



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Commission Takes Action on Western Milwaukee County Reliability Project Application

Madison - The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) today approved the joint application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company and the American Transmission Company for authority to construct two 138 kV electric transmission lines and an associated substation in Wauwatosa in order to increase reliability for the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center and growing electric loads in the western portion of Milwaukee County.

"There is no disagreement that there is a need to increase reliability for the Western Milwaukee area and Milwaukee Regional Medical Center, and I think the Commission's action today represents our commitment to finding a balance between the needs of electric customers, the ratepayers, and landowners affected by the project," said PSC Chairperson Phil Montgomery.

"Siting was challenging in this case, and the Commission appropriately balanced economic, engineering, environmental, and community concerns to get to a good result," said Commissioner Eric Callisto.

The Commission's routing decisions favored above-ground transmission options when possible in an effort to protect ratepayers from undue costs of undergrounding. The Commissioners agreed that undergrounding is appropriate in very limited situations, generally to address technical or engineering concerns.

Commissioner Nowak stated that it must be technically necessary for the line to be undergrounded, consistent with commission precedent which states that "underground construction is not a viable transmission option unless engineering considerations require it or circumstances leave no other reasonable option available." (PSC Ref.: #165332 at p.36, Docket No 5-CE-136.)

"The fact that Wisconsin has over 11,000 miles of transmission lines and under 1% of those lines are underground demonstrates the rarity in which the decision to underground is made," said Commissioner Nowak.

The cost difference between the suggested all-above-ground transmission routes compared to the cost of all-underground routes in this case is a difference approximately \$35 to \$50 Million, or a total cost of \$11.6M with no undergrounding vs. a total cost of \$45.4 - \$61.5M with all undergrounding. The total cost for transmission lines only, as sited by the Commission today, is approximately \$18 million.



The total project cost as sited, including all transmission, substation, and certification costs, will be approximately \$34 million.

The Commission-approved routes for the project are as follows:

East-West Section: The route begins at a proposed interconnection point located near 120th Street and West Diane Drive in the Underwood Parkway. Route B(1) lies north of and parallel to Underwood Creek and the CP railroad until it crosses to the south side of the creek at 115th Street. The route continues, following Underwood Creek, crossing the UP railroad, Watertown Plank Road, and STH 100. The route then turns and continues east, crossing the USH 45 freeway, and then parallels the east side of the freeway south to Watertown Plank Road. Turning east, the route follows the north side of the street until it reaches a point just south of the proposed MC Substation site.

North-South Section: The route begins at the 96th Street Substation and follows the east edge of the USH 45 freeway ROW behind the Parkside Pool Apartments, the Montessori School, and St. Therese Church properties north to Watertown Plank Road, crossing Bluemound Road and Wisconsin Avenue. While the Commission will return to decide where undergrounding will begin at this section, the route will eventually reach a point just south of the proposed substation site. The route then turns to proceed north into the substation.

All documents associated with the application may be found at the Commission's web site, <http://psc.wi.gov>, by typing in docket number 5-CE-139 into the Electronic Regulatory Filing System.

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