

NoCapX 2020 & United Citizens Action Network

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American Transmission Company (ATC) Information Request #48-

Docket Number: MPUC Docket No.: E002/TL-09-1448 Date of Request: June 3, 2011
OAH Docket No.: 3-2500-21181-2

Requested From: Brian Meloy Response Due: June 13, 2011
Leonard Street & Dienard
As attorneys for whichever relevant utility applicant(s)

Party Requesting Information: Carol A. Overland for NoCapX 2020 & U-CAN

Type of Inquiry: Financial Rate of Return Rate Design
 Engineering Forecasting Conservation
 Cost of Service CIP Other:

If you feel your responses are trade secret or privileged, please indicate this on your response.

Request No.	
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General Information Requests

1. Please provide NoCapX 2020 and United Citizens Action Network with responses to Information Requests of all other parties.

Please refer to ATC Attachment accompanying these Information Requests, consisting of the June 2, 2011 ATC Press Release, Potential Corridors map from ATC's site, and two newspaper articles dated June 2, 2011

2. Please identify:
 - a. Plans for connection of the CapX 2020 Hampton-LaCrosse project with the ATC Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project.
 - b. Interconnection opportunities available for connection of the CapX 2020 Hampton-LaCrosse project with the ATC Badger Coulee
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Transmission Line Project, such as the planned Alma substation, LaCrosse substation.

3. Regarding Capx 2020, the Hampton-LaCrosse transmission project, Badger Coulee transmission project and/or connections between these projects, provide:
 - a. Agreements between ATC and Xcel Energy, Dairyland and/or other CapX applicant utilities regarding transmission plans, development, ownership and/or construction of all or part of the Hampton-LaCrosse transmission project.
 - b. Agreements between ATC and Xcel Energy, Dairyland and/or other CapX applicant utilities regarding transmission plans, development, ownership and/or construction and/or construction of the Badger Coulee transmission project.
4. Regarding Capx 2020, the Hampton-LaCrosse transmission project, Badger Coulee transmission project and/or connections between these projects, provide
 - a. Agreements between ATC and the Environmental Law and Policy Center, Citizens Utility Board, Clean Wisconsin, Sierra Club(Madison-based) and/or any other environmental, policy or activist groups regarding transmission plans and/or construction of the Hampton-LaCrosse transmission project.
 - b. Agreements between ATC and Environmental Law and Policy Center, Citizens Utility Board, Clean Wisconsin, Sierra Club(Madison-based) and/or any other environmental, policy or activist groups regarding transmission plans and/or construction of the Badger Coulee transmission projects.
5. The article entitled “ATC updates plan for a \$425 million power line linking Madison, LaCrosse” quotes ATC consultant Pete Hotz:

“ATC has expanded its original study area north of La Crosse to provide the flexibility that may be needed to connect to the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse transmission line project as currently proposed,” and further, “We have identified five potential new substation areas where the Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project could make a single connection to the CapX 2020 project north of LaCrosse.”

- a. If ATC wishes to connect with the CapX Hampton-LaCrosse Project at any of these five substations identified, will CapX Hampton-LaCrosse applicants accommodate that connection?
 - b. Identify those substations for which accommodation of interconnection is acceptable and those that are not, and explain why or why not for each.
 - c. For interconnection at any of these substations, provide interconnection studies showing feasibility and system stability of these interconnections.
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6. Since the Certificate of Need was granted for a transmission project stretching from Hampton to Rochester to LaCrosse, Applicants eliminated two of the potential Mississippi river crossings when it proposed and applied in this routing docket only for the Alma crossing:
 - a. If this Alma interconnection is pursued by ATC, applied for and permitted, will Xcel continue with the Wisconsin Alma-LaCrosse permit application?
 - b. If this Alma interconnection is pursued by ATC, will Applicants transfer control of the Wisconsin portion of the Hampton-LaCrosse transmission line to ATC?
 - c. Have the Applicants transferred control of the Wisconsin portion of the Hampton-LaCrosse transmission line to ATC?
 - d. Have the Applicants entered into an agreement to transfer control of the Wisconsin portion of the Hampton-LaCrosse transmission line to ATC?
 - e. If this Alma interconnection is pursued by ATC, will Applicants withdraw or abandon the Wisconsin portion of the Hampton-LaCrosse transmission line ?

