



July 8th, 2024

Village of Merrillan to Receive \$75,000 Grant to Engineer Upgrades to Electric Grid

Merrillan, WI – The Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) has awarded the Village of Merrillan a grant of \$75,000 to fund the engineering and planning for electric grid upgrades aimed at improving the reliability and resilience of the community's electric infrastructure.

Pending final approval from the Office of Energy Innovation and Federal Environmental reviews, the Village has been awarded a grant through the Rural Energy Start-Up Program to support a comprehensive upgrade to its electric grid. The funding will be used to engineer a series of critical improvements, including the undergrounding of power lines, increasing the system's capacity from 2400A to 7200A, and enhancing overall infrastructure. These upgrades will significantly enhance the reliability and resilience of the Village's electrical system, benefiting residents and businesses alike.

"This grant is a significant step forward for our community," said Chris Wruck, Village President. "Upgrading our electric grid will not only improve the reliability of our power supply, but also enhance the overall quality of life for our residents and businesses."

The engineering project will focus on upgrading the Village's electric distribution system, which will include:

- * Undergrounding power lines in areas prone to outages
- * Upgrading transformers and other equipment to increase capacity from 2400A to 7200A
- * Replacing aging infrastructure with new, more reliable components
- * Improving the overall efficiency and resiliency of the grid

"We are grateful for this funding opportunity from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission," said Chris Wruck, Village President. "We're proud to be taking this approach to upgrading our electric grid, which will ultimately benefit our community in countless ways, and is much needed."

The engineering is expected to begin in 2024 and is expected to be completed by 2025. The Village will work with contractors that specialize in Public Power to design and eventually implement the upgrades in phases once the planning through the grant is complete.

For more information about the project, please contact Chris Wruck, Village President, at 608-487-3505 or cwruck@merrillanwi.gov.

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