

Cardinal-Hickory Creek

TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

How the transmission system works

Electricity is delivered to homes, schools, hospitals, businesses and industries through an integrated system of generation sources, substations, transmission lines and distribution lines.

Transmission lines, which consist of heavy wires strung between tall structures, carry power from where it is generated to where it is used.

The transmission network enables a large amount of power to travel long distances. Because of the interconnected nature of the transmission grid, communities located along transmission lines can benefit from them, even if they are not located near the line.

At a local level, the Cardinal-Hickory Creek line would benefit communities in western Wisconsin by relieving stress on lower voltage lines that deliver power locally.

This concept can be understood by comparing the

transmission grid to the highway and road systems. For example, in a community without a highway, all traffic must be routed on local roads and streets. This not only can create traffic tie-ups, but the wear and tear on roads causes them to deteriorate faster, and creates potholes and road damage that may further hinder traffic flow.

Building a highway in the region will route some of the regular traffic from the smaller roads and streets, which are not designed to carry a high level of traffic, to the highway, and alleviate congestion and wear and tear on smaller roads and streets. The highway also provides an efficient connection to other nearby regions.

Similarly, the “electricity highway” provides an efficient pathway to move energy throughout the region, and gives local utilities a connection to other energy markets to buy and sell electricity to help moderate costs for energy consumers.

