

**RESOLUTION NO. 2-1214**

**REGARDING UTILITY APPLICATIONS 05ce142, 137ce166 and 137ce164 INCLUDING  
345 kV TRANSMISSION PROJECTS AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is currently considering at least three high capacity transmission expansion proposals including:

- (1) A 345 kV high voltage transmission line option from Middleton, Wisconsin to Dubuque County Iowa originally as docket 137-ce-164, "Cardinal Hickory Creek;"
- (2) A 345 kV high voltage transmission line option from North La Crosse to Middleton, WI; docket 05-ce-142, "Badger-Coulee;"
- (3) 345/138 kV high voltage transmission line options from Outagamie or Brown Counties in WI to Oconto County in Wisconsin and/or Dickinson County in Michigan; docket 137-ce-166, "Bay Lake;" and,

**WHEREAS**, these projects are being proposed for high capacity regional transfer increasing the demand for additional high voltage transmission investments in Wisconsin and regionally; and,

**WHEREAS**, the final costs for these projects including financing costs and maintenance over 40 years would reach into billions of dollars and place significant financial burden on all Wisconsin ratepayers in addition to those in other states; and,

**WHEREAS**, use of electricity in Wisconsin and adjacent states has been in decline over the last six years and the U.S. Department of Energy is projecting annual growth to remain well under 1% per year over the next 25 years; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are other means of meeting any need claimed by the applicants that must be considered including comparable investment in accelerated energy efficiency/conservation, demand side management and local power options (including solar) before high-capacity transmission is determined; and,

**WHEREAS**, average ratepayer investment in energy efficiency in the U.S. tripled from 2007 to 2012 to lower end user costs and emissions while investment in energy efficiency dropped in Wisconsin over the same period; and,

**WHEREAS**, our responsibilities include protecting and enhancing the natural assets, including the scenic beauty which would be adversely affected by the 110 to 180 foot steel or concrete poles of high voltage transmission options; and

**WHEREAS**, high-profile transmission additions could result in loss of property value because of the negative impacts on the view shed and perceived health issues with adverse effects on local and state 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 need for regional transmission expansion with a comprehensive comparison of benefits and impacts for all energy options including net home, farm and business operation costs, in-state job creation and net regional

carbon emission reduction has not yet been provided for potentially impacted parties.

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

1. Iowa County requests that all efforts made to develop or enhance the energy system upon which our community relies adhere to these energy investment priorities:
  - a. Maximize cost-effective conservation, efficiency, and load management;
  - b. Rely to the greatest extent possible on local renewable generation;
  - c. Support local ownership of energy generation that includes dispersed renewable energy to support the local economy including the creation of sustainable jobs;
  - d. Minimize the size, scale, voltage and environmental impacts of electric transmission.
2. Iowa County is without sufficient means to evaluate these energy options for all current proposals.
3. Iowa County requests the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to ensure that impartial, comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of all energy options becomes available for public evaluation before the public scoping stage for all active applications. One option in the comprehensive comparison of costs and benefits should combine accelerated energy efficiency, expanded implementation of demand side management and increased incentives for on-site and community solar and other forms of non fossil fuel generation. Total funding for comparison of all options should match the estimated amount Wisconsin ratepayers would assume for regional transmission expansion over the next 40 years. The analysis should assess impacts on in-state job creation, net regional carbon emission reduction and policies that could place limitations on distributed generation and other energy self-sufficiency goals.

The below clerk is authorized to transmit this resolution and other appropriate documents to Wisconsin Public Service Commission dockets #05CE142, #137CE164 and #137CE166 and to the Administrative Law Judge conducting proceedings on these cases.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Iowa County Board hereby adopts this resolution on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

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John M. Meyers, Chairman of the Board

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Klusendorf, County Clerk

on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

Clerk's email address: [greg.klusendorf@iowacounty.org](mailto:greg.klusendorf@iowacounty.org)