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May 27, 2020

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ITC Midwest and Dairyland Power Cooperative receive Iowa Utilities Board approval for Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project

Des Moines, Iowa – Following years of public involvement and regulatory review, ITC Midwest and Dairyland Power Cooperative have received approval for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project from the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB). In a written decision, the three IUB members unanimously approved the franchise for the 14-mile Iowa transmission line segment, which will be constructed from the Hickory Creek substation near New Vienna in Dubuque County northward to Clayton County, and then cross the Mississippi River near Cassville, Wisconsin.

The entire project is approximately 100-miles of 345-kilovolt transmission line designed to electrically connect the Dubuque County, Iowa, region to the Dane County, Wisconsin, region. In Wisconsin, ITC Midwest will be responsible for the segment of line from the Mississippi River to a new substation near Montfort, Wisconsin, to be built by American Transmission Co. (ATC), the third utility involved in the project. ATC will also be responsible for the remainder of the line to Dane County. Last September, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and selected the route for the Wisconsin portion of the project.

Additional regulatory approvals have been obtained from federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for permission for the line to cross the Mississippi River. Final permitting from these federal agencies has been received or is in process.

“We are pleased that the Iowa Utilities Board recognized the need for and benefits of this project. This project will help expand system capacity and respond to consumer demands for more cost-effective, renewable energy sources for electricity users in the region,” said ITC Midwest President Dusky Terry. “Since we introduced this project in 2014, there has been a tremendous amount of public involvement. We sincerely appreciate the public’s constructive input prior to filing the project application, and throughout the entire Iowa Utilities Board franchise process.”

“Dairyland’s cooperative members—and energy users across the region—depend on a reliable, safe transmission system,” said Dairyland Chief Operating Officer Ben Porath. “The



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Cardinal-Hickory Creek line will help satisfy that essential need in a changing energy environment, while supporting renewable resources and delivering substantial benefits to consumers.”

As a portion of one of 17 Multi-Value Projects approved by the region’s Midcontinent Independent System Operator in 2011, the cost and benefits of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project are distributed throughout the multi-state northern MISO region.

ITC Midwest is coordinating the project’s construction in Iowa and has been working with local landowners since the initial Iowa Utilities Board public information meetings on the project held March 2018 in Peosta and Guttenberg. Now that Iowa Utilities Board approval for the project has been granted, ITC Midwest will begin contacting Iowa property owners along the route in the coming months to discuss construction activities. Construction is expected to begin in 2021 to meet an in-service date of 2023.

Note to editors:

Additional project information is available at www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com.

The application from ITC Midwest and Dairyland Power Company and documents associated with the Iowa regulatory review process are available at <https://iub.iowa.gov> under Docket No. E-22386. The written decision is posted to the IUB website.

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About ITC Midwest

ITC Midwest LLC is a subsidiary of ITC Holdings Corp., the largest independent electricity transmission company in the U.S. ITC Midwest operates nearly 6,700 circuit miles of transmission lines in Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri, and holds utility status in Wisconsin. ITC Midwest is headquartered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and maintains regional operating facilities in Dubuque, Iowa City and Perry, Iowa; and Albert Lea and Lakefield, Minnesota. For further information visit www.itc-holdings.com. ITC is a subsidiary of Fortis Inc., a leader in the North American regulated electric and gas utility industry. For further information visit www.fortisinc.com.

About Dairyland Power

Dairyland Power Cooperative, with headquarters in La Crosse, Wisconsin, provides wholesale electricity to 24-member distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities. A Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Dairyland’s service area encompasses 62 counties in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. For more information, please visit www.dairylandpower.com.

About ATC

Formed in 2001 as the nation’s first multi-state transmission-only utility, American Transmission Co. is a Wisconsin-based company that owns and operates 9,860 miles of electric transmission lines and 568 substations in portions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. ATC’s transmission network enables the movement of electricity produced from all forms of generation resources to areas where it is needed – helping to keep the lights on, businesses running and communities strong. Visit our website at www.atcllc.com.