

Resolution 5-2011

**TOWN OF CLINTON RESOLUTION  
REGARDING AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY'S APPLICATION 137ee160  
INCLUDING A 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE OPTION**

**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 Clinton 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 Clinton'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 Clinton, see Appendix II.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that

1. The Town of Clinton 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 both 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 Clinton's land and people.

The Town of Clinton Clerk is authorized to request that the Town of Clinton 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 Clinton. 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 Clinton hereby approves the resolution ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2011.

Submitted by the Town of Clinton Board Chairman, 

Adopted by the Town of Clinton Board \_\_\_\_\_, 2011

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, Town of Clinton Clerk

**Appendix I**

<b>Section(s)</b>	<b>Sensitive Natural Resources within 1500' of a potential corridor</b>
4	West Fork, Kickapoo River, Class I Trout Stream
7	West Fork, Kickapoo River, wetlands
6	Snowmobile Trail
<b>Section(s)</b>	<b>Cultural &amp; Economic Resources within 1500' of a potential corridor</b>
Distributed	Portion of 1400 Wisconsin Historical Society Protected Archaeological Sites in Vernon County
1,3,4	5 Amish Farms