

Town of Stark

Vernon County, Wisconsin

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Chairman- Bad Steinmetz
Clerk-Lonne L. Muller
Treasurer - Bonnie Potter

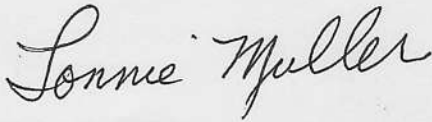
Supervisor - Myron Richard
Supervisor- Barbara Sarnowski

26 October 2011

TO: American Transmission Company, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources

Subject: Reference Docket 137CE160, hi-voltage transmission line proposal

Enclosed are documents that the town of Stark is requesting in regards to a proposed hi-voltage transmission line from Onalaska to Madison, Wisconsin.



Lonnie Muller
Town clerk
Town of Stark

**TOWN OF STARK RESOLUTION
REGARDING AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY'S APPLICATION 137ce160
INCLUDING A 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE OPTION**

WHEREAS, the Town of Stark adopted a resolution on April 12, 2011 that is rescinded by this document; and,

WHEREAS, American Transmission Company (ATC) has proposed a transmission line project including a 345 kV high voltage transmission line from North La Crosse to Madison which is currently in the Public Information Meeting Phase; and,

WHEREAS, the Badger Coulee 345 kV ATC project includes possible route corridors which cut across farms, forests and valleys, scenic bluffs and wildlife/waterfowl habitats, exceptional water resources, cultural, economic and archeological districts including those listed, mapped and appended to this document in Appendix I; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Stark is charged with protecting and enhancing the Town's public safety and assets, including the scenic beauty of the hills and coulees – which would be adversely affected by the 110 to 180 foot steel or concrete poles and high voltage power lines proposed for the Badger-Coulee ATC project; and,

WHEREAS, the studies have shown growth in the use of electricity in Wisconsin and adjacent states has been at historically low rates for the last three years and is projected to average only 1% per year growth over the next 25 years; and,

WHEREAS, it is the Town of Stark's belief that there are other ways of meeting any need claimed by applicants that should be considered, including conservation, demand and supply side management, dispersed renewable generation, and energy-related economic development, before high-capacity transmission is considered; and,

WHEREAS, the construction costs for the Badger-Coulee high-voltage transmission line would total more than \$425 million and be part of a \$5-40 billion grid expansion project in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, building a transmission line would require condemnation of property for easements; and,

WHEREAS, a new transmission line could also result in increased electricity rates, loss of property value because of the view and perceived health issues, and adverse effect on the area's tourism and general economy; and,

WHEREAS, medical studies have shown a potential association between exposure to electromagnetic fields produced by large transmission lines and childhood leukemia, and neurological diseases and conditions, and a possible association exposure of farm animals and crops; and,

WHEREAS, clear, detailed information explaining the perceived needs for the high-voltage options, the low voltage options, the efficiency-only options and other options with supporting objective studies and cost benefits analysis for each have not yet been provided to the Town of Stark, see Appendix II.

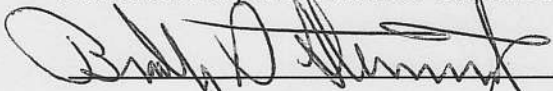
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that

1. The Town of Stark is without sufficient means to evaluate and make formal comments about the planned grid expansion project in the Midwest and specifically the La Crosse to Madison 345 kV power line; and unless the Town receives the above requested information in written form by December 31, 2011; or
2. The Town will request the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to hold a minimum of one Public Hearing concerning the needs for the contained and supplemental options no later than March 31, 2012 near Viroqua Wisconsin to enable the Town to provide formal comments during the Public Meeting Phase to potentially impact American Transmission Company's application and subsequent proceedings; and
3. The Town requests that every effort be made in developing or enhancing the energy system on which the Town relies to do the following:
 - a. Maximize cost-effective conservation, efficiency, and load management;
 - b. Rely to the greatest extent possible on renewable generation;
 - c. Support local ownership of energy generation that includes dispersed renewable energy to support the local economy;
 - d. Minimize the size, scale, voltage and environmental impacts of electric transmission.
 - e. Consider alternate route that would not hinder the Town of Stark's land and people.

