

Western Wisconsin Transmission Connection Update

Feb. 25, 2025

Xcel Energy is committed to delivering reliable and affordable electricity for our customers and building an electric grid that can meet the needs of our communities into the future. A key part of our plan to meet these needs includes expanding the region's high-voltage transmission grid to meet the changing energy needs. These changes include projected new electric growth, addition of new energy sources, and managing the system as aging power plants are retired throughout the Upper Midwest.

The Western Wisconsin Transmission Connection (WWTC) is a proposed 345-kilovolt transmission line project that would connect other high-voltage transmission lines in Wisconsin as part of the broader regional grid. This expansion will enable us to continue delivering reliable electricity to customers when they need it to power their homes and businesses.

Project status

Xcel Energy filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) in August 2024. When a CPCN application is filed, the PSCW reviews the application to ensure it contains all information needed to fully review the project and its potential impacts to landowners, community, and environment. Often, PSCW staff will request additional information from energy companies before declaring the application complete. The PSCW found the WWTC application complete in late 2024, setting the stage for public review of the project beginning in 2025.

Project route options

The enclosed map provides an overview of those route options; a detailed map is available at www.WWTConnection.com.

In the CPCN application filed in August 2024, Xcel Energy proposed two route options for the PSCW to consider, and stated a preference for Route 2.

- Route 1 would follow the existing 161 kV line from the Tremval Substation, connect to the Eau Claire substation before heading north along an existing transmission line towards Hallie and eventually towards Cornell and Holcombe.
- Route 2 would follow the existing 161 kV line north from the Tremval Substation in Blair and then continue east from the new Elk Farm substation near the Town of Seymour before traveling north and east where it would parallel an existing 115 kV line and then connect with an existing 345-kV transmission line south of Highway 29 and west of Highway 73 near Owen.

Public input opportunities

The PSCW will schedule public hearings, which are expected to be held later this year. Members of the public and potentially affected landowners are encouraged to submit comments, either at hearings or in writing. You can review the docket and sign up for information by visiting: <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/ERFHome.aspx> and searching the docket number 5-CE-158. The PSCW has created a website that includes project information at:

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/CommissionActions/CasePages/WesternWisconsin.aspx>

The PSCW is developing the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement for the project and is accepting comments on what should be considered in the draft. Those comments can be directed to PSCW staff here:

PSCW Environmental Review Coordinator Kyle Feltes by email at kyle.feltes@wisconsin.gov or PSCW Docket Coordinator Bryan Rooney by email at bryan.rooney@wisconsin.gov.

Comments can also be mailed to: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI, 53707-7854.

Please reference docket number 5-CE-158 in your comments to ensure they are assigned correctly.

Contact us

We're always happy to answer questions and provide additional information to landowners and other stakeholders. Please contact us at WWTConnection@xcelenergy.com, call us at 1-800-545-7522 and visit WWTConnection.com for additional information.