

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

**Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements
Prepared between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019
by the**

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

As provided for by Wis. Stat. § 1.11(2)(j)

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Background

1991 Wisconsin Act 273 created Wis. Stat. § 1.11(2)(j), which requires the submission of annual reports to the Legislature regarding an agency's preparation of environmental assessments (EA) and environmental impact statements (EIS). The statute requires that all agencies of the state shall:

Annually, no later than September 15, submit a report to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution under s. 13.172(2), including the number of proposed actions for which the agency conducted an assessment of whether an impact statement was required under par. (c) and the number of impact statements prepared under par. (c).

This report covers activities by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019.

Environmental Assessments

Commission staff prepared an EA for nine proposed actions to determine whether an EIS was necessary under the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA), Wis. Stat. § 1.11. These environmental documents were prepared cooperatively with staff of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Sustainability (BEAS), as required under Wis. Stat. § 196.025(2m)(b). For these actions, it was determined that preparation of an EIS was not warranted.

American Transmission Company (ATC) applied for one project that required the preparation of an EA; a new double-circuit 138kV underground transmission line, substation, and related facilities in the town of Verona and the cities of Verona and Madison in Dane county.

Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO) and ATC jointly filed an application to construct a new distribution substation and related electric distribution facilities. WEPCO will construct a new distribution substation and related electric distribution facilities. ATC will construct related underground 138 kV transmission facilities to connect the Juneautown substation to ATC's transmission network.

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC) applied for two projects that required the preparation of an EA. One project was to construct a natural gas distribution main and associated facilities in the city of Sturgeon Bay in Door county. The other was to replace old vintage pipe by constructing a new natural gas distribution main and associated facilities in the cities of Chilton, New Holstein and Kiel, and the towns of Chilton, Brothertown, Charlestown, and New Holstein located in Calumet county; the town of Schleswig located in Manitowoc county; and the towns of Rhine, Plymouth, and Sheboygan Falls located in Sheboygan county.

WEPCO applied for one project to install natural gas distribution facilities in the towns of Yorkville and Paris and the villages of Sturtevant, Mount Pleasant and Somers, in Racine and Kenosha counties that required the preparation of an EA.

Wisconsin Gas applied for two natural gas replacement projects that each required the preparation of an EA. One is located on Capitol Drive in the cities of Brookfield, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, and Milwaukee in Milwaukee county. The other is located on Hampton Avenue in the city of Milwaukee in Milwaukee county.

Two wholesale merchant plants applied for projects to construct a solar electric generation facility, and electric tie line to connect the facility to the existing transmission system. One project is located in Manitowoc and Kewaunee counties, and the other is located in Iowa county.

Environmental Impact Statement

Commission staff prepared one Environmental Impact Statement during this time period. American Transmission Company LLC, ITC Midwest LLC, and Dairyland Power Cooperative (together, applicants) received approval to construct and place in operation new 345kV transmission lines and a new substation. The project also included ATC performing a range of modifications at substations in northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin. The primary focus of

the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line project is to install a new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa to the Cardinal Substation in Dane county in Wisconsin. The river crossing point is located in Cassville. The approved route for the new Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345 kV transmission line is approximately 87 miles long.

Ongoing Activities

Commission staff is currently reviewing two large scale solar electricity generating projects that require the preparation of an EA. They are both from wholesale merchant plants. One is an application from Point Beach Solar, LLC that is located in Manitowoc county near the Two Creeks Solar project that was recently approved. The other is another new proposed development in Jefferson county being proposed by Badger State Solar.

Staff is reviewing one application from Northern States Power Company (NSP) to construct the Bayfield Second Circuit Transmission Line project, to be located in Bayfield county. The project is intended to improve system reliability by providing a second source of power to the east side of the Bayfield Peninsula and voltage support which would reduce power outages across the peninsula.

Staff is reviewing an application from ATC to rebuild 21 miles of existing 69kV transmission line (T-98 and E-83) to a double-circuit 138kV line between the Bayport and Pioneer substations in the villages of Howard and Suamico in Brown county, and in the towns of Abrams, Little Suamico, and Stiles, in Oconto county. The proposed project is driven primarily by asset renewal needs and would provide the flexibility to most efficiently address future needs.

Staff is preparing an EIS for a proposal by South Shore Energy, LLC and Dairyland Power Cooperative, to construct the Nemadji Trail Energy Center combined-cycle electric generating station project, located in Superior. In addition, staff is preparing an EA for an associated docket from Superior Water Light and Power for a proposed natural gas pipeline to fuel the proposed facility. The EIS includes analysis for an associated transmission line to connect the generated power to the electrical grid.

