this time, the Commission decision on the proposed project is expected in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The Commission decision on the merits of this project will be based on the record of public and technical hearings that will be held about 30 days after the final EIS is issued. When the final EIS is prepared, the Commission will issue a Notice of Hearing. The hearing will satisfy the WEPA (Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act) requirements of the Commission and DNR. The

final EIS and testimony from the public and technical hearings will be included in the hearing record.

If necessary, DNR will hold separate hearings on its water permits or other DNR regulatory actions discussed in this draft EIS.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Environmental Affairs Coordinator, Adam Ingwell, at (608) 267-9197 or adam.ingwell@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Ingwell", written in a cursive style.

Adam Ingwell
Environmental Affairs Coordinator – Supervisor
Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

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