

**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

**Joint Application of Dairyland Power
Cooperative, Northern States Power
Company-Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Public
Power Inc., for Authority to Construct and
Place in Service 345 kV Electric Transmission
Lines and Electric Substation Facilities for the
CapX Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse Project,
Located in Buffalo, Trempealeau, and La Crosse
Counties, Wisconsin**

Docket No. 5-CE-136

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DALE W. BURMESTER ON BEHALF OF
AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY LLC AND ATC MANAGEMENT INC.**

INTRODUCTION

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Q. Please state your name, employer, title and business address.

A. My name is Dale W. Burmester. I am currently Manager of the Economic Planning Group for ATC Management Inc., the corporate manager for American Transmission Company LLC (together “ATC”). My office is located at 2 Fen Oak Court, Madison, Wisconsin 53718.

Q. Please describe ATC.

A. ATC is a transmission company as defined in §196.485(1)(ge) of the Wisconsin Statutes. ATC is the owner and operator of the transmission facilities throughout most of Wisconsin.

Q. Does ATC have an interest in this proceeding?

A. Yes.

Q. What is that interest?

1 A. ATC is conducting planning studies, feasibility analyses and public outreach efforts for a
2 proposed 150 mile (approximately) 345 kV transmission line and associated facilities
3 from a point in western Wisconsin to the Madison, Wisconsin area. This proposed line is
4 also known as the Badger Coulee Project. It is anticipated that the Badger Coulee Project
5 will interconnect at a point in western Wisconsin north of the La Crosse area, which is
6 within the project area of the transmission line that is the subject of this proceeding, the
7 Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project (the “Project”). As a
8 result, ATC has a substantial interest in this matter that may be directly affected by the
9 Commission’s action in this proceeding.

10 **Q. Please describe your background, including your educational and professional**
11 **experience as it relates to this direct testimony.**

12 A. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of
13 Wisconsin-Madison in 1987. I have 24 years of electric utility experience in transmission
14 planning and transmission service, having worked at Madison Gas and Electric
15 Company, Wisconsin Power and Light Company, Alliant Energy and ATC. I am a
16 licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Wisconsin.

17 **Q. Please describe your responsibilities at ATC.**

18 A. I was recently appointed Manager of the Economic Planning Group. Immediately prior
19 to this, I was Manager of the Major Projects Group at ATC; both groups are in the
20 Strategic Planning division at ATC. As Manager of the Economic Planning Group, I
21 supervise five engineers that perform economic studies using, among other engineering
22 tools, the Ventyx PROMOD program to evaluate the economic impact of proposed
23 transmission projects under various future scenarios. In addition, I represent ATC on the

1 Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) Planning Committee and represent MRO on the
2 North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Planning Committee. I also
3 chair the NERC Spare Equipment Database Task Force.

4 **Q. What is the general purpose of your testimony?**

5 A. The general purpose of my testimony is to describe the relationship between the Project
6 and ATC's transmission planning activities.

7 **Q. Please describe generally ATC's transmission planning process.**

8 A. ATC's transmission planning process involves continually evaluating the operation of the
9 electric transmission network, and taking a comprehensive look at various factors
10 affecting electricity usage in the region, proposed new generation and projected levels of
11 future electricity usage.

12 **Q. What is ATC's 10-Year Assessment?**

13 A. It is an annual report summarizing proposed additions and expansions to the ATC
14 transmission system over the next ten years to ensure electric system reliability.

15 **Q. What assumptions, if any, has ATC made in its 10-Year Assessment regarding the
16 project proposed in this proceeding?**

17 A. The most recent 10-Year Assessment assumes that the Project is in-service for all
18 analyses representing the year 2016 and beyond.

19 **Q. Are high-voltage transmission projects also part of ATC's planning process?**

20 A. Yes. Pursuant to FERC Order 890-A, ATC regularly conducts a coordinated, open, and
21 transparent planning process regarding its proposed transmission projects, including high-
22 voltage projects. Further information about these projects is on the ATC website.

