



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 40 [2003 Senate Bill 194]	American Transmission Company
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

The American Transmission Company (ATC) was created in response to legislation authorizing the creation of a regional electric transmission company. The purpose of the ATC is “the planning, constructing, operating, maintaining and expanding of transmission facilities that it owns to provide for an adequate and reliable transmission system that meets the needs of all users that are dependent on the transmission system and that supports effective competition in energy markets without favoring any market participant.” [s. 196.485 (1) (g), Stats.] The ATC’s assets consist of the electric transmission facilities that formerly belonged to the companies that joined to form the ATC, plus new transmission facilities that it builds.

The legislation that authorized the creation of the ATC established a number of requirements of the ATC. Among these was the requirement that the ATC join and remain a member of the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) or a successor to the MISO approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a period of six years.

That legislation also specified that the ATC has the responsibility to provide transmission services, except that that responsibility transfers to the MISO when the MISO begins operation (which has occurred).

2003 Wisconsin Act 40 allows the ATC to withdraw from the MISO if the Public Service Commission determines that the withdrawal is in the public interest. It states that such a withdrawal is subject to any approval required under state or federal law.

The act states that the responsibility to provide transmission services and any powers or duties granted to the MISO by state law revert to the ATC if the ATC withdraws from the MISO.

Effective Date: 2003 Wisconsin Act 40 takes effect August 26, 2003.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.