

GRID FORWARD – CENTRAL WISCONSIN PROJECT POWERS A MORE RELIABLE, RESILIENT WISCONSIN

NEW TRANSMISSION LINE ENHANCES REGIONAL RELIABILITY AND LOWERS ENERGY COSTS



69kV double-circuit structure

Project schedule

2025-2026:

- Landowner negotiations and easement procurement
- Detailed design and engineering

2026-2027:

- Pre-construction ground activities

2027-2030:

- General construction

2030

- Project in service

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Xcel Energy and ATC have received approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to build a new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to serve communities throughout western Wisconsin.

Project overview and benefits:

The Grid Forward—Central Wisconsin project will help ensure long-term electric reliability and increase access to renewable energy being developed across the Upper Midwest. The project will connect with new and existing transmission lines that comprise the 345 kV transmission network in Wisconsin, enabling more than 2,500 megawatts of electricity to flow into the state—enough to power more than 1.3 million homes. When combined with other regional transmission projects, including the Western Wisconsin Transmission Connection, the total economic benefit could exceed \$900 million.

The project represents one segment of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator’s (MISO) Tranche 1 portfolio — a series of transmission projects designed to expand access to renewable energy and improve reliability across the Midwest. The project will also help relieve constraints on the electric grid, improve reliability, and provide access to lower-cost energy, including renewable generation.

Construction of the Grid Forward project is a collaboration between Xcel Energy and ATC. The full project is comprised of rebuilding approximately 175 miles of existing electric power lines to support the construction of approximately 200 miles of 345 kV high-voltage line from the Larkin Valley Substation (near the Tremval North Substation) in Trempealeau County to the Columbia Substation in Columbia County.

Project route

Xcel Energy is responsible for constructing the portion of the project that runs from the Larkin Valley Substation near the City of Blair in Trempealeau County to a location approximately three miles south of Neillsville. This segment is approximately 39 miles long and travels from the Larkin Valley Substation northeast into Jackson County toward Alma Center, then east through Clark and Wood Counties to the Arpin Substation.