23 **Q. Is ATC currently planning any such projects in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area?**

1 A. Yes, as noted above, ATC is planning the 345 kV Badger Coulee Project from a point in
2 western Wisconsin, likely north of the La Crosse area, to the Madison, Wisconsin area.
3 ATC believes that this project will provide multiple benefits in the form of improved
4 electric system reliability, economic savings for Wisconsin utilities and energy
5 consumers, and access to additional renewable energy for Wisconsin customers. ATC
6 will present its case for the Badger Coulee Project in a subsequent CPCN proceeding at
7 the PSCW, in which all interested parties will have an opportunity to participate.

8 **Q. What is the status of the Badger Coulee Project?**

9 A. ATC is currently identifying potential routes for the Badger Coulee Project with public
10 involvement and will continue to do so throughout 2012. ATC will also continue its
11 planning work on this project throughout 2012. ATC anticipates filing a CPCN
12 application for the Badger Coulee Project in 2013. If approved by the PSCW, the
13 expected in-service year for this project is 2018.

14 **Q. What assumptions, if any, has ATC made in its planning for the Badger Coulee
15 Project regarding the Project?**

16 A. All of the studies performed to-date that have evaluated the benefits of the Badger Coulee
17 Project assume that the Project, the Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse 345 kV
18 transmission line, is in-service.

19 **Q. What is the electrical relationship between the Badger Coulee Project and the
20 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project?**

21 A. It is anticipated that the Badger Coulee Project will interconnect at a point in western
22 Wisconsin that is within the project area of the transmission line that is the subject of this
23 proceeding. ATC witness Peter Holtz provides additional information about ATC's

1 preferences regarding the western interconnection between the Badger Coulee Project
2 and the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project. However, the multiple benefits of the
3 Badger Coulee Project identified above will occur irrespective of the specific
4 interconnection point to the Project proposed in this proceeding.

5 **Q. Has ATC conducted any reliability studies relating to western Wisconsin?**

6 A. Yes. In collaboration with our neighboring transmission owners, CapX2020, and the
7 Midwest Independent System Operator, ATC conducted the Western Wisconsin
8 Transmission Reliability Study (WWTRS).

9 **Q. Please describe the nature and scope of the WWTRS.**

10 A. The WWTRS assessed the reliability needs of the western Wisconsin area. It included
11 several load centers such as Rochester, Minneapolis and St. Paul in Minnesota, La
12 Crosse, Eau Claire, Madison, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids and Wisconsin Dells in
13 Wisconsin, and Dubuque in Iowa. This transmission study was part of a larger
14 combination of benefits analysis that takes into account the electrical needs of the study
15 area. The specific purpose of the WWTRS was to identify and document the reliability
16 needs in the western Wisconsin area in the eight- to ten-year-out time frame and also to
17 evaluate the extent to which different transmission options would meet these needs using
18 various reliability measures. The WWTRS has been completed, and a public version of
19 the study is available on-line.

20 **Q. Did ATC make any assumptions about the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Project**
21 **in the WWTRS?**

22 A. Yes.

23 **Q. What were those assumptions?**

1 A. All of the studies performed in the WWTRS assumed that the proposed Hampton –
2 Rochester – La Crosse Project was in-service.

3 **Q. Has ATC conducted any studies or performed any analyses to determine the impact**
4 **of the Project on the transmission system?**

5 A. No.

6 **Q. Would non-completion of the Project have any effects on projects that ATC is**
7 **planning?**

8 A. Yes.

9 **Q. What are those effects?**

10 A. If the Project is not completed, then ATC would have to perform further planning
11 analyses regarding the projects for which this line has been an assumption, including the
12 Badger Coulee Project.

13 **Q. Does ATC have a position regarding the need for the Project?**

14 A. Yes. While ATC has not conducted its own specific studies of this line, it generally
15 supports the applicants' position that a 345 kV line from the west that terminates in the
16 La Crosse area would provide significant reliability, usage, and service benefits to
17 Wisconsin customers.

18 **Q. Does this complete your direct testimony?**

19 A. Yes.