

**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

Joint Application of American Transmission Company LLC and Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin, as Electric Public Utilities, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Rebuild Existing Transmission Infrastructure and Construct and Operate Long Range Transmission Planning Tranche 1 Project 6, a New 345 kV Transmission Line Connecting the Tremval-Arpin-Columbia Substations in the Counties of Trempealeau, Wood, and Columbia, Wisconsin, to be known as the Grid Forward Central Wisconsin Project.

Docket No. 5-CE-157

Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21, the Village of Merrilan hereby files this Request to Intervene and Notice of Appearance in the above-captioned proceeding.

I. STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDING

The Village of Merrilan (“the Village”) is a municipality located in Jackson County, Wisconsin. Its area is approximately 1.3 square miles and population is just under 600 people. Its natural beauty and quality of life are points of pride for residents and attractions for visitors.

Despite its small size, the Preferred Route proposed by ATC in this docket directly bisects the Village. The Village is concerned by this route for multiple reasons: 1) the clearing of trees and other vegetation necessary to accommodate the transmission line is expected negatively impact the natural environment in and around the Village, including wildlife habitat, disruption of local flora and fauna, and scenic beauty; 2) the Preferred Route may negatively impact local infrastructure, including that associated with the Village’s own municipal utility, leading to higher costs and potential safety hazards; and

3) a high voltage transmission line running directly through the Village may negatively impact property values, community aesthetics, and residents' overall quality of life. While the Preferred Route is near other municipalities, such as Alma Center, Hixton, Taylor, and Blair, it does not bisect them as it does the Village.

The Village should be granted intervention under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21(1) to assert these concerns and suggest routing alternatives that will address them.

Alternatively, the Village should be granted permissive intervention in this proceeding. The Village's input on routing options and impacts associated with different routes will promote the proper disposition of the issues to be determined. No schedule has been set in this case and the request is timely filed. Thus, the Village should be granted intervention under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21(2).

II. NOTICE OF APPEARANCE

Christa O. Westerberg and Samantha R. Foran will serve as attorneys for the Village in this case. The Village requests that all further documents and correspondence be served on:

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Village of Merrilan
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III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Village respectfully requests that the Commission grant its request to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2025.

PINES BACH LLP

Electronically signed by Christa O. Westerberg
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