



Sauk Prairie School District

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A RESOLUTION OF THE SAUK PRAIRIE BOARD OF EDUCATION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED ROUTING OF THE BECI 765 kV TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR DISTRICT PROPERTY AND EDUCATIONAL ASSETS AND REQUESTING IMPACT INFORMATION

WHEREAS, the Sauk Prairie School District serves a rural community and is responsible for the health, safety, welfare, and quality of education of its students; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2026, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) announced the selection of the developers of the Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–IL/WI State Line 765 kV Project ("BECI"), now advanced by Midcontinent Grid Solutions-Wisconsin (MGS), a joint venture of Transource Energy and BHE Transmission, which, if approved as described, would traverse area near district property that is regularly utilized for student education;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute § 1.12(6) declares it the policy of this state that, to the greatest extent feasible consistent with economic and engineering considerations, reliability of the electric system, and protection of the environment, existing utility corridors be utilized first, in order of priority, in the siting of new electric transmission facilities;

WHEREAS, the school campus and neighboring land affected by the route proposed for central Sauk County feature unique, place-based educational infrastructure—including an established school prairie, outdoor learning laboratories, and a natural rock outcropping—which serve as vital, irreplaceable extensions of the classroom and are deeply integrated into the core curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the surrounding community maintains a peaceful acoustic and visual environment characterized by a naturally low ambient noise baseline, which directly supports focused outdoor instruction; and

WHEREAS, utility proposals to site high-voltage infrastructure, specifically 765 kV transmission lines featuring 175-foot towering structures with 180 ft wide (or greater) transmission corridor, in proximity to the school property threaten to permanently alter the rural viewshed and compromise the sensory and ecological integrity of these outdoor learning environments; and

WHEREAS, 765 kV transmission lines can generate significant electrical corona thereