

RESOLUTION #09/02/2026

TOWN OF EXCELSIOR, SAUK COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE BELL CENTER-COLUMBIA-
SUGAR CREEK-ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN STATE LINE (BECI)
765-kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

and

**REQUEST FOR DENIAL OF A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE BECI PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Excelsior is a town government located in Sauk County, Wisconsin with the responsibility to protect the health, safety, welfare, rural character, natural resources, agricultural lands, local infrastructure and orderly land use in the Town; and

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Grid Solutions, Transource Energy - a joint venture of American Electric Power and Energy - and BHE Transmission, is developing the Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar Creek-Illinois/Wisconsin State Line (BECI) Project, described by the developers as approximately 190 miles of new single-circuit 765-kV transmission infrastructure in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, publicly released preliminary corridor information indicates that the BECI project is being considered through Sauk County, specifically through the Town of Excelsior, and no final route has been selected; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project would introduce extra-high-voltage transmission infrastructure on a scale never before installed in the State of Wisconsin and significantly larger than current and customary rural distribution and transmission facilities, together with construction traffic, ground disturbance, towers, conductors, access routes, easements, vegetation management and long-term maintenance obligations and activities; and

WHEREAS, potential routes through or near the Town of Excelsior could burden residences, farm operations, productive farmland, water resources, forest land, wildlife habitat, view-sheds, cultural and historic resources, the Town's rural landscape and could create uncompensated or inadequately compensated effects for affected landowners and neighboring properties; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is concerned that the need, declared regional benefits, cost allocation, load-growth assumptions, reliability justification and reasonable alternatives have not yet been demonstrated in a complete evidentiary record accessible to the Town and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Comprehensive Plan protects its agricultural resources, the economic base of the Town of Excelsior is agriculture and livestock operations and much of the farmland is high quality productive agricultural farm land, farming practices are environmentally sound and must be sustained for an economically and environmentally sustainable agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of the proposed BECI Project does not align with the Town's Comprehensive Plan which calls for protecting our diverse natural resources including the Baraboo Range and the Upper Narrows, identified environmentally sensitive areas having unique geology, important agricultural soils, surface and ground water resources, wetlands, native grasslands, Baraboo Range woodlands, scenic landscapes and vistas, habitat for native plant and wildlife communities, rare endangered and threatened plant and animal species as identified in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Inventory, significant undeveloped land and forests providing habitat for wildlife, outdoor recreation, enjoyment of natural scenic beauty and quality rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statue § 1.12(6) states: In the siting of new electric transmission facilities, including high-voltage transmission lines, as defined in § 196.491(1)(f), it is the policy of this state that, to the greatest extent feasible that is consistent with economic and engineering considerations, reliability of the electric system, and protection of the environment, the following corridors should be utilized in the following order of priority: (a) existing utility corridors, (b) highway and railroad corridors, (c) recreational trails to the extent that the facilities may be constructed below ground and that the facilities do not significantly impact environmentally sensitive areas, (d) new corridors; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statue § 196.491 establishes the state certificate process for high-voltage transmission lines and requires the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to evaluate need, public interest, alternatives, economic factors, reliability, safety, individual hardships, environmental factors and land use impacts before approving a project; and

WHEREAS, local governments and residents must receive timely meaningful opportunities to examine alternate routes, underlying studies, stray voltage and electromagnetic field exposure and corona discharge data, property and agricultural impacts, environmental information, construction plans and ratepayer consequences before decisions become irreversible; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that avoidance of the Town is the most effective means of preventing the identified local harms and preserving the Town's land use priorities and rural character; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, after consideration of the interests of the Town and its residents, determines that it is in the public interest to state its opposition clearly and at the earliest practicable stage of the project development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Excelsior, Sauk County, Wisconsin, as follows:

1. Formal Opposition. The Town Board formally opposes the BECI 765-kV Transmission Line Project as presently proposed and opposes location of any BECI transmission lines, towers, access roads, staging areas, or related facility within the Town of Excelsior.

2. Request for Denial. The Town Board respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin deny any application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the BECI Project unless the applicant proves, on a complete and transparent record, every requirement of Wisconsin law, including that the project is needed, as in the public interest, and is superior to reasonable low-impact alternatives. The Town's current position is that those showings have not been made.

3. Avoidance If Review Proceeds. If state or regional review of the BECI Project proceeds notwithstanding this opposition, the Town requests that all proposed routes and associated facilities avoid the Town of Excelsior and that the applicants prioritize existing utility and transportation corridors, co-location, system upgrades, demand-side measures, storage, generation alternatives and other options that reduce new land disturbance and community impacts.

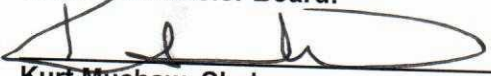
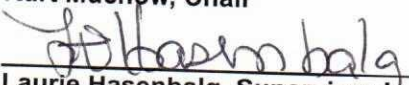
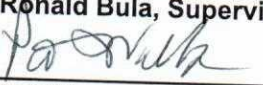
4. Full Disclosure and Consultation. The Town requests prompt disclosure of detailed route maps, structure designs and heights, right-of-way widths, access and construction plans, need and cost-benefit studies, Wisconsin ratepayer impacts, agricultural and property impact analyses, environmental studies and all reasonable alternatives, technological impact effect on Wifi, radio signal, television signal, cellular service, GPS and electronic devices and health studies related to the proposed BECI 765-kV transmission line project. The Town further requests direct consultation before any route is advanced through or adjacent to the Town.

5. Protection of Participation Rights. The Town Clerk and Town Chair are authorized to monitor project notice and regulatory filings, submit this Resolution to the project developers and reviewing agencies, request placement on all applicable notice and stakeholder lists, and take reasonable administrative steps to preserve the Town's opportunity to comment, intervene, or otherwise participate. Any expenditure, retention of professional service, or substantive filing beyond transmittal of this Resolution is subject to separate Town Board authorization.

6. Distribution. The Town Clerk shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to Midcontinent Grid Solutions, Transource Energy, BHE Transmission, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, MISO, the Sauk County Administrator, the Sauk Board Chair and the Sauk County County Clerk, the Wisconsin Governor's Office, all members the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly who represent any part of the Town of Excelsior and all US Senators and House Representatives who represent any part of the Town of Excelsior.

7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption. **Adopted this 2nd day of September, 2026.**

Town of Excelsior Board:

 Kurt Muchow, Chair	☒ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
 Laurie Hasenbalg, Supervisor I	☒ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
 Ronald Bula, Supervisor II	☒ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
 Pat Weber, Supervisor III	☒ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent
 Dan Biermeier, Supervisor IV	☒ Aye ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain ☐ Absent

Attest:
September 2, 2026 Sandra Meyer Swanson, Clerk