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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

January 18, 2012

Ald. Michael Murphy  
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## Common Council Approves Power Line Compromise

The Common Council today approved a recommended compromise that calls for high voltage power lines to be buried underground near a church, schools and a residential neighborhood on Milwaukee's far west side.

Today's unanimous vote by the Council to approve file #101578, sponsored by **Alderman Michael J. Murphy**, relates to the American Transmission Company's (ATC) plans to construct two two-mile high voltage power lines near N. 95<sup>th</sup> St. and W. Blue Mound Rd. The power lines will serve a new WE Energies substation to be built on the Milwaukee County Grounds, near N. 93<sup>rd</sup> St. and W. Watertown Plank Rd. in Wauwatosa.

"The company (ATC) has indicated that the combination of overhead and underground lines is feasible to construct and operate, and this is a good compromise that I believe will protect the health and safety of the residents and the children who go to school in that neighborhood," said Alderman Murphy, who noted that having part of the line built overhead will save "several million dollars" versus requiring that all of the line be underground.

The passage of the file today puts the city on record with the Public Service Commission (PSC) as requesting that the transmission line be located underground along N. 95th St. between the existing N. 96th St. substation and W. Wisconsin Ave. and overhead from W. Wisconsin Ave. to the new County Grounds substation. ATC and WE Energies originally sought to construct only overhead power lines as part of the project.

**-More-**

## **ATC Power Line/ADD ONE**

Alderman Murphy said residents and institutions along N. 95th St. just east of Highway 45 (including Milwaukee Montessori School, St. Therese Catholic Church and St. Mark's Lutheran Church) are already subjected to high levels of noise, air and aesthetic pollution stemming from the proximity of major freeways and the Zoo Interchange. During a Council committee hearing on the proposal, students and residents expressed serious concerns about possible harmful human health effects related to overhead power transmission lines.

The PSC will consider the Council's vote when it begins review of the ATC project application, which is expected to be officially submitted next month. The PSC may take up to a year to make a final decision where the lines will go, taking additional hearings and public opinion into account. If approved by the PSC, ATC plans to start construction in summer 2014, with the high voltage lines going into service in spring 2015.