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## MEDIA ADVISORY & STATEMENT

June 14, 2019

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*As the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin begins its technical and public hearings next week for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project, the applicants American Transmission Co., ITC Midwest and Dairyland Power Cooperative, provide the following statement:*

**“Strong electrical infrastructure is necessary for an evolving energy landscape. The Midcontinent Independent System Operator and the region’s utilities have a responsibility to ensure that a reliable, robust and cost-effective electric transmission system exists today, and well into the future. After a decade of analysis from MISO and internal planning experts, the applicants maintain that the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project will help enable 30 gigawatts of cost-effective, renewable energy to be delivered across the region – enough to power 21 million homes.”**

Note to media: As the applicants are a party to the PSC’s proceedings, we will not comment on questions related to specific testimony made during the technical or public hearings.

Media resources:

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/MajorCases/CardinalHickoryCreek.aspx>

[www.Cardinal-HickoryCreek.com](http://www.Cardinal-HickoryCreek.com)

<https://www.misoenergy.org/planning/planning-test/multi-value-projects-mvps/#t=10&p=0&s=&sd=>

Facts regarding the technical hearings:

- The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project was deemed complete on Oct. 4, 2018.
- Testimony and exhibits were pre-filed by:
  - o All applicants

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- Four state agencies that have assessed the project: Wisconsin PSC, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
- Governmental entities
- Special interest organizations
- Over one dozen individuals
- Over 75 expert and fact witnesses are scheduled to testify or submit their testimony and exhibits by affidavit.
- The applicants have responded to numerous data requests from the state agencies and discovery requests from the parties to the proceeding.
- Wisconsin's PSC is reviewing the Wisconsin portion of the project. The Iowa Utilities Board will review the 15-mile Iowa portion of the project in December 2019.

Project facts:

- Cardinal-Hickory Creek will benefit local communities and the region by providing reliable electricity, access to lower cost power and access to renewable energy.
- MISO, which is the regional transmission operator, approved this project in 2011 as one of 17 Multi-Value Projects (MVPs) across the Upper Midwest in its annual Transmission Expansion Plan. As energy markets have evolved over the years, MISO studied and re-affirmed the cost-benefit of the project in 2014 and 2017. If approved, the project will establish the remaining link in a region-wide electric network that reliably serves communities across the region.
- Public involvement has been and continues to be an important part of this proposed project. Since we introduced the project in 2014, we have hosted eight public open houses attended by approximately 1,300 people. Stakeholder involvement and input helped shape our application and route recommendations.
- The applicants' preferred route is approximately 100 miles, and the alternate route is 120 miles. A final decision about the project is anticipated from the PSC later this summer, in addition to the specific route segments. Ninety-five percent of the preferred route would follow existing rights-of-way, including existing electric corridors and state highways. The project also includes one intermediate substation, proposed in the Montfort, Wis. area.
- The project is estimated to cost between \$492 million and \$543 million, depending on the route chosen. As one of MISO's 17 authorized MVPs, the cost will be shared throughout the MISO multi-state region. Wisconsin ratepayers would pay about \$66 to \$72 million over the approximate 40-year life of this project.
- If approved, the project will provide net economic benefits to Wisconsin customers (even after accounting for the project's cost to Wisconsin customers) of between \$23.5 million and \$350.1 million over its 40-year expected life.

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**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 transmission lines and 568 substations in portions of the Upper Midwest including Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. ATC is a member of the MISO regional transmission organization, and provides nondiscriminatory*

service to all customers, supporting effective competition in energy markets without favoring any market participant. For more information, visit our website at [www.atcllc.com](http://www.atcllc.com).

**About ITC Midwest**

ITC Midwest LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings Corp., the nation's largest independent electricity transmission company. ITC Midwest operates more than 6,600 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](http://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](http://www.fortisinc.com).

**About Dairyland Power**

Dairyland Power Cooperative, with headquarters in La Crosse, Wis., 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](http://www.dairylandpower.com).