The Town of Stark Clerk is authorized to request that the Town of Stark be added to project notice list of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and request a copy of the application for the Badger-Coulee transmission project from the utilities to be available in the Town of Stark. The Town Clerk is authorized to transmit this resolution and other appropriate documents to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission Docket #137CE160 and to the Administrative Law Judge conducting proceedings for the Badger-Coulee 345 kV Transmission Line Proposal and to American Transmission Company and to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Town of Stark hereby approves the resolution ADOPTED this 19th day of October, 2011.

Submitted by the Town of Stark Board Chairman



Adopted by the Town of Stark Board 18th Insert Date October 18, 2011

Attest:

Lonnie L. Muller, Town of Stark Clerk

**Appendix I -
Section(s)**

Sensitive Natural Resources within 1500' of a potential corridor

27,28,29	Bear Creek Class III Trout Stream
24,25,26,27,	North Bear Creek Class III Trout Stream & Wetlands
27,34,35,36,	Middle Bear Class III Trout Stream
35	South Bear Creek Class II Trout Stream
4,5,6,	Weister Creek Class I Trout Stream
19,20,29,30	Otter Creek Class III Trout Stream
3,4,9,8,17,20, 29, 31, 32	Kickapoo River Mainstem (Oldest Dendretic River in North America) and Class II Trout Stream
3,4,8,9,17,20,21,29,31,32	Kickapoo River Wetlands
20,24,28	Middle Kickapoo Watershed Conservation Ponds & Wetlands
2,3	Jug Creek (Trout Spawning Grounds)
2,3	Jug Creek wetlands
31	Tunnelville Cliffs State Natural Area (Kickapoo River Wetland)
2	Jug Creek Conservancy (Shird Farm)
Widely Distributed	Endangered Plant and Animal Species (see page 2 POSITION PAPER KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD, attached)
Widely Distributed	Migratory Bird Flyway for over 100 species of migratory and nesting birds; Designated as an "Important Bird Area" by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative" for Red Shouldered Hawk, Cerulean Warbler, Worm-Eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Acadian Flycatcher.
3-10	Kickapoo Valley State Natural Area
20	La Farge Village Park Campground

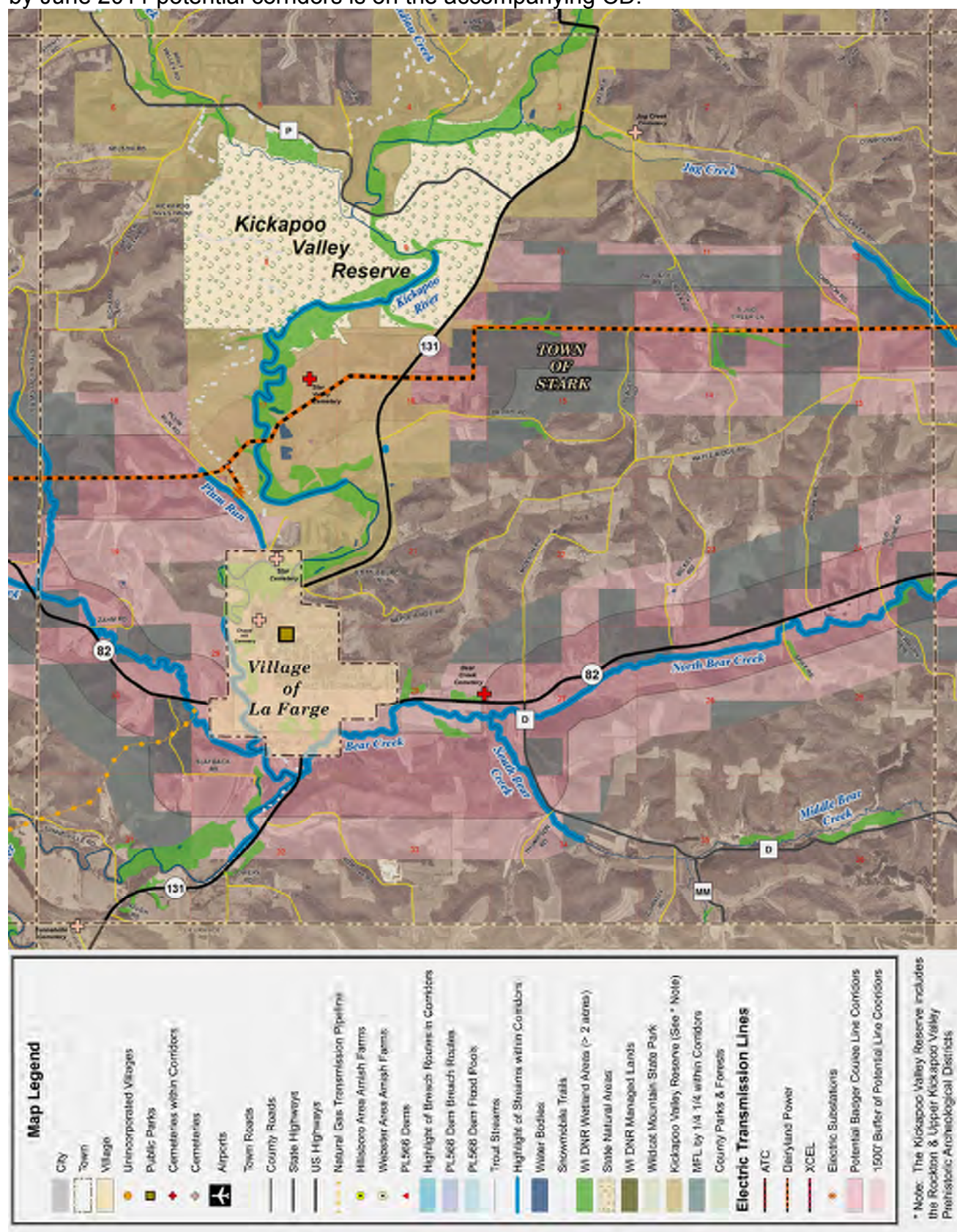
Section(s)

