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SAUK COUNTY CLERK
BARABOO, WISCONSIN

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 114

The City of Baraboo, Wisconsin

Dated: September 8, 2026

Background: The Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar Creek-Illinois/Wisconsin State Line (BECI) Project is a proposed 765-kilovolt electric transmission project of approximately 190 miles being developed by Midcontinent Grid Solutions, a joint venture of Transource Energy and BHE Transmission. The project was selected by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) as part of its long-range transmission planning process and is intended to strengthen the regional electric grid and provide additional transmission capacity.

The BECI Project study area includes portions of nine Wisconsin counties, including Sauk County. The project developer is currently evaluating potential routes and has not selected a final route. The developer is seeking public input on preliminary study segments and expects to submit an application to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission for approval in early 2027.

Because potential transmission routes are being considered in the Sauk County area, the City of Baraboo has an interest in ensuring that any proposed route is evaluated carefully for its potential effects on the City, its residents, property, infrastructure, natural resources, scenic character, and future development. The City therefore wishes to state its position at this early stage of the project and request that the City and areas immediately surrounding Baraboo be avoided when reasonable alternatives are available.

Note: (✓one) [x] Not Required [] Budgeted Expenditure [] Not Budgeted
Comments:

Resolved by the Common Council of the City of Baraboo, Sauk County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, the City of Baraboo is a municipality located in Sauk County, Wisconsin, with an interest in protecting the health, safety, welfare, property, infrastructure, natural resources, and quality of life of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Grid Solutions, a joint venture of Transource Energy and BHE Transmission, is developing the Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar Creek-Illinois/Wisconsin State Line (BECI) Project, which would involve approximately 190 miles of new 765 kilovolt transmission infrastructure in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, preliminary information indicates that potential routes for the BECI Project are being considered in Sauk County, including two options within 2,000 feet of the City of Baraboo municipal limits;

WHEREAS, a project of this size would involve large transmission towers, new rights-of-way, access roads, construction activity, vegetation removal, and long-term maintenance; and

WHEREAS, potential routes through or near the City of Baraboo could affect residential neighborhoods, agricultural land, natural resources, scenic views, recreational areas, property values, existing infrastructure, and the City's future development; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that the need for the project, its costs and benefits, and reasonable alternatives should be fully evaluated before a final route is selected; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that existing utility and transportation corridors, co-location opportunities, system upgrades, and other alternatives should be considered to reduce impacts on local communities and property owners; and

WHEREAS, the City has demonstrated support for environmentally sensitive development, energy conservation, and reduction of carbon emissions through adoption of its *Comprehensive Plan* in 2024, and resolutions 2008-127 and 2023-077; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is required under Wisconsin Stat. § 196.491 to consider the public interest, alternatives, environmental factors, land-use impacts, reliability, and other relevant factors when reviewing a qualifying high-voltage transmission project; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes it is in the public interest to clearly state its opposition to routing the BECI Project through or immediately adjacent to the City of Baraboo or other sensitive areas of Sauk County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Baraboo, Sauk County, Wisconsin, as follows:

1. Formal Opposition.

The City of Baraboo formally opposes the routing of the BECI 765 kV Transmission Line Project through or near the City of Baraboo and opposes the location of related facilities immediately within or adjacent to the City where they would materially affect the City, its residents, property, infrastructure, viewshed or natural resources.

2. Avoidance.

The City requests that the project developers and reviewing agencies avoid routing the BECI Project through or immediately adjacent to the City and consider existing utility and transportation corridors, co-location, system upgrades, and other reasonable alternatives that would reduce impacts on the City, Sauk County and surrounding communities.

3. Full Disclosure and Consultation.

The City requests timely disclosure of proposed routes, maps, tower locations, right-of-way widths, access roads, construction plans, environmental studies, property impacts, cost information, and reasonable alternatives.

The City further requests direct consultation with City representatives before any proposed route is advanced through or immediately adjacent to the City.

4. Protection of the City's Participation Rights.

City officials are authorized to monitor project notices and regulatory filings, submit this Resolution to project developers and reviewing agencies, and take reasonable administrative steps to preserve the City's opportunity to participate in the review of the BECI Project.

Any expenditure for outside professional services or substantive participation beyond ordinary City staff activities remains subject to separate Common Council authorization.

5. Distribution.

The City Clerk shall transmit a certified 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 Board Chair, Administrator, and County Clerk, the City's state legislative representatives, and other interested agencies and local governments.

6. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 8th day of September, 2026.

Offered by: Administrative
Motion: Lombard
Second: Schindler

Approved: _____



Attest: _____

