



GRID*Forward*

Central Wisconsin Project

BACKGROUND

On any given day, the power delivered to homes and businesses can travel long distances. Much like the interstate highway system, the electric grid is a pathway for that power.

Our nation's energy landscape is undergoing a transformation. Renewable power sources, like wind and solar that are located in dispersed areas and dependent upon the weather, are replacing traditional forms of generation like coal. Electrification advancements – like electric vehicles, smart devices and induction cooktops – are on the rise. At the same time, an increase in severe weather events is placing stress on the grid. Combined, these factors are driving the need for a more robust grid to ensure electric stability and reliability. That includes building new infrastructure to deliver the power you rely on.

Areas across the nation are facing grid planning enhancements, many of which are being studied and proposed by regional transmission operators. The portfolios of projects being proposed will strengthen the reliability of our nation's grid.

The grid planning organization that includes Wisconsin - the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (often referred to as MISO) - has worked with its members over the last several years to develop and analyze a long-range transmission planning process. The plan's objective is to ensure reliability for integrating different operating characteristics of new generation resources and increase the resiliency of the grid in the face of severe weather events.

In July 2022, MISO's board of directors approved a new portfolio of 18 transmission projects across the Upper Midwest – an

To stabilize the grid and keep it operating efficiently, new high-voltage power lines and infrastructure are needed to keep the power flowing.

investment totaling \$10.3 billion. As the first of several Multi-Value Project portfolios being developed by MISO, this portfolio provides significant value and economic benefits for energy consumers. MISO-approved MVPs have cost allocations based on energy withdrawals, which historically has equated to Wisconsin ratepayers covering between 13 to 16 percent of the overall project cost for MVPs. The remainder of the cost is shared across the MISO North and Central regions, making regional grid projects — such as our Grid Forward - Central Wisconsin Project — an exceptional value for Wisconsin's energy consumers.

ATC, GRID FORWARD AND THE CENTRAL WISCONSIN PROJECT

Three MISO-approved MVPs are being proposed and developed within Wisconsin, and three separate utilities are working on plans to develop these new lines based upon their existing service areas. These utilities include ATC, Xcel Energy and Dairyland Power Cooperative.

While ATC always strives to meet the needs of electric consumers for a collective economic benefit, MISO-approved MVPs provide extensive and widespread benefits. In fact, these grid developments truly help move our electric grid...forward.

Central Wisconsin Project

The Grid Forward - Central Wisconsin Project is the first of ATC's Grid Forward portfolio of projects and includes:

- A rebuild of approximately 175 miles of existing electric power lines to support the construction of a new 200 to 205 mile 345-kV high-voltage line from the Tremval Substation in Trempealeau County, to an intermediate substation, the expanded Arpin Substation, in Wood County, and connecting the expanded Arpin Substation to the Columbia Substation in Columbia County.

Locations for the other two projects within Wisconsin will be sited and developed in western Wisconsin. All proposed routes can be viewed on an interactive map at ATC-GridForward.com.

While approval for these projects came from MISO, all will require regulatory approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and coordination with other select state agencies. Specific to ATC's Grid Forward - Central Wisconsin Project, we filed an application with the PSCW in July 2024. The project requires a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity; if approved, ATC expects to receive an order toward the end of 2025.

As part of the routing and siting process, the proposed new lines will make extensive use of existing corridors to help reduce the impact on local areas and communities. This will allow for shorter implementation time.

ATC conducts a thorough analysis to identify viable power line routes that balance landowner and environmental impacts. Even through our rigorous process, we need input from those who know the land and communities best. Please visit ATC-GridForward.com to provide your comments that will assist in our routing and siting process for this vital electric grid project.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE*

Public announcement	Q1 2024
Application filed with the PSCW	July 2024
Application decision from the PSCW	2025
Pre-construction ground activities	2026 – 2027
General construction	2027 – 2030
Project in service**	2030

** Subject to change*

*** Target for in-service of the 345-kV line from Columbia to Arpin to Tremval substations. Rebuilt lines will be energized and in-service as completed.*