Cultural & Economic Resources within 1500' of a potential corridor

2-10,16,17,20,21,30,31,32	Upper Kickapoo Valley Prehistoric Archeological District Federally Protected (BIA) Ho Chunk Nation Trust Lands. Includes over 500 confirmed sites.
2-10,16,17,20,21	La Farge Dam Project – National Register of Historic Places
31	Fort Wales Rock – Historic Landmark
20, 30	Kickapoo Yacht Club Canoe Rental
3-6,17-20, 31	Ococh Mountain Snowmobile Club
18	Kickapoo Archers Club
20,21	Kickapoo Rendevous Historic Interpreters
17	Star Valley Cemetery
20	Star Cemetery

2	Jug Creek Cemetery
27	Bear Creek Cemetery
22	Antler's Ridge Inn
32	Green Apple Inn
20	George Wilbur Studio Loft
29	Hometown Realty
29	Potters Realty
29	Nuzum's Lumber & Building
19	FieldPost Nature Recording
30	Gabrielson Electric
18	Madsen Taximdermy
30	Copper Family Services
20	Organic Valley Corporate Headquarters
20	Organic Valley Retail Store
20	Zip Stop Convenience
20	Sisters Place Restaurant
20	Phil & Deb's Town Tap
20	Penny Resell Store
20	Bergum's Grocery Store
20	La Farge Hardware (recreational items)
20	Field House Bar
20	Band Box II Cafe

Appendix I continued. The below map of sensitive natural & cultural Resources impacted by June 2011 potential corridors is on the accompanying CD.



Appendix II

The Town of Stark requests American Transmission Company to provide the Town with the following information in written form:

I. Pertaining to the high-voltage solution:

- a. Studies, analysis and reports pertaining to reliability over the last three years which demonstrate a need for the high voltage solution.
- b. Studies pertaining to the forecasted availability of renewable energy resources with percentage content estimates through 2035 which demonstrate a need for the high voltage solution.
- c. Studies and documents demonstrating state and regional environmental accountability including carbon footprint projections for the high-voltage solution.
- d. Cost/benefit analysis and other studies relevant to the projected economic impacts of the high voltage solution including job creation/losses in Wisconsin energy-related sectors.

II. Pertaining to all low-voltage solutions:

- a. Studies, analysis and reports pertaining to reliability over the last three years which demonstrate a need for low voltage solutions being considered.
- b. Studies pertaining to the forecasted availability of renewable energy resources with percentage content estimates through 2035 which demonstrate a need for the low voltage solutions being considered.
- c. Studies and documents demonstrating state and regional environmental accountability including carbon footprint projections for low voltage solutions being considered.
- d. Cost/benefit analysis and other studies relevant to the projected economic impacts of the low voltage solution including job creation/losses in Wisconsin energy-related sectors.

III. Pertaining to efficiency-only solutions:

Cost/benefit analysis comparing investments in standard and "aggressive" efficiency measures to the total of construction plus financing costs for the high and low voltage solutions under variety of economic conditions and investment periods.