

TOWN OF LAKE MILLS, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0827A

A RESOLUTION DEMANDING PROJECT-SPECIFIC INFORMATION FROM MIDCONTINENT GRID SOLUTIONS, LLC REGARDING THE BELL CENTER–COLUMBIA–SUGAR CREEK–ILLINOIS STATE LINE 765-kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Grid Solutions, LLC (“MGS”), a joint venture of Transource Energy and BHE Transmission, has been selected by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator to develop the Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–Illinois/Wisconsin State Line 765-kV Competitive Transmission Project (“BECI”), described by its developer as approximately 190 miles of new single-circuit 765-kV transmission line representing an investment of approximately \$1.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, MGS has published a study area that includes Jefferson County, and has published a 45-sheet Jefferson County aerial map book, exported July 29, 2026, depicting study segments 29, 31, 33 and 43 within Jefferson County, including segments 31 and 33 on map tiles 128 through 134 running north and south west and southwest of Rock Lake and the Town of Lake Mills; and

WHEREAS, MGS’s published narrative materials do not name the Town of Lake Mills, and the Town is therefore unable to determine from the developer’s own documents which parcels, farm operations and town roads within the Town would be affected; and

WHEREAS, 17,024.90 acres, being 90.82 percent of the zoned land area of the Town of Lake Mills, is zoned A-1 Exclusive Agricultural within a state-certified farmland preservation district, and soils classified as Prime in Table 3-6 of the Town’s adopted 2024–2034 Comprehensive Plan total 16,353 acres; and

WHEREAS, the permanent right-of-way width for this project is unresolved in the public record, MGS publishing approximately 180 feet, joint-venture partner Transource Energy publishing 200 feet for its 765-kV facilities, and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator’s MTEP25 cost-estimate workbook assuming 225 feet, a spread that prevents the Town and its landowners from quantifying the acreage at stake; and

WHEREAS, a right-of-way 200 feet in width occupies 24.24 acres per mile, such that the five-acre threshold for a mandatory Agricultural Impact Statement under Wis. Stat. § 32.035(4)(a) would be crossed at approximately 1,089 feet across a single farm operation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s Application Filing Requirements for Transmission Line Projects require an applicant to submit, among other things, the length and width of proposed right-of-way and its relationship to existing right-of-way; a description of how the siting priorities in Wis. Stat. § 1.12(6) were considered; agricultural practices affected by route segment, expressly including irrigation, aerial application, organic farms and drainage systems; parcels impacting a drainage district; geographic data for all confined animal operations within one-half mile of route centerlines; a discussion of neutral-to-earth and induced voltage; estimates of impact fee payments to each affected town; and a description of pre-application consultations with government entities, the concerns raised, and how those concerns were addressed in route selection; and

WHEREAS, MGS has requested written comment on its study segments by September 7, 2026 and anticipates filing an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in early 2027, such that information withheld now cannot be evaluated by this Board before the corridor is effectively fixed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Lake Mills, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, that MGS is requested to provide to the Town Clerk, in written or electronic form or by presentation before this Board at a regular meeting, within thirty (30) days of the date of this Resolution, each of the following:

1. Segment identification. A to-scale map and written description identifying every BECI study segment, and every subsequently developed preliminary or preferred route, lying within or within one mile of the boundaries of the Town of Lake Mills, keyed to Jefferson County parcel identification numbers and to the Town road network.
2. Right-of-way width. The exact permanent right-of-way width MGS will request in its application, stated in feet; the width of any temporary construction easement; and a written reconciliation of the 180-foot, 200-foot and 225-foot figures appearing in MGS, Transource and MISO documents.
3. Structures. The number, type, maximum height and foundation dimensions of structures proposed within the Town; the design span length and resulting structures per mile; the acreage removed from production per structure; and MGS's position on field-edge and fence-line placement.
4. Acreage accounting. Acres of right-of-way, acres of agricultural land, and acres of Class I, II and III soils affected within the Town, by segment, with the parcel-level soil survey tabulation supporting those figures.
5. Drain tile and drainage. A pre-construction map of all subsurface drain tile, surface drains, grassed waterways and drainage district facilities crossed by each segment within the Town, and documentation of MGS's notification to the Jefferson County Farm Drainage Board under s. ATCP 48.40, Wis. Adm. Code.
6. Existing-corridor alternatives. A segment-by-segment showing, as contemplated by Wis. Stat. § 196.491(3)(d)3r., that existing rights-of-way are used to the extent practicable, including a map identifying every location where proposed facilities deviate from an existing transmission, highway or railroad corridor, and the stated reason for each deviation.
7. Greenfield percentage. The percentage of the preferred route, statewide and within Jefferson County, that would occupy new corridor rather than existing utility, highway or railroad corridor, with supporting mileage.
8. Cumulative analysis. A written cumulative analysis of BECI's agricultural, drainage and land-use effects in Jefferson County in combination with the Guardian Pipeline system, the American Transmission Company Jefferson County Reliability Project 138-kV line, and the MISO Tranche 2.1 facilities converging on the Jefferson substation.
9. Crop damage. The complete crop-damage and yield-loss compensation schedule MGS will offer, stating the number of years covered, the percentage payable in each year, and the yield and price sources used.
10. Confined animal operations. Identification of all confined animal operations, including poultry, dairy and other livestock, within one-half mile of each segment centerline within the Town, stating for each the type of animal, the number of confined animals and the landowner, as required by the Commission's filing requirements; MGS's commitment regarding neutral-to-earth and induced voltage testing at its own cost before construction and after energization; MGS's commitment to ground fences, metal buildings, waterers and feed systems as required by Wis. Stat. § 182.017(7)(c)8.; and the biosecurity