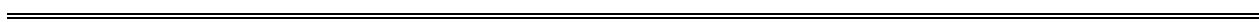
7. Please provide copies of all meeting materials to be distributed by ATC and its representatives at the upcoming public meetings hosted by ATC in June regarding the Badger Coulee transmission project (those public meetings identified in the June 2, 2011 Press Release).

8. Please provide copies of all presentations to be made by ATC or others at the upcoming meetings hosted by ATC in June regarding the Badger Coulee transmission project (those public meetings identified in the June 2, 2011 Press Release).

9. Please identify date and place of all meetings with local governments to be held in June, 2011, not including the public meetings listed between June 20- 30, 2011 in the June 2 Press Release.

These requests are continuing, and if new or additional information is discovered, please supplement your responses as soon as possible.

Response by:	_____	List sources of information:	_____
Title:	_____		_____
Department:	_____		_____
Telephone:	_____		_____
	_____		_____





NEWS

MEDIA LINE: 877.506.6117

www.atcllc.com

June 2, 2011

From: Kaya Freiman
kfreiman@atcllc.com

608-877-7157 (office)

American Transmission Co. announces second round of open houses for Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project

Public encouraged to provide input on potential corridors at eight informational open houses to be held in June throughout the project study area

MADISON, Wis. – American Transmission Co. is continuing a multi-year public outreach process for the proposed Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project with the second in a series of informational open houses in late June for residents and other stakeholders to review potential corridors for the proposed 150-mile, 345-kilovolt line from north of La Crosse to northern Dane County.

“As a result of further study and stakeholder comments, we have identified potential corridors that may be suitable for a new transmission line and will continue to be examined,” said ATC Local Relations Manager Sarah Justus.

Studies indicate that the approximately \$425 million project would deliver benefits to Wisconsin and the Midwest region by improving electric system reliability, delivering economic benefits for Wisconsin utilities and electric consumers, and expanding infrastructure to support greater use of renewable energy.

“Since the fall 2010 open houses, ATC has expanded its original study area north of La Crosse to provide the flexibility that may be needed to connect to the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse transmission line project as currently proposed,” said ATC Major Projects Siting Consultant Pete Holtz. “We have identified five potential new substation areas where the Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project could make a single connection to the CapX2020 project north of La Crosse.”

ATC is hosting eight open houses throughout the project study area to gather feedback on potential corridors and provide stakeholders with more information about the project.

The public is invited to attend any of the following open houses:

June 20, Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center, Onalaska
June 21, Club 16, Sparta



NEWS

MEDIA LINE: 877.506.6117

www.atcllc.com

June 22, Cashton Community Hall, Cashton

June 23, Wilderness Glacier Canyon Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells

June 27, Ettrick Community Center, Ettrick

June 28, Three Bears Lodge, Warrens

June 29, Mauston Grayside Elementary, Mauston

June 30, Waunakee Middle School, Waunakee

Open houses at all locations run from 1 to 7 p.m.

ATC will hold two more rounds of open houses over the next two years to gather public input and narrow potential routes before filing an application to build the line with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, anticipated in 2013. If approved by the PSC, construction of the new line would begin in 2016 to meet an in-service date of 2018.

"We invite everyone who could be affected by the project to attend an open house and get involved," said Justus.

