



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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April 8, 2025

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 Mill Road-Granville Transmission Line Project, Consisting of Two New 138 kV Transmission Lines, Rebuilding Two Existing Double-Circuit 345/138 kV Transmission Lines, and Constructing the 345 kV Mill Road Substation Located Primarily in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, and the City of Brookfield and the Village of Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County, Wisconsin

137-CE-212

To the Person Addressed:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) received an application from American Transmission Company LLC (ATC, or the applicant) for the construction of the new 345/138 kV Mill Road Substation, two new 138 kV transmission lines, rebuild an existing double-circuit 345/138 kV transmission line as double-circuit 345 kV lines, uprate and reconductor existing transmission lines, expand the existing Tamarack and Butler Substation yards, modify the existing Granville Substation within its existing footprint, modify existing transmission lines at the Mill Road Substation and Butler Substation, and conduct minor remote end work at the existing Germantown, Cypress, Bark River, Sussex Arcadian, Tosa, and Bluemound Substations. The proposed project would be located in the Cities of Milwaukee and Wauwatosa in Milwaukee County; the Cities of Brookfield and New Berlin, the Villages of Butler, Menomonee Falls, and Lannon, and the Town of Brookfield in Waukesha County; and the village of Germantown in Washington County, Wisconsin. The Commission is sending this letter to property owners near the proposed project facilities, as well as individuals who have asked to be placed on our mailing list. It 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.

The project is a Type II action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(2). It requires the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) to determine if an environmental impact statement (EIS) is necessary under Wis. Stat. § 1.11. Commission staff from the Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs completed an environmental review of the proposed project and prepared an EA to determine if an EIS was necessary. A notification of the Commission's intent to prepare an EA, including a solicitation for comments on the environmental aspects of this project, was mailed to landowners, local and regional media, affected municipal entities, the regional planning commission, and area legislators in the project area on December 19, 2024.

The preliminary determination indicates that no significant impacts on the human or natural environment are likely to occur as a result of the construction and operation of this project. Therefore, preparation of an EIS is not required. Comments regarding this determination can be directed to the contact person listed at the end of this letter. The remainder of this letter describes the primary impacts of the project and summarizes the conclusions of the EA. To obtain a copy of the EA, please request a copy from the contact person listed at the end of this letter.

Proposed Project

ATC is proposing to construct the new Mill Road Substation and associated transmission. The existing Tamarack and Butler Substations would be modified, and the substation yards expanded, as part of the project. The existing Granville Substation would also be modified within the substation footprint that will be expanded as part of a separate project. The proposed project would involve construction of two new 138 kV circuits (X-196 and X-197) that would connect the new Mill Road Substation to the Tamarack Substation (X-196) and the Tamarack Substation to the Butler Substation (X-197). The project would require the rebuild of an existing double-circuit 345 kV/138 kV line as double-circuit 345 kV lines (W-42 and W-43) between the new Mill Road and Granville Substations. The project would also reconductor the 138 kV circuit (2661) between the new Mill Road Substation and the Germantown Substation. The project would also uprate the 345 kV circuits (9911 and L-CYP31) between the Arcadian Substation and the new Mill Road Substation. Existing 138 kV circuits (36341 and 2661) and 345 kV circuits (9911 and L-CYP31) would be required to be sectionalized and modified to loop into the new Mill Road Substation. Additionally, various existing 138 kV circuits (3442, 3453, 5051, and 5061) would be modified outside of the Butler Substation to accommodate the new substation configuration. Minor remote end work would be completed to support the project within the existing Germantown, Cypress, Bark River, Sussex, Arcadian, Tosa, and Bluemound substations.

Potential Natural Resource and Social Impacts

The proposed project would cause and perpetuate environmental impacts based on the proposed construction activities and the existing land use, habitats, residences, and features such as wetlands and waterways in the project area. Transmission line and substation construction would create temporary visual and noise impacts equivalent to highway traffic and truck equipment. Longer-term visual impacts, experienced by residents of nearby homes and by drivers and pedestrians on nearby roads or recreational trails, would be perpetuated by the new substation, expanded substations, new and rebuilt transmission lines, and tree clearing that would occur due to expanded Right-of-Way along new and modified existing transmission lines. During construction activities, there would be increased noise, dust, and vibration in the construction areas. There would be increased traffic and parking in the project area as employees and deliveries arrive at and leave the project work areas. Loose or disturbed soils could be susceptible to erosion or establishment of invasive plant species. Animals and vegetation in the project area could be displaced or damaged as a result of construction activities.

Matting in regulated wetlands associated with the proposed construction would result in temporary wetland fill. Approximately 1.25 acres of regulated wetland would be permanently filled by the new Mill Road Substation, permanent driveway for the Mill Road Substation, and new transmission structures as part of the Common Route; an additional 0.02-acre of permanent fill of regulated wetland is proposed along the Primary Route, and an additional 0.05-acre of permanent fill of regulated wetland is proposed along the Alternate Route. Multiple temporary clear span bridges would be proposed between the Common, Primary, and Alternate Routes to cross waterways or waterbodies. Up to approximately 157.33 acres of grasslands would be impacted by the proposed Common Route, with an additional 13.28 acres along the Primary Route, 19.20 acres along the Alternate Route, 1.80 acres within substation footprints and the Mill Road permanent driveway, 2.60 acres along temporary bypass circuits, 10.04 acres within laydown yards, 12.86 acres for Common Route off-ROW access routes, 0.19-acre for Primary Route off-ROW access routes, and 0.04-acre for Alternate Route off-ROW access routes. There would also be approximately 63 acres of tree clearing along the Common Route, 5.22 acres along the Primary Route, 7.87 acres along the Alternate Route, 15.78 acres within substation footprints and the Mill Road permanent driveway, 3.68 acres along temporary bypass circuits, 0.15-acre within laydown yards, approximately 2.34 acres for Common Route off-ROW access routes, 0.96-acre for Primary Route off-ROW access routes, and no tree clearing for Alternate Route off-ROW access routes.

Conclusion

The project as proposed in the application and subsequent filings, including use of the stated construction methods and implementation of the mitigation plans, is not expected to cause any significant environmental effects. There would be increased noise, dust, and vibration which may affect nearby residents during the construction of project facilities. A change in the landscape would be noticeable to local landowners and those driving through certain areas; due to a new substation, two expanded substations, and new transmission lines, the existing landscape that currently varies between semi-rural and developed urban areas would gain more industrial features. There could be increased soil erosion and storm water runoff from construction areas, particularly when soils have been disturbed and during heavy precipitation events. No significant impacts on the human environment that would warrant the preparation of an EIS are expected if this project were constructed using some combination of the currently proposed array sites. Thus, preparation of an EIS, as described in Wis. Stat. § 1.11, is not required for this project.

Copies of the EA are available upon request, either electronically or in paper format (for a paper copy, an address must be provided).

Requests for a copy of the EA can be made:

By mail:

Adam Ingwell
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7854,
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854

By telephone at (608) 267-9197.

By e-mail at adam.ingwell@wisconsin.gov.

Comments

Comments on the finding of no significant impact for this proposed project should be made to Adam Ingwell at the address above, by email at adam.ingwell@wisconsin.gov, or through the Commission's web comment form. Go to the Commission's website at <https://psc.wi.gov>, click on "Commission Actions," then click on "File a Public Comment." On the next page, select "File a comment" for case 137-CE-212.

All comments must be received by **Friday April 25, 2025**.

Sincerely,



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