



GRIDForward

Central Wisconsin Project

WISCONSIN'S REGULATORY REVIEW PROCESS FOR HIGH-VOLTAGE POWER LINES

When ATC files a regulatory application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for a new, high-voltage power line project, we are required to submit preferred and alternate route options. For our proposed Grid Forward - Central Wisconsin Project, the process of identifying routes for the new power lines began with first evaluating the project routes approved in summer 2022 by our regional grid operator - the Midcontinent Independent System Operator. More about the portfolio of these projects can be found [here](#).

The proposed Grid Forward - Central Wisconsin Project maximizes existing corridors, including existing electric and gas lines, federal and state highways, railroads and recreational trails. With the regulatory filing made in July 2024, input from government agencies, the public, community leaders and landowners was combined with ATC's evaluations to further narrow the proposed two routes.

Our final routes balance community input with environmental impacts, constructability, current and future land use, project cost and specific electric system needs. The next step is for the PSCW to evaluate the project need and route options. As the project enters the state regulatory process, public involvement will continue.

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN?

The PSCW is an independent state regulatory agency, whose mission is to ensure that safe, sufficient and reasonably priced utility services are being provided to all of Wisconsin's customers. The PSCW oversees regulation of more than 1,100 Wisconsin public utilities that provide electric, heat, telephone, water and

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sewer services throughout the state.

REGULATORY REVIEW

The PSCW will conduct an independent review of the project to determine if the project is needed, hold public and technical hearings in which the public can get involved, and select the final route for the line. The PSCW works with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to create an Environmental Impact Statement, which is a detailed analysis of how the project might affect the environment.

The PSCW also will work with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to create an Agricultural Impact Statement, which is a detailed analysis of how the project might affect agricultural lands. If approved, the PSCW will issue an order that specifies terms and conditions that must be met for construction.

Other agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Wisconsin Department of Transportation also may provide input on the project during the regulatory review phase, depending on locations of federally identified land that may be used for siting the line.

Wisconsin's regulatory review process for high-voltage power lines

GETTING INVOLVED

The public is encouraged to provide input and ask questions about any case before the PSCW. While many of the comments and questions are taken into consideration, the PSCW ultimately decides whether the line will be built, how it will be designed and where it will be located. If the PSCW approves the project, it issues a written order. Listed below are ways the public can participate.

- Review the case docket: Each case is assigned an identification number and all documents associated with the case are available at www.psc.wi.gov. The docket number for the Grid Forward - Central Wisconsin Project is [5-CE-157](#). Input can be uploaded into the Public Comments section. This input is included in the case record and is reviewed as the PSC prepares its decision.
- Request to be added to PSCW and applicant mailing lists: The PSCW public notification letter, which identifies the proposed project, is mailed to affected property owners that are within 300 feet of the proposed centerline, along with government officials, libraries, media and other relevant agencies at the beginning of the PSCW review process. Individuals also may access the [PSCW website](#) and make the request to the PSCW docket coordinator.
- Attend a PSCW scoping meeting: These informal events facilitated by the PSCW and WDNR give the public a chance to learn about the proposed project and review process, to ask questions and talk directly with the PSCW or WDNR staff.
- Review the draft Environmental Impact Statement: The draft EIS will be issued for public comment and posted on the [PSCW website](#), and then a final EIS will be posted prior to the public hearings.
- Submit comments to the PSCW and the WDNR: These comments are retained and taken into consideration during the review process.
- Attend a public hearing: Individuals may testify at public hearings. The testimony becomes part of the record used by the PSCW to make its decision.
- Attend a technical hearing: PSCW staff and others formally involved in the case (known as parties) provide testimony and exhibits, and the final EIS is also submitted. Testimony submitted by subject matter experts become part of the record and aid the PSCW in making its decision.

ANTICIPATED REGULATORY REVIEW AND PROJECT 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.

PSCW CONTACT INFORMATION

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WDNR CONTACT INFORMATION

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