



RESOLUTION # 76-12/11

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 12-29

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 26
Against: 2
Abstain: 4
Abs/Excd: 3
Vote Req: _____
Other Action: _____

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
ACTION**

Adopted:
For: 8
Against: _____
Abstain: 7
Abs/Excd: _____

**RE: OPPOSING AND REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING
CAPX2020 AND ATC APPLICATIONS FOR A 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power, and American Transmission Company (ATC) have proposed the CapX2020 Phase I line project and Badger Coulee transmission line project, including a 345 kV high voltage power line from Alma to North La Crosse and North La Crosse to Madison, both crisscrossing La Crosse County; and,

WHEREAS, the CapX2020 Hampton-La Crosse and Badger Coulee ATC 345 kV projects include a proposed route corridor which cuts across rivers, farms, forests and valleys, scenic bluffs, wetlands, wildlife and waterfowl habitats, exceptional water resources, and cultural and economic districts in La Crosse County; and,

WHEREAS, the County is charged with protecting and enhancing the County's public safety and assets, including the scenic beauty of the hills and coulees, which would be adversely affected by the 130 to 170 foot steel towers and high voltage power lines proposed for the CapX2020 and Badger Coulee ATC projects; and,

WHEREAS, the use of electricity in Wisconsin and adjacent states has declined significantly since a 2006 peak and demand is projected to remain flat in the predictable future; and,

WHEREAS, it is the County's belief that the claim of need for the line is overstated and that there are other ways of meeting additional electrical need claimed by applicants that should be considered and implemented first, including efficiencies, demand and supply side management, locally produced and distributed renewable generation, and energy-related economic development, before high capacity transmission is considered; and,

WHEREAS, costs for the Alma to North La Crosse (\$250 million) to Madison (\$425 million) high voltage power line would cost ratepayers more than \$675 million; and,

WHEREAS, building a high voltage transmission line would require use of public rights of way and condemnation of private property for easements; and the centerline of this transmission line on its 150 foot right of way could be placed within 75 feet of a residence, business or school; and,

WHEREAS, a new 345kV transmission line will result in increased electricity costs for all ratepayers, loss of property value and tax base because of the impact on viewshed and the dangers that high voltage power lines inherently carry, and create adverse effect on the area's tourism and general economy; and,

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of health concerns including medical studies which have shown an association between exposure to electromagnetic fields produced by high voltage transmission lines and childhood leukemia, neurological diseases and conditions, and other health effects.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board hereby opposes the planned grid expansion project in the Midwest and specifically the Alma to North La Crosse and North La Crosse to Madison 345 kV power line.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board requests that additional on the record public hearings be held by the WI Public Service Commission in La Crosse, Wisconsin before a recommendation on a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is made for either project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that La Crosse County requests that clear, detailed information be provided to La Crosse County explaining the perceived need for the 345kV power line which includes supporting objective studies and forecasts with a cost benefit analysis comparing the efficiency-only, locally produced and distributed generation options with the high voltage option, individually and in combination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board requests adoption of and action on Wisconsin's energy policy by implementing local ownership of energy generation and energy efficiency efforts that include dispersed renewable energy to support the local economy, and that minimize the size, scale, voltage and environmental impacts of electric transmission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board requests that the WI Public Service Commission do an independent study of the health risks of the electromagnetic field for these projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is authorized to send this resolution to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission regarding Docket #5-CE-136 and Docket #137-CE-160, and to the Administrative Law Judge conducting proceedings for the CapX2020 and the Badger Coulee 345 kV Transmission Line Projects.

FISCAL NOTE: No cost to La Crosse County.

Date: DEC. 15, 2011

Date: 12/15/11

[Signature]
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

[Signature]
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u>SO</u>	_____	_____	Requested By: Marilyn Pedretti Date Requested: December 8, 2011 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	<u>BT</u>	_____	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>WAS</u>	_____	_____	
Board Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 15 Day of December, 2011

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 15th day of December, 2011.

[Signature]
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk