



## ATC Receives Approval from PSC for Transmission Line

On January 12th, American Transmission Company received approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to construct an approximately 4.2 mile, 345,000-volt Riverside Transmission Line Project. The project will consist of a double-circuit transmission line from a planned new substation near the Alliant Energy West Riverside Energy Center to an existing 345-kV transmission line in the Town of Beloit.

The line is needed to connect the expanded West Riverside Energy Center to the electric transmission grid. The West Riverside Energy Center will include a natural gas-fueled generating station with an integrated solar installation.

“The ordered route is made up of segments from the two routes that ATC submitted to the PSC,” said ATC Project Manager Mark Sanzenbacher. “The anticipated project cost is approximately \$42 million.”

The planned in-service date of the line is 2019.

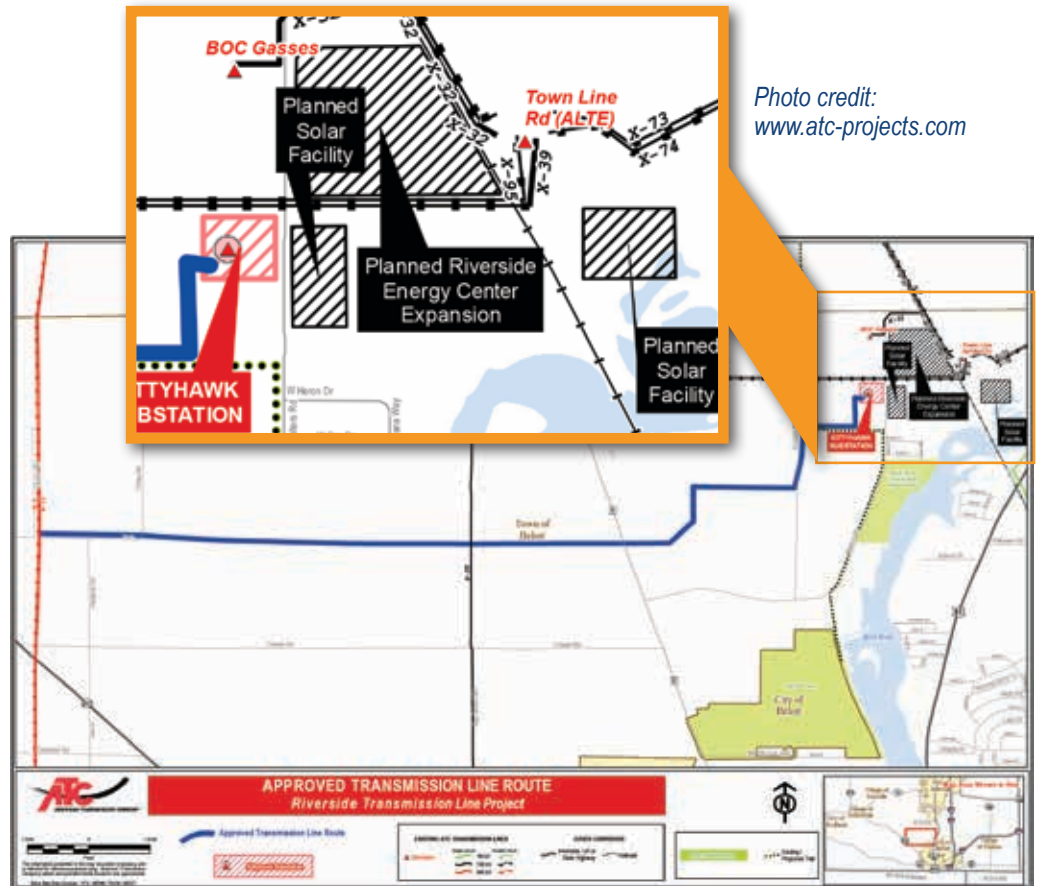


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## XCEL ENERGY SENDS CREWS TO PUERTO RICO

Xcel Energy has sent more than 70 line workers and support staff to Puerto Rico to help with the ongoing power restoration efforts on the island. Hundreds of thousands of customers remain without power nearly four months after Hurricane Maria made landfall.

Xcel Energy trucks left for Puerto Rico last month and were loaded onto a barge at the port of Lake Charles, Louisiana, on their way to the island. The company has sent 50 line workers from the Upper Midwest, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico, along with additional safety and support staff after receiving the call to help last month. Of the 50 workers, four were from Hudson, Sparta, La Crosse and Amery, Wisconsin.



“We want to assist the people of Puerto Rico and we are honored to be part of this restoration effort,” said Kent Larson, Executive Vice President and Group President, Operations-Xcel Energy. “This is a massive undertaking under difficult circumstances, but our crews are ready to bring power back on safely. It’s what we would do for

our own customers and we want to deliver that same quality of service to our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico.”

Xcel Energy crews are expected to work in Caguas, a mountainous and remote region in the southeast area of the island. This is where the storm came inland, and the damage is significant. The crews flew to Puerto Rico at the end of January to work with incident management teams that have partnered with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) on restoration efforts.

PREPA is working with members of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on damage assessment and a coordinated

restoration plan. More than 20 electric companies, including Xcel Energy, are part of a coordinated, nationwide mutual assistance response that’s bringing nearly 1,500 additional workers to Puerto Rico. With these new workers more than 5,500 people will be part of the restoration efforts.

## ■ WEC ENERGY BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHANGES ■

### Cunningham Elected to WEC Energy Group Board

Danny L. Cunningham, retired Partner and Chief Risk Officer of Deloitte & Touche LLP, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of WEC Energy Group and will serve on the Audit and Oversight Committee.

