

# Louise Klopp and Dennis Franke: Speak out on ATC's latest power line proposal

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Dear Editor: Property owners in southwest Wisconsin were recently notified in the mail by the American Transmission Company and ITC Midwest of an eventual land path for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Power Line, a 125-mile, 345-kilovolt electrical power transmission line running from Middleton to Dubuque County, Iowa.

The gigantic steel or concrete towers with spanned power lines, set one after another along the path, will affect all landowners and individuals in the actual path, and also those adjacent to it, in various negative ways.

Land in the proposed path can be affected by: loss of property values, negative impacts on scenic view, limits on recreational use, ecological changes, adverse effects on local and state tourism, and threats to the health of those within such a powerful electromagnetic field. Medical studies have actually shown that exposure to electromagnetic fields generated by large kilovolt transmission lines pose a health risk for childhood leukemia and neurological diseases.

The cost for this project, including maintenance over 40 years, would reach into billions of dollars, placing a significant financial burden on all Wisconsin ratepayers. Yet studies have shown electrical use in Wisconsin has been in decline over the last six years! And the U.S. Department of Energy is projecting annual growth in Wisconsin to remain well under 1 percent over the next 25 years. So — why build huge electrical towers and power lines that are simply unneeded? Or unwanted!

If you believe such towers and power lines in your backyard are unneeded or unwanted, you have the opportunity to say so at upcoming public meetings.

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 4-7 p.m., Belmont Convention Center & Banquet Hall, 102 West Mound View Ave., Belmont.

Wednesday, Oct 8, 4-7 p.m., Dodger Bowl Banquet Hall, 318 King St., Dodgeville.

Thursday, Oct. 9, 4-7 pm, Marriott Madison West – Ballroom, Salon D, 1313 John Q. Hammons Drive, Middleton.

Forms will be available for your written comments, which are preferable for the record.

**Louise Klopp**, president

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