

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HOLMEN
RESOLUTION REGARDING CAPX2020 and ATC APPLICATIONS FOR A
345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT (11/14/11)**

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power and American Transmission Company (ATC) have proposed Capx2020 Phase I and Badger Coulee transmission line projects including a 345 kV high voltage power line from Alma to North LaCrosse and North LaCrosse to Madison; and

WHEREAS, the CapX2020 Hampton-LaCrosse and Badger Coulee ATC 345kV include 130 to 170 foot steel towers high voltage power lines and associated right of ways; and

WHEREAS, building a high voltage transmission line would require use of public rights of way and condemnation of private property for easements; and the centerline of this transmission line on its 150 foot right of way could be placed within 75 feet of a residence or school; and

WHEREAS, proposed routes place the center of the high voltage transmission line right of way as close as; 450 feet to a 540 pupil elementary school, 225 feet to a proposed 600 pupil middle school and 575 feet of a 1,600 pupil high school, as well as more than 200 staff members, for 1,500 to 2,500 hours per year; 100 feet of a high school athletic stadium (2,500 spectators) with lighting mounted on poles 80 feet tall; 220 feet of a District Administrative Center, and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of health concerns including medical studies which have shown an association between exposure to electromagnetic fields produced by high voltage transmission lines, childhood leukemia, neurological diseases and conditions, and other health effects, and

WHEREAS, the CapX2020 Hampton-LaCrosse and Badger Coulee ATC 345kV projects include a proposed route corridor which cuts across rivers, farms, forests and valleys, scenic bluffs, wildlife and waterfowl habitats, exceptional water resources, scenic easements, and/or cultural/economic districts in the School District of Holmen; and

WHEREAS, high voltage powerlines would have an adverse affect on the School District of Holmen's financial condition in that continued growth in community property values and number of residents are important components of the financial stability and sustainability of the district, and high voltage powerlines are known to reduce property values and make property less desirable for residential growth; and

WHEREAS, the right of way associated with the high voltage powerlines would place restrictions on the use of School District of Holmen (governmental) property inconsistent with the needs and intended use of the property; and

WHEREAS, the use of electricity in Wisconsin and adjacent states has declined significantly since a 2006 peak and demand is projected to remain flat in the predictable future; and

WHEREAS, it is the School District of Holmen's belief that there are other ways of meeting any electrical need claimed by applicants that should be considered and implemented first, including efficiencies, demand and supply side management, locally produced and distributed renewable energy , and energy-related economic development, before high voltage transmission is considered; and

WHEREAS, costs for the Alma to North LaCrosse (\$250 million) to Madison (\$425 million) high voltage power line would cost ratepayers more than \$675 million and be part of a \$23-\$36 billion grid expansion project in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, a new 345kV transmission line will result in increased electricity costs for all rate payers, loss of property value because of the view and dangers that high voltage power lines inherently carry, and create adverse effect on the area's tourism and general economy; and

WHEREAS, transmission line projects approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin are required by Wisconsin statutes (196.49 (3) and 196.491 (3) (d)) to have costs that are in proportion to their benefits, must satisfy the reasonable needs of the public for adequate energy supply and must also not be overbuilt or designed in excess of probable future energy needs; and

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Wisconsin (1.12(6)) is to site new transmission lines to the greatest extent feasible, utilizing existing corridors in the following order of priority:

- a. Existing utility corridors,
- b. Highway and railroad corridors,
- c. Recreational trails with limitations, and
- d. New corridors;

WHEREAS, THE School District of Holmen Board of Education is entrusted by the community to take actions in the best interest of students and the community it serves ; and

THEREFORE

BE IT REOSOLVED, that

1. The School District of Holmen opposes the planned grid expansion project in the Midwest, specifically the Alma to North LaCrosse and North LaCrosse to Madison 345kV power line; and
2. The School District of Holmen requests that additional on the record public hearings be held near the Village of Holmen before a recommendation on a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is made for either project; and
3. The School District of Holmen requests that it not be utilized as a pass through for transmission for which it receives no benefit; and
4. The School District of Holmen requests that clear, detailed information be provided to the School District of Holmen explaining the perceived need for the 345kVpowerline which includes supporting objective studies with a cost benefit analysis comparing the efficiency-only, locally produced and distributed generation options with the high voltage option; and
5. The School District of Holmen insists that every effort be made in developing or enhancing the energy system on which the School District of Holmen relies to do the following:
 - Implement and enforce Wisconsin State Statute 1993, Wisconsin Bill 414 that states:
"In meeting energy demands, the policy of the State is that, to the extent cost-effective and technically feasible, options be considered based on the following priorities, in the order listed:
 - a. Energy conservation and efficiency.
 - b. Noncombustible renewable energy resources.
 - c. Combustible renewable energy resources.
 - d. Nonrenewable combustible energy resources, in the order listed:
 - i. Natural Gas

- ii. Oil or coal with sulphur content of less than 1%.
 - iii. All other carbon-based fuels.”
6. Furthermore, the School District of Holmen requests adoption and action of Wisconsin’s energy policy by implementing local ownership of energy generation that includes dispersed renewable energy to support the local economy, and to minimize the size, scale, voltage, and environmental impacts of electric transmission.

The School District of Holmen District Administrator is authorized to request that the School District of Holmen be added to project notice lists and request a copy of the application for the CapX2020 and Badger-Coulee transmission projects from the utilities to be available in the School District of Holmen. The School District of Holmen District Administrator is authorized to transmit this resolution and other appropriate documents to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission Docket # 5-CE-136 and Docket # 137-CE-160 and to the Administrative Law Judge and state Commission staff conducting proceedings for the CapX2020 and the Badger-Coulee 345kV Transmission Line Projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District of Holmen hereby approves this resolution, ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2011.

DRAFT