

Black Earth Creek Watershed Association opposes proposed ATC Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line:

The Black Earth Creek Watershed Association's mission is to protect, conserve, support and advocate for the wise, long term management of the physical, environmental, cultural and historic resources that constitute the heritage and future of the watershed. Our opposition is based on the following:

- Black Earth Creek is recognized as an important environmental asset by the State of Wisconsin, which selected it as a "Priority Watershed" in the 1990's, investing over a million dollars in stream improvements.
- Black Earth Creek is an important recreational asset to the area—bringing visitors to fish, bird watch, walk, hike, bike along the creek. These visitors enhance the economic vitality of the community.
- One of the reasons visitors come to this watershed is because of the aesthetics—the beauty of the place—the connection to open spaces, clean waters, freedom from excessive noise and visual pollution. The proposed transmission line would blight the scenic and environmental values of our watershed.
- Educators from elementary, middle and high school and university classrooms use Black Earth Creek as an excellent local source for experiential learning and an example of a low-impact watershed with strong, citizen-based land stewardship.
- Individual homeowners in the watershed are concerned about effects of intrusion on their properties, loss of privacy and diminished land values.

Because energy demand has been flat or declining for the last ten years, and because the proposed routes of the ATC Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would run through and negatively impact the Black Earth Creek Watershed, BECWA is firmly opposed to the construction of this destructive transmission line.