Staff is preparing an EA for the Waukesha Water utility to construct a water transmission main, a booster station, reservoirs and a water supply control building in the cities of Waukesha, West Allis, Greenfield, New Berlin, and the Town of Waukesha, Waukesha County, and in the city of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County. The project would allow Waukesha to utilize great lakes water for its community water needs.

Staff is preparing an EIS for a proposal by WEPCO to construct approximately 49 miles of natural gas transmission facilities in the towns of Brighton, Burlington, Dover, East Troy, La Grange, Lafayette, Lyons, Paris, Sugar Creek, Spring Prairie, Troy, and Yorkville, the village of Rochester, and the cities of Burlington and Elkhorn, in Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties. The primary purpose of this proposed project is stated to be to increase the quantity and reliability of natural gas service, both on a peak day and annually, in southeastern Wisconsin, given projected load growth, planned distribution facility modifications, and pipeline capacity alternatives serving southern Wisconsin.

Environmental Assessments Completed July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

5-CE-149	Joint project of ATC and WEPCO to construct the Juneautown Project in the city of Milwaukee. WEPCO to construct a new distribution substation and related electric distribution facilities. ATC will construct related underground 138 kV transmission. Facilities to connect the Juneautown substation to ATC's transmission network.	7/2018
137-CE-189	American Transmission Company LLC (ATC) project to construct a new double-circuit 138 kilovolt (kV) underground transmission a new double-circuit 138 kilovolt (kV) underground transmission line, substation, and related facilities in the town of Verona and the cities of Verona and Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin. The project is to address energy demand for Epic Systems Corporation.	2/2019
6690-CG-173	Wisconsin Public Service Corporation project to construct a natural gas distribution main and associated facilities in the City of Sturgeon Bay, Door County, Wisconsin. Project to increase capacity for future Growth and system reliability with a second natural gas feed for the City.	10/2018
6690-CG-174	Wisconsin Public Service Corporation to construct a natural gas distribution main and associated facilities in the cities of Chilton, New Holstein and Kiel, and the towns of Chilton, Brothertown, Charlestown, and New Holstein located in Calumet County; the town of Schleswig located in Manitowoc County; and the towns of Rhine, Plymouth, and Sheboygan Falls located in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. The project is to replace aging 1950's main.	11/2018
6630-CG-138	Wisconsin Electric Power Company, doing business as We Energies, Project to Install Natural Gas Distribution Facilities in the towns of Yorkville and Paris and the villages of Sturtevant, Mount Pleasant and Somers, in Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin. The primary purpose of the project is to increase the quantity and reliability of natural gas service, both on a peak day and annually, in SE WI given projected load growth, planned distribution facility modifications, and pipeline capacity alternatives serving southern WI.	10/2018
6650-CG-262	Wisconsin Gas, LLC project to replace natural gas facilities on Capitol Drive in the cities of Brookfield, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, and Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. The purpose of the project is to replace 1959 vintage High-pressure natural gas main.	3/2019
6650-CG-264	Wisconsin Gas, LLC (WG) project to replace natural gas distribution facilities on Hampton Avenue in the city of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. The primary purpose for the project is to replace steel	3/2019

natural gas main that has cathodic protection that reads below code requirements.

9696-CE-100 Two Creeks Solar, LLC, a wholesale merchant plant, project to construct a 12/2018
9696-CE-101 solar electric generation facility, and electric tie line to connect the facility to the existing transmission system, to be located in Manitowoc and Kewaunee Counties, Wisconsin.

9697-CE-100 Badger Hollow Solar Farm, LLC, a wholesale merchant plant, project to 12/2018
9697-CE-101 construct a solar electric generation facility, and electric tie line to connect the facility to the existing transmission system, to be located in Iowa County, Wisconsin.

Environmental Impact Statement Completed July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

5-CE-146 American Transmission Company LLC, ITC Midwest LLC, and Dairyland Power Cooperative (together, applicants) project to construct new transmission facilities. The primary focus of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line project is to install a new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa to the Cardinal Substation in Dane County, Wisconsin. The approved route for the new Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345 kV transmission line is approximately 87 miles long. The Cardinal-Hickory Creek project also includes construction of a new intermediate Hill Valley Substation in Grant County, as well as perform a variety of modifications at substations in northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin.

Draft EIS 2/2019
Final EIS 5/2019