

Cardinal-Hickory Creek

TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Routing and siting process for new 345-kV transmission lines in Wisconsin

Determining the location for new electric transmission lines

Through input we receive from landowners, government agencies, the public and communities, we consider options that are appropriate for the location and issues associated with a particular project.

Routing criteria

When building new power lines, Wisconsin law requires co-location with existing facilities and infrastructure where it is feasible. The process typically begins by identifying a broad study area. Over the course of one to two years, potential route options are identified and narrowed. The end result of the multi-year routing and siting process is two proposed route options that are submitted to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for consideration. If the PSC approves a project, only one route will be ordered and constructed.

In accordance with state law, corridors are prioritized in the following manner:

Primary opportunities – utility corridors:

- Existing transmission and other electric lines
- Pipelines

Secondary opportunities – transportation corridors:

- State and federal highways
- Railroads

Tertiary opportunities:

- Recreational trails

New corridors:

- Establish new corridors using section lines and/or property boundaries when feasible

Balancing routing considerations

Developing routes that might be suitable for transmission lines requires a balanced look at a variety of factors. Landowner and community input is always taken into consideration, and the impacts of available route alternatives are evaluated. Transmission line routing may involve trade-offs between a particular set of advantages and disadvantages. We look for routes that balance community input with environmental impacts, constructability, current and future land use, project cost and specific electric system needs. We will propose routes that address electric system needs for all customers in an area and also reduce local impacts to the extent possible.