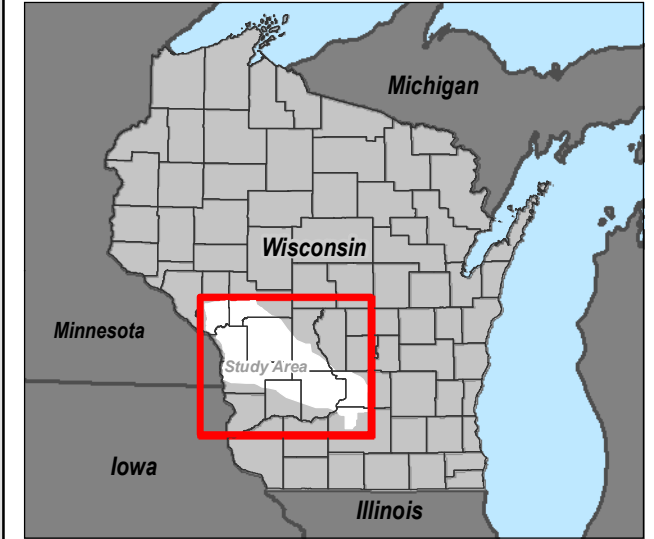
Note to editors: A map and additional information about the Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project is available at www.BadgerCoulee.com.

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ATC owns, operates, builds and maintains the high-voltage electric transmission system serving portions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. Formed in 2001 as the nation's first multi-state transmission-only utility, ATC has invested \$2.5 billion to improve the adequacy and reliability of its infrastructure. ATC now is a \$2.9 billion company with 9,440 miles of transmission lines and 515 substations. The company is a member of the Midwest ISO regional transmission organization, and provides nondiscriminatory service to all customers, supporting effective competition in energy markets without favoring any market participant. For more information, visit our website at www.atcllc.com.

POTENTIAL CORRIDORS

Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project

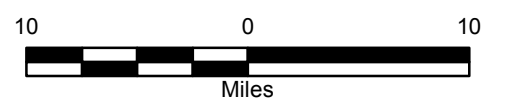


Map Area Shown in Red

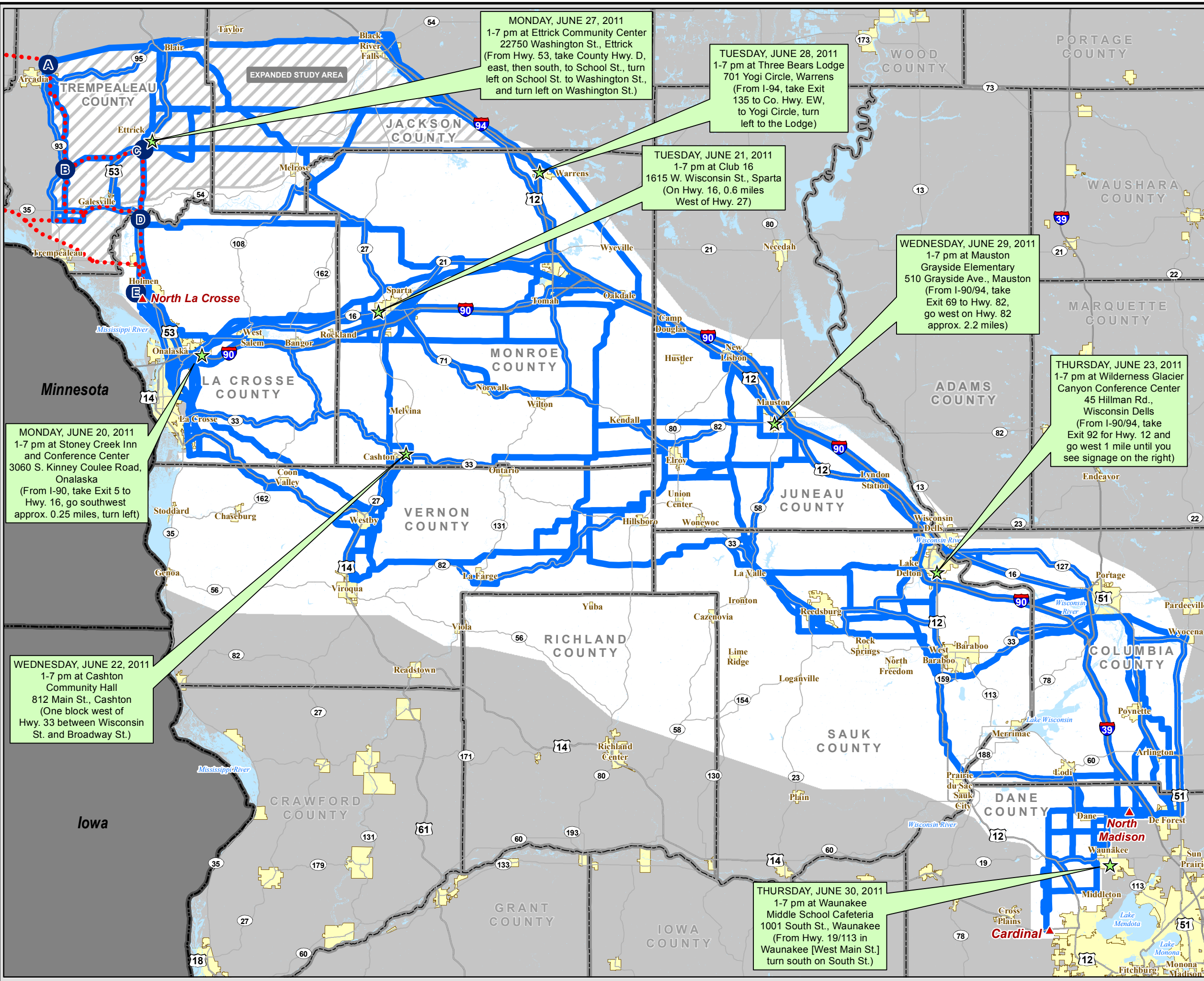
- Potential Corridors
- Potential Substation Siting Areas
- Outside Study Area
- Study Area
- Expanded Study Area
- Open House Date and Location

