

## 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. Electrical demands of central and southwest Wisconsin can be met by local resources, such as energy efficiency, wind power, solar power, demand response, battery storage, and emerging technologies.

“No-wire” measures have the ability to manage generation, loads and reduce peak congestion and 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 system operations rather than to construct the proposed 500 kV transmission line.

There is no indication that the proposed line will bring “green energy” into the area. Wisconsin already meets its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) which is the percentage of renewably generated energy the state mandates. For that reason and because of electricity market competitive pricing and transmission “open access” rules, 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 will be used by utilities that pay the most to have their product transmitted. Thus it appears the proposed line would have no effect on the amount of green energy our state uses.

It's estimated the proposed line will cost at least \$500 million plus financing costs, along with a mandated 10.2% (\$50 million or more) annual rate of return for the developers. These costs would be borne by the ratepayers 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. On May 4, 2017 the Dane County Board voted to support Res 577 and on May 8, 2017 the Dane County Executive signed on with his support. To date there is no evidence that this request has been honored.

There has been no demonstrated need for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line in order to provide electricity to meet electricity use and demand in central and southwest Wisconsin.

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors opposes the  
54 construction and operation of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line.

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

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

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