

RESOLUTION NO. 26 - 44

Information Request Resolution Regarding BECI 765 kV Transmission Line Proposal

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2026, The Midcontinent Independent System Operator announced that Transource, Inc. (the "developer") will lead the Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–IL/WI State Line 765 kV Project (BECI) that, if approved as described, would transverse our county; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin statute 1.12(6) directs developers to first consider existing utility corridors in the siting of new electric transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, by the Beginning of February, 2026, landowners in Richland County with an existing transmission line on their property began to ask Transource Inc. for to-scale, detailed maps showing the existing line with the proposed 765 kV line through their property; and, as of this date, that information has not been supplied; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2026, Richland County adopted an information request resolution asking BECI transmission developers to provide, among other materials: "1. A map of eligible, existing transmission line routes for the considered 765 kV transmission line Project through Vernon, Crawford, Richland, Sauk and Columbus Counties," and, as of this date, that information has not been supplied; and

WHEREAS, on July, 9, 2026, representatives of Midcontinent Grid Solutions-Wisconsin (MGS) informed Richland County officials of a new website containing a map of the larger BECI study area; and

WHEREAS, the website's 'Study Area' map contains no representation of potential routes or of existing transmission line corridors being examined; and

WHEREAS, utility corridors for 765 kV transmission lines can be as wide as 250 feet and require extensive expansions of the current ~70 feet wide transmission line easement increasing hazards to proximately located, occupied dwellings and other structures; and

WHEREAS, over the course of three years, developers of the *Badger-Coulee* 345 kV transmission line proposal made four mailings to affected landowners (each with detailed maps), presented four rounds of open houses and set aside approximately 12 months for meetings between landowners and transmission line siting engineers to resolve hazardous and undesirable siting conditions; and

WHEREAS, on July, 9, 2026, representatives of Midcontinent Grid Solutions-Wisconsin (MGS) informed Richland County officials that the Company plans to submit its application for the 765 kV BECI project to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in February, 2027, making the public information and input phase of the BECI proposal 7 months; and

WHEREAS, in prior expansion transmission line proposals in Wisconsin, landowners, communities and governmental units have been routinely allotted, at least 24 months for learning about the proposal, its details and for providing crucial feedback to the developers and for project review considerations of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, a seven-month time period is insufficient for the developer to accomplish these important responsibilities unless there is immediate and accelerated public responsiveness on the part of the developer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richland County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that Midcontinent Grid Solutions-Wisconsin (MGS) provide the following documentation in written, electronic format no later than September 14, 2026:

1. A list of landowners in Richland County, by name and contact address, that Midcontinent Grid Solutions-Wisconsin (MGS) has provided the following documentation materials as of September 14, 2026:
 - I. Digital format, high-resolution, to-scale, satellite imagery-based maps for all potentially impacted land parcels with existing transmission lines portraying the following details:
 - (a) The locations of all, existing transmission support poles on each parcel;
 - (b) Graphic lines depicting the boundaries of the current easement on each land parcel;
 - (c) The proposed locations of all 765 kV transmission towers on each land parcel;
 - (d) Graphic lines depicting the boundaries of the proposed, expanded easement on each land parcel;
 - (e) The proposed height, in feet, of each proposed 765 kV transmission tower on each affected land parcel;

(f) To-scale renderings of all tower designs, with dimensions in feet, being considered for each land parcel.

- II. Digital format, high-resolution, to-scale, satellite imagery-based maps for potentially impacted land parcels without existing transmission lines portraying the following details:
- (a) The proposed locations of all 765 kV transmission towers on each land parcel;
 - (b) Graphic lines depicting the boundaries of the proposed easement on each land parcel;
 - (c) The proposed height, in feet, of each proposed 765 kV transmission tower on each affected land parcel;
 - (d) To-scale renderings of all tower designs, with dimensions in feet, being considered for each land parcel.

- 2. Detailed legal land description(s) accompanied by high-resolution, to-scale, satellite imagery based maps of the preferred route for the 765 kV transmission line.
- 3. The criteria that will determine compensation for affected landowners whose parcels may be used for the 765 kV transmission line.
- 4. The expected compensation in dollar amounts for each parcel that may be affected based on the criteria given above, or in the adverse, expected compensation in dollar amounts through a tiered system based on the criteria given above.

LEGAL NOTE: Within County Board Authority
FISCAL NOTE: No financial impact.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION		RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE (3 AUGUST 2026)	
AYES_____	NOES_____		
RESOLUTION ADOPTED		FOR	AGAINST
JEFFREY C. HARRISON COUNTY CLERK	RANDY SCHOONOVER		X
	STEVE CARROW		X
DATED: AUGUST 18, 2026	RICHARD MCKEE		X
	STEVE MEYER		X
	KEVIN NOLEN		X
	ROD PERRY		X
	DARLENE WALDSMITH-TAGLIAPIETRA		X