



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2019

Contact: Matt Sweeney

608-266-9600

Matthew.sweeney@wisconsin.gov

PSC Votes To Approve Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
Line will bring lower cost, clean energy from western states into Wisconsin

MADISON, WI - On Tuesday, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) unanimously voted to preliminarily approve the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line project.

"Transmission is the backbone of clean energy alternatives to fossil fuel," said Commission Chairperson Rebecca Cameron Valcq. "Getting low-cost, clean energy from where it is plentiful in the west to where it is needed, and at the scale that it is needed, cannot be done without building transmission infrastructure. I support this project because I firmly believe that it will provide tangible economic and reliability benefits to Wisconsin customers, and will serve as the cornerstone to achieving a zero carbon future."

In addition to reduced congestion charges that will ultimately benefit consumers in the form of lower rates, the project will improve transmission system reliability, increase transfer capability between Wisconsin and the west, and will help to reduce carbon emissions by supporting the interconnection of up to 8.4 gigawatts of new generation; the majority of which will be wind power.

The transmission line will run about 87 miles from northeastern Iowa and into Southern Wisconsin. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$492 million.

Wisconsin's portion is estimated to be approximately \$67 million. The remainder will be paid by ratepayers in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) member states.

The Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project is a proposed 345 kilovolt electrical transmission line that is to run from the Hickory Creek substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, to the Cardinal substation in Dane County, Wisconsin. The project is a joint proposal between the applicants, American Transmission Company, ITC Midwest LLC, and Dairyland Power Cooperative. According to the applicants, construction is expected to commence in October of 2020 with the line coming into service by December 2023.

The Commission held six public hearings in the project area, as well as a week of

technical hearings for all of the parties in the case. The Commission thanked members of the public, parties, and Commission staff for their work to develop a robust record upon which the Commission made its decision today.

For more information about the project, go to:

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

For a map of the routing preliminarily approved by the commission, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/CardinalHC-5CE146>

Documents for the case can be found under docket 5-CE-146 on the Commission's website at <https://psc.wi.gov/>.

###