Cunningham, 62, who retired in 2016, had previously served Deloitte since 2002. Prior to joining Deloitte, he was a partner at Arthur Andersen, where he worked from 1980 to 2002. He has more than 30 years of experience serving public audit clients in a broad array of industries, including manufacturing, printing, software and financial services. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in accounting from The Ohio State University and a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin.

Cunningham currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Audit Committee of Actuant Corporation. He qualifies as an independent director under WEC Energy Group’s Corporate Governance Guidelines.

### Farrow Elected to WEC Energy Board

William M. Farrow III, Organizer, Chief Executive Officer, President and Director of Urban Partnership Bank in Chicago, was appointed to the Board of Directors of WEC Energy Group effective January 1, 2018.

At Bank One, he held many senior positions where his responsibilities included ecommerce/ebusiness management, technology sales management, and technology platform development and conversion. Farrow brings more than 39 years of executive management experience in managing business operations, managing enterprise risk and strategy. He qualifies as a technology expert and a financial expert.

### Jones Retires from Board at Year-End

Paul W. Jones retired from the Board effective December 31. Jones, 67, served as a Director of Integrys Energy Group and joined the WEC Energy Group Board of Directors when the company acquired Integrys in 2015.

## Alliant Energy to Build English Farms Wind Farm

Alliant Energy's Iowa energy company will add more clean energy with the acquisition of the English Farms Wind Farm. The company finalized an agreement with developer Tradewind Energy for the 170-megawatt project, located in Poweshiek County in central Iowa.

"Wind energy is a win for Iowans," said Doug Kopp, President of Alliant Energy's Iowa Energy Company. "The benefits of this project help customers through reductions in emissions and fuel cost. It gives landowners lease payments to help on the farm and it helps communities through increased local tax revenue for schools and community services."



Alliant Energy will build and own English Farms Wind Farm, with major construction starting in 2018. This is one of several wind farms the company is building to deliver cost-competitive, clean energy to customers.

Alliant Energy received approval in 2016 to add up to 500 megawatts of wind energy in Iowa. The company has requested a similar wind expansion from the Iowa Utilities Board again in 2017. With these combined projects, customers will get more than one-third of their energy from wind by the end of 2020.

This overall wind expansion represents a roughly \$1.8 billion investment and adds up to 1,000 megawatts of new wind generation in Iowa. Together, that's enough to power up to 430,000 Iowa homes a year.

## Wisconsin Energy Grid Likely to be Less Coal-Fired in the Future

Wisconsin's energy production is in line with national trends that show declining use of fossil fuel plants, in particular coal-fired plants. A recent report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration found nearly all utility-scale power plants in the United States that have been retired over the past decade were powered by fossil fuels. Forty-seven percent of those were coal-fired generators.

The data on retired Wisconsin plants is in line with the national figures. We Energies announced in November it would close the Pleasant Prairie coal plant in Kenosha County in 2018.

## DIVIDENDS

### WEC ENERGY GROUP RAISES QUARTERLY DIVIDEND

The Board of Directors of WEC Energy Group has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.5525 per share on the company's common stock, an increase of 6.25 percent over the current quarterly dividend of 52 cents a share. This raises the annual dividend rate to \$2.21 a share. The higher dividend is payable March 1, 2018, to stockholders of record on February 14, 2018. This marks the 302nd consecutive quarter – dating back to 1942 – that the company will have paid a dividend to its stockholders.



### ALLIANT ENERGY CORPORATION DECLARES QUARTERLY COMMON STOCK DIVIDEND

The Alliant Energy Corporation Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.335 per share payable on February 15, 2018, to shareowners of record as of the close of business on January 31, 2018.



The Board also authorized the redemption of the shareholder rights plan (commonly known as a "poison pill"), adopted in 1999 and subsequently amended in December 2008, effective as of the close of business on January 31, 2018. Under the rights plan, one right is attached to each outstanding share of common stock. The rights will be redeemed at a price of \$0.0005 per right, payable in cash. The redemption payment will be payable on February 15, 2018 to shareowners as of the close of business on January 31, 2018. Shareowners do not have to take any action to receive the redemption payment and do not have to exchange stock certificates.

"The Board's vote to redeem the rights plan is further evidence of Alliant Energy's commitment to strong and responsive corporate governance," said Patricia Kampling, Alliant Energy Chairman and CEO.

Dividends on common stock have been paid for 289 consecutive quarters since 1946.

### MGE ENERGY DECLARES REGULAR DIVIDEND

The Board of Directors of MGE Energy has declared the regular quarterly dividend of \$0.3225 per share on the outstanding shares of the company's common stock, payable March 15, 2018, to shareholders of record at the close of business March 1, 2018. MGE Energy has increased its dividend annually for the past 42 years and has paid cash dividends for more than 100 years.





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## Xcel Energy Announces Plans for Solar Connect Community Garden in Ashland

Community solar gardens continue to grow in Wisconsin. Xcel Energy has announced plans to develop a third, one-megawatt solar garden in Ashland. The garden will be part of Solar Connect Community, Wisconsin's largest community solar garden program.

If sufficient customer interest is demonstrated, the Ashland garden will be built in 2019 by OneEnergy Renewables, a leading developer of community and utility-scale solar projects across the country. The solar garden will be located on property near Xcel Energy's Ashland service center.

"This past year, we've had tremendous support for our Solar\*Connect Community program from both residential and business customers," said Mark Stoering, president, Xcel Energy, Wisconsin. "They have told us they want more options when it comes to their energy and this program allows them to support locally sourced solar energy and receive bill credits at the same time."

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*Mark Stoering, president,  
Xcel Energy, Wisconsin*

The program's first one-megawatt community solar garden was energized in October 2017 in Eau Claire, and construction of a one-megawatt garden in the greater La Crosse area is planned for 2018.