



October 30th, 2025

Dear Residents of Merrillan,

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission has decided not to route the ATC Grid Forward project around the Village of Merrillan. While we appreciate the Commission hearing our concerns, the Village, given its small size, has incurred significant expenses as an intervenor—costs that could have been avoided had earlier discussions with ATC been more productive.

We are deeply disappointed in ATC's initial refusal to collaborate with the Village during early stages, which might have prevented the substantial impact we now face. Additionally, we are disappointed by ATC's initial suggestion that the Village was fortunate not to have proposed routing the line directly down State Highway 95—a remark that was both inappropriate and dismissive.

The presence of this large transmission line through the Village will have long-lasting and negative effects on our community's identity and future development. These impacts will persist regardless of existing land use plans, simply due to land availability and the physical presence of the infrastructure.

We would like to thank Commissioner Nieto for affirming our concerns regarding the potential impacts on landowners within the Village, including Village facilities, the school, café, Depot, and others. We also appreciate the support from Commission staff for the proposed adjustment: "Applicant shall work with the Village of Merrillan regarding the best placement of facilities along the proposed route."

Furthermore, the Village would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Christa Westerberg and Samantha Foran of Pines Bach, our attorneys who have diligently intervened on our behalf throughout this process. Their hard work and dedication have been invaluable.

However, we remain concerned that adequate protections will not be in place, despite meeting standard code requirements. Based on information provided by ATC during this process, essential safety measures—such as preventing grounding issues and other threats—may not be sufficiently addressed without independent, certified oversight to ensure proper safety and reliability.

The only viable path forward appears to be working closely and transparently with ATC to determine the most appropriate and least impactful placement of facilities along the proposed route, in accordance with the direction from the Public Service Commission. We believe that meaningful collaboration and oversight are essential to ensure that our community's interests are protected and that safety, environmental, and aesthetic considerations are adequately addressed. We will work diligently to ensure this occurs.

With community commitment,



Christopher Wruck

President, Village of Merrillan

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