



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson  
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner  
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

---

June 2, 2021

Re: Application of American Transmission Company LLC, as an Electric Public Utility, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a new 138 kV Transmission Line from the Hooterville Substation to the Mount Horeb Substation to Interconnect a new WP&L Substation near the Village of Barneveld, Wisconsin and a new Mount Horeb Utility Substation near the Village of Mount Horeb Located in Iowa and Dane Counties, Wisconsin 137-CE-194

To the Person Addressed:

On April 9, 2021, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) received an application from American Transmission Company (ATC) for construction of the **Barneveld Military Ridge Interconnection Project** (project). ([PSC REF#: 408849](#)). The project would require:

- Construction an extension of Y-36, a 69 kilovolt (kV) line, from the Wisconsin Power and Light (WPL) Hooterville Substation to a new WPL owned Barneveld distribution substation and continue from the new Barneveld Substation to the existing WPL Mount Horeb Substation;
- Construction of a radial tap from line Y-209 into the new Mount Horeb Utilities (MHU) owned Military Ridge Substation;
- Substation upgrades at Dodgeville Substation, connection of communications circuits at Highland and Eden Substations to support system protection and IT infrastructure needs;
- Addition of a fiber optic connection between the CHC line and Dodgeville Substation along the existing 69 kV line Y-138.

The Commission is sending this letter to notify property owners near the proposed facilities, as well as individuals who have asked to be placed on our mailing list, that the Commission will be conducting an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project. This letter is also being sent to public officials who may wish to place this notification in a location where it can be viewed by the public.

Commission and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff are now analyzing the application and conducting a review of the environmental impacts of the proposed project. As part of this effort, the agencies are requesting comments from the public to help them determine the potential impacts associated with the project and the scope of the EA. The agencies encourage persons with local information or environmental concerns to provide comments.

Comments regarding the scope of the environmental assessment of the proposed project can be submitted through:

- The Commission's website at <http://psc.wi.gov> where you can go to the "e-services" tab toward the top of the webpage, then click "file a comment" on the left hand side of the page, then locate docket **137-CE-194**, or
- A letter or email addressed to the Commission's Environmental Assessment Coordinator for this docket (see contacts at the end of this letter).

Please note that comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's Electronic Records Filing System. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions. Effective topics to mention in comments on the scope of the environmental assessment may include:

- potential human and environmental impacts from the proposed project facilities;
- specific comments regarding particular locations of project infrastructure, or
- specific actions or changes to the proposed project that could minimize or mitigate potential impacts from the proposed project.

**The deadline for submitting scoping comments on the environmental assessment for the Barneveld Military Ridge Interconnection Project is Monday, June 28, 2021.**

There will be an additional public comment period during the Commission's review process of the proposed project where the Commission will solicit comments from the public regarding the following:

- preliminary determination of the EA regarding whether to prepare an Environmental Impact statement.
- Public hearing for the project where comments will be accepted and made part of the official case record. The hearing date has not yet been determined.

### **General Project Description**

For the Barneveld Military Ridge Interconnection Project, ATC proposes to construct an extension of Y-36, a 69 kilovolt (kV) line, from the Wisconsin Power and Light (WPL) Hooterville Substation to a new WPL owned Barneveld distribution substation. The new extension is generally proposed to take advantage of the future 138 kV position on the Cardinal Hickory Creek (CHC) project structures and would be double circuited with CHC. The new 69 kV extension would then continue from the new Barneveld Substation to the existing WPL

Mount Horeb Substation as line Y-209. The project also proposes a radial tap from line Y-209 into the new Mount Horeb Utilities (MHU) owned Military Ridge Substation. Lastly, the project would require substation upgrades at the Dodgeville Substation, the connection of communications circuits at Highland and Eden Substations to support system protection and IT infrastructure needs, and the addition of a fiber optic connection between the CHC line and Dodgeville Substation along the existing 69 kV line Y-138.

**Route and Location**  
The project involves constructing a new 69 kV Transmission Line from the Hooterville Substation to the Mount Horeb Substation to interconnect a new WPL Substation near the Village of Barneveld, Wisconsin and a new MHU Substation near the Village of Mount Horeb located in Iowa and Dane Counties, Wisconsin (see map included below).

**Impacted Cities, Villages, and Townships**

| <b>County</b> | <b>Municipality</b>   |
|---------------|---|
| Iowa          | Town of Brigham<br>City of Dodgeville<br>Village of Barneveld                                 |
| Dane          | Town of Blue Mounds<br>Town of Springdale<br>Village of Blue Mounds<br>Village of Mount Horeb |

**State and Federal Agency Jurisdiction**

The proposed project requires a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the Commission before construction can begin. Based on the record of analysis of potential environmental and societal impacts, the Commission will decide whether to approve, modify, or deny the applicant’s proposal. DNR will consider the application for wetland and waterway permits, if applicable under Wis. Stat. ch. 30, potential impacts to rare species, and other affected resources under its jurisdiction. Other reviews, approvals, or permits may be necessary from local, state or federal entities.

**Environmental Assessment**

The proposed project is a Type II action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(2). The Commission will prepare an EA for this project that will evaluate the location of the project and its potential environmental, community, and private property impacts. There will be a preliminary determination when the EA is complete that will determine whether the preparation of an EIS is necessary. Comments on this preliminary determination will be accepted and the Commission shall make copies of the EA available to those persons that request it.

### **Public Hearing and Commission Decision**

The Commission will hold technical and public hearings (date and times have not yet been confirmed) on the proposed project. At least 30 days before the hearings, the Commission will issue a Notice of Hearing and notify the local news media. If you have any concerns about the project, you should attend the hearing to make the Commission aware of your concerns. People can ask questions, speak about, and submit comments about the project at the hearing. The Commission must base its decisions about the project, in part, on the record of the hearing. The Commission will discuss the record for this project at a meeting open to the public prior to making to its decision, at a date and time yet to be determined.

Additional opportunities for public participation include the opportunity to comment on the preliminary determination (PD) on the need to prepare an EIS for the project. Notification of the PD and associated comment period will be sent to the mailing list for this project, and you can be added to this mailing list by contacting the PSC Case Coordinator for this project listed below under project contacts.

For more information on becoming involved in the Commission review of construction cases, please visit our [public participation page](#), or call one of the project contacts listed below.

### **Information and Contacts**

*To review project application materials and additional related documents:*

- PSC website (<http://psc.wi.gov>) under the docket's "E-Services" tab, docket search number **137-CE-194**.

#### ***Agency Contacts:***

- PSC Environmental Assessment Coordinator  
Aaron Greene  
(608) 266-8950  
[aaron.greene@wisconsin.gov](mailto:aaron.greene@wisconsin.gov)  
P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854
- PSC Docket Coordinator  
Jennifer Hamill  
608 266-2072  
[Jennifer2.Hamill@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jennifer2.Hamill@wisconsin.gov)
- PSC Media Contact  
Jerel Ballard  
608 266-9600  
[Jerel.Ballard@wi.gov](mailto:Jerel.Ballard@wi.gov)

Docket 137-CE-194

Page 5

- DNR Contact  
Geri Radermacher  
262 239-0994  
[Geri.Radermacher@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Geri.Radermacher@wisconsin.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron R. Greene". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'G'.

Aaron Greene  
Environmental Analysis and Review Specialist  
Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

ARG:kle DL:01807290

Attachment: Project Map

**Barneveld Interconnection Project 137-CE-194**

