Planning considerations

In evaluating the transmission system and planning for what will be needed in the future, we consider a number of variables such as:

- *At what rate will electricity demand increase in the future? What kind of electricity uses will drive the increases in demand?*
- *What generation is likely to be constructed; what is likely to be retired?*
- *What types of disturbances on the transmission system are particularly serious or problematic?*
- *What existing facilities need to be replaced based on their age or condition?*
- *How can improved access to low-cost power outside of Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula best be achieved? Which chronic constraints need to be addressed?*
- *How can improving access between in-state utilities best be achieved? Which chronic constraints need to be addressed?*
- *How much will it cost to provide reliable transmission service and improve access?*
- *What are the benefits associated with transmission system expansion plans and how can they be measured?*
- *What are the social and environmental impacts of our transmission system expansion plans?*
- *What new, proven technologies may be available to help meet the needs more effectively and efficiently?*

These are some key considerations that we take into account, but there are numerous other objectives including improving system efficiency, providing economic development opportunities and helping our customers remain competitive in the future. Evolving NERC Reliability Standards also continue to affect and be incorporated into ATC's Planning Criteria which help us make sure we are planning to maintain and enhance the system reliability and flexibility for our customers. Throughout this 10-Year Assessment, we are striving to address the issues and questions above to develop the most beneficial and cost-effective expansion plan possible.