Proposed CapX 2020 Transmission Line Alternatives

- Existing Substation
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- City / Village



The information presented in this map document is advisory and is intended for reference purposes only. American Transmission Company owned and operated facility locations are approximate. Base Map Data Sources: ATC, WDNR, PSCW, Xcel, DPC, WDOT.





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Plugged In

At home, at work or on the road, energy writer Thomas Content keeps you current as you adapt to changes in the world of energy, climate change and efforts to build a greener economy.

ATC updates plan for \$425 million power line linking Madison, La Crosse

1

By Thomas Content of the Journal Sentinel

June 2, 2011 | (0) COMMENTS

[print](#) [e-mail](#)

A high-voltage power line crossing western Wisconsin could link up with another proposed line that would cross into Wisconsin north of La Crosse.

American Transmission Co. has scheduled a series of public meetings across western Wisconsin as it moves into the second phase of development of the Badger Coulee power line, a \$425 million project that would be built by 2018.

In announcing the open houses, ATC said it is shifting its study region for possible routes of the 345,000-volt line northward.

"ATC has expanded its original study area north of La Crosse to provide the flexibility that may be needed to connect to the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse transmission line project as currently proposed," said ATC Major Projects Siting Consultant Pete Holtz. "We have identified five potential new substation areas where the Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project could make a single connection to the CapX2020 project north of La Crosse."

The CapX2020 project would link western Wisconsin and Rochester, Minn., and is one of a network of high-voltage power lines being proposed by a consortium of utilities led by Xcel Energy. Other partners include Dairyland Power Cooperative and WPPI Energy of Sun Prairie.

The Wisconsin portion of CapX2020 would cross the Mississippi River at Alma and then run 40 to 55 miles to La Crosse. The Wisconsin project is projected by the CapX2020 utilities to cost \$195 million to \$224 million.

Eight different open houses are scheduled for 1-7 p.m. June 20 to June 30 in Onalaska, Sparta, Cashton, Wisconsin Dells, Ettrick, Warrens, Mauston and Waunakee.

ATC said it will revise plans for the line in the coming year and narrow its route options then. ATC will file a detailed application with the state Public Service Commission for the 150-mile western Wisconsin project in 2013. For more information about the project, and upcoming open houses, go to www.badgercoulee.com.

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madison.com

New ATC transmission line project surges ahead

JUDY NEWMAN | jdnewman@madison.com | 608-252-6156 | Posted: Thursday, June 2, 2011 5:00 am

About 40,000 homes and businesses from Middleton to north of La Crosse are getting letters this week from American Transmission Co. telling them a powerful electrical transmission line could be built within 3,000 feet — or about half a mile — and inviting them to public meetings later this month.

Plans for the so-called Badger Coulee line, introduced in 2010, are moving into phase 2. ATC has taken the broad swath from south-central to western Wisconsin and identified dozens of corridors to consider for the project, which will carry 345 kilovolts of electricity over 150 miles and will cost about \$425 million.

- In Dane County, the line could run north from the town of Middleton or it could skirt the west edge of Waunakee and go through DeForest's north side, then head up Highway 12, Interstate 39 or Highway 51.
- It could run along the edge of communities such as Prairie du Sac, Lodi, Poynette, Portage, West Baraboo, Elroy or Viroqua. It also could travel through Reedsburg, Wisconsin Dells or Mauston.
- Richland County will be spared.

The area being studied has been expanded north into Trempealeau and Jackson counties. That's because the Badger Coulee line might meet up with CapX2020, a 700-mile series of mostly 345-kilovolt lines stretching from the Dakotas. CapX2020 proposes to cross into Wisconsin at Alma, in Buffalo County.

"We could, conceivably, connect with their line. It doesn't have to be at their end point," said ATC local relations manager Sarah Justus.

Eleven utility companies have joined forces to build CapX2020, including WPPI Energy, of Sun Prairie, and Dairyland Power Cooperative and Xcel Energy, which cover parts of western Wisconsin. The state Public Service Commission is expected to decide within the next week if a revised proposal for the Alma crossing has enough information for a full-fledged review.

At the south end, the Badger Coulee line is expected to hook up to the 345-kilovolt transmission line across Dane County that will start construction later this year.

ATC says Badger Coulee is needed to bring less expensive power from states to the west into the Upper Midwest and to improve the reliability of Wisconsin's electric transmission grid over the long term. "We're looking out 10, 20, 30, 40 years," Justus said.

If the line is built, it would add about 75 cents a month to a \$100 utility bill, she said.

Charlie Higley, executive director of the Citizens' Utility Board, said he's waiting to take a stand on the proposed line until he sees ATC's justification for the project when it applies for approval from the PSC.

"We understand the need to increase transmission capabilities to the west. That's been a long-standing issue for Wisconsin. But that said, the recession really changed the amount of electricity people use. That may have some impact on whether this line is needed," Higley said.

A recent PSC report said peak power use is growing more slowly than before the recession but moving power to customers, via transmission lines, remains a challenge in Wisconsin.

Citizen groups have formed in western Wisconsin. Joan Kent, whose home is in one of the possible corridors, is on a committee formed by the town of Stark, near La Farge, to get information about the project. The committee doesn't believe the line is needed, Kent said.

She also is concerned about Badger Coulee's impact on the Kickapoo Valley's scenic beauty. "It's going to be such an eyesore that it will hurt tourism significantly," Kent said.

Recreational trails in the Sparta and Tomah areas could also be on the transmission line's path, and the line will have to cross the Wisconsin River at some point. "No route is without challenges and (will be) universally accepted and loved," Justus said.

ATC will hold eight public meetings later this month, including one in Waunakee, to discuss the alternatives, answer questions and take public comments. It expects to narrow the list of routes to two alternatives in fall 2012 and submit an application to the PSC in 2013. If approved, the line could be in operation in 2018.

