

## RESOLUTION 2012-7

### TOWN OF BERRY RESOLUTION AND STATEMENT SUPPORTING POWER LINE PLACEMENT IN EXISTING CORRIDORS

WHEREAS, American Transmission Company [ATC] has proposed for investigation an alternative routing for the Badger-Coulee transmission 345 kV line which would run north and south just inside the eastern boundary of the Town of Berry; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Berry has adopted a Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.1001, to preserve the Town of Berry's rural open spaces and guide the amount, location, and quality of development over the next 20 years, with the goal of preserving the rural scenery and lifestyle of Berry through careful planning, design, and placement of land uses, community-sensitive regional transportation and utility solutions, and intergovernmental cooperation to manage growth; and

WHEREAS, the rural character of the Town of Berry is defined by steep, wooded hillsides, verdant lowlands featuring agricultural uses or rural open spaces, and natural resource areas such as Festge Park, Indian Lake and the Ice Age Trail; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Town of Berry, as stated in its Comprehensive Town Plan, to:

- Preserve significant scenic and natural areas, and historic buildings....;and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 1.13, state agencies, such as the Public Service Commission, are encouraged to design infrastructure consistent with local comprehensive planning goals pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 1.13(2), including:

- (a) Promotion of the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures.

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- (c) Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources.

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- (L) Balancing individual property rights with community interests and goals.
- (M) Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities....; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 1.13(3) further provides that:

Consistently with other laws, each state agency, whenever it administers a law under which a local government unit prepares a plan, is encouraged to design its planning requirements in a manner that makes it practical for local government units to incorporate those plans into local comprehensive plans prepared under s. 66.1001; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 1.12, the State of Wisconsin has adopted a State Energy Plan that provides the following with respect to the siting of electrical transmission facilities:

- (6) SITING OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES. In the siting of new electric transmission facilities, including high-voltage transmission lines, as defined in s. 196.491 (1) (f), it is the policy of this state that, to the greatest extent feasible that is consistent with economic and engineering considerations, reliability of the electric system, and protection of the environment, the following corridors should be utilized in the following order of priority:
  - (a) Existing utility corridors.
  - (b) Highway and railroad corridors.
  - (c) Recreational trails, to the extent that the facilities may be constructed below ground and that the facilities do not significantly impact environmentally sensitive areas.
  - (d) New corridors...; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Berry, its residents, and its Comprehensive Town Plan, are directly involved and affected by the Public Service Commission decisions relating to the placement of the ATC Badger-Coulee transmission line; and

WHEREAS, the line being investigated through the Town of Berry is inconsistent with the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 1.13 and the Town of Berry Comprehensive Plan, and the alternative route along the existing corridor through the Town of Springfield, with possibly some minor changes, better complies with the statutory directive and public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Berry, after due deliberation and public hearing with respect to the placement of the Badger-Coulee transmission line through the Town of Berry opposes such placement and encourages the placement of the new Badger-Coulee 345 kV line along the existing Springfield transmission corridor, as may be modified to address local concerns in Springfield.

The Town of Berry further adopts the attached Statement as the official position of the Town of Berry, to be submitted to American Transmission Company and the Public Service Commission, explaining in more detail the basis for this Resolution.

Attest: Brenda Kahl  
Brenda Kahl, Clerk/Treasurer

Adopted: July 16, 2012

Posted: July 17, 2012

Anthony Varda  
Anthony Varda, Chair

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