protocol MGS will impose on its contractors regarding vehicle and equipment decontamination, route restrictions past poultry and dairy premises, and adherence to each facility's own biosecurity plan.

11. Road use. Anticipated haul routes, vehicle weights, axle loadings and construction traffic volumes on Town roads, and MGS's willingness to execute a road use agreement providing for pre- and post-construction condition surveys prepared by a Wisconsin-licensed professional engineer and secured by a bond or letter of credit.
12. Impact fee allocation. The mileage and investment MGS anticipates allocating to the Town of Lake Mills for purposes of Wis. Stat. § 16.969 and § 196.491(3)(gm).
13. Agricultural Impact Notice. Whether and when MGS has filed or will file an Agricultural Impact Notice with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and a copy of that filing.
14. Environmental features. Identification of all wetlands, waterways, floodplain, state natural areas and public conservation lands crossed by or lying within 300 feet of each segment within the Town, including a segment-level Wisconsin Wetland Inventory tabulation; whether any wetland cleared of trees would be maintained free of trees and shrubs long-term; and the dewatering methods proposed for foundation excavation, including any high-capacity wells, together with treatment and discharge locations. The Town directs MGS's particular attention to the Mud Lake Fen and Wet Prairie State Natural Area No. 604, a calcareous fen whose hydrology depends on continuous groundwater discharge and which is not restorable if that regime is altered; to the Bean Lake State Natural Area; to the Lake Mills Wildlife Area; and to Mud Lake and Rock Creek, which are listed as impaired waters.
15. Cultural resources. MGS's protocol for identification and avoidance of burial sites, effigy mounds, and properties listed in the National Register or the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory within the Town, including the Sandy Beach and Elm Point mound groups and the Bean Lake Islands Archaeological District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each item requested above corresponds to information the applicant is or will be required to submit under the Commission's Application Filing Requirements for Transmission Line Projects; the Town requests only earlier disclosure of that information, and requests no additional study or analysis beyond what the Commission already requires.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MGS is requested to respond to each numbered item separately, and as to any item it declines to provide, or is unable to provide within the time stated, to identify that item and state the reason; and that a failure to respond to any item shall be recorded by the Town Clerk as a declination to provide that information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that failure to respond by the date stated shall be recorded by the Town Clerk, who shall certify that fact in writing, transmit the certification to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors and the Town's state legislators, and enter it in the Town's project file; and such failure may be cited by the Town in any proceeding before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin as evidence bearing on the adequacy of pre-application engagement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and recitals set forth herein are based upon information publicly available as of the date of adoption; that the Town expressly reserves the right to supplement or amend this Resolution as additional information is obtained; and that MGS is expressly invited to correct any factual statement contained herein, in writing, so that the correction may be entered in the Town's project file.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town reserves all rights available to it, including the right to seek party status and to intervene in any proceeding before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin concerning this project, to apply for intervenor compensation under Wis. Stat. § 196.31, and to petition for judicial review under Wis. Stat. § 196.491(3)(j) and ch. 227; and that nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as consent to, or acquiescence in, any route or any aspect of this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision of this Resolution, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this Resolution and the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any developer other than MGS is or becomes responsible for siting 765-kV or associated 345-kV facilities on land within the Town of Lake Mills, MGS is requested to convey this request to that developer within 30 days after that fact is known to MGS, and to provide the Town with a copy of the conveyance and that developer's contact information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to MGS at Connect@MGSWisconsin.com and Midcontinent Grid Solutions, LLC, 3902 Milwaukee St., P.O. Box 7426, Madison, WI 53714, by electronic mail and by certified mail, return receipt requested; and to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, ATTN: Ag Impact Statements, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911 and DATCPAgImpactStatements@wisconsin.gov; to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin; to the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors and the Jefferson County Farm Drainage Board; and to the clerk of each adjoining town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk shall file this Resolution as a written comment in MGS's public input process on or before September 7, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Chairperson Kulow-aye, Supervisor Brandel-aye and Supervisor Thode-aye. Resolution 2026-0827A adopted by a 3-0 majority vote.

Adopted this 27 th day of August, 2026.



Kyle Kulow, Town Chair



Robin Untz, Town Clerk