

SUB 1 to 2017 RES-264
IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK TRANSMISSION LINE

The American Transmission Company, ITC Transmission, and Dairyland Power Cooperative have proposed the construction of a huge new 125-mile 345 kV high-voltage transmission line from Dubuque County, Iowa, to Middleton, Wisconsin, called the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. The proposed corridors for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line and towers would cut across the Driftless Area, a unique eco-region and special scenic landscape with rolling hills and deep river valleys nestled in woodland, farmland, prairie, and riparian habitats. These corridors would run through or near many natural, recreational/tourism and cultural resources, including the Military Ridge State Trail, Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the proposed Driftless Area Trail.

Many tourists visit the area due to the beautiful natural setting of the Driftless Area and extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation. Many residents have chosen to live in this area because of its natural assets and have already experienced a drop in their property values due to the threat of this proposed line. The proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would have significant negative aesthetic impacts on the surrounding region and would negatively impact businesses, tourism, property values, and property tax revenue.

Wisconsin transmission siting laws clearly intend that transmission lines avoid unnecessary impacts to the environment, including natural and cultural resources, and that new routes be created only as a last resort. New technologies make it possible that electrical demands of central and southwest Wisconsin can be met by local resources, such as improved energy efficiency, wind power, solar power, demand response, battery storage, and new ways of generating and transmitting electricity locally.

“No-wire” measures have the ability to manage generation, loads and reduce peak congestion while battery storage and flow control devices can proactively manage congestion and extend operational lifespan of the existing system while dispatching excess capacity and maintaining reliability. Now is the time to begin increasing reliance on advanced technology, robust regional planning, innovative commercial practices and coordinated local system operations rather than to construct the proposed 345 kV transmission line.

There is no claim made by the applicants asserting that the proposed line would increase accountable consumption of renewable energy and no cited evidence available supporting such a claim. Wisconsin already meets its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) of 10% renewable energy that utilities are required to purchase. Because of electricity market competitive pricing, transmission “open access” rules and subsidies, coal and natural gas power plants maintain a competitive advantage when bidding to use new high capacity transmission lines like Cardinal-Hickory Creek. The line would be used by any utility that pays to have their product transmitted. There is no evidence to indicate that this line would primarily carry electricity generated by renewable sources. On the contrary, it is most likely that the bulk of electricity carried on this line would be generated by carbon-based fuels. To date there has been no compelling evidence that the proposed line would increase the use of renewable, low-carbon energy in Dane County and the State of Wisconsin.

Applicants have estimated construction costs for Cardinal Hickory Creek at approximately \$500 million. There are additional very substantial costs for 10.2% guaranteed return, financing, operation, maintenance and security that would be borne by electric customers over the anticipated 30-40 year lifetime of the line.

On April 25, 2017 the Dane County Environment, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee conducted a public hearing on Res-577 URGING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN TO REQUIRE ANALYSIS OF THE HIGH CAPACITY TRANSMISSION LINE CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK PROJECT AND CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS. While ATC was invited to participate but chose to not appear, 28 area residents did show up to speak &/or register in support of the resolution calling for immediate cost-benefit analyses. On May 4, 2017 the Dane County Board voted to support Res 577 and on May 8, 2017 the

53 Dane County Executive signed on with his support. To date there is no evidence that this request has been
54 honored.

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56 American Transmission Company's 10-year electrical load forecast for Zone 3, which includes Dane County,
57 predicts a less than one-tenth of 1% (essentially zero) annual growth in energy demand through 2027. There
58 is no convincing evidence of the need for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line in order to
59 meet electricity use and demand in central and southwest Wisconsin.

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61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors opposes the
62 construction and operation of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line pending the receipt of
63 the information previously requested in our Resolution 577.

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65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls upon the Wisconsin Public
66 Service Commission, Governor Walker, and the Wisconsin Legislature to oppose the construction and
67 operation of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line and not grant any permits, certificates or
68 other approvals needed for the proposed transmission line.

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70 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the American Transmission Company,
71 ITC Transmission, Dairyland Power Cooperative, members of the Public Service Commission, Governor
72 Walker, and the Dane County delegation of the Wisconsin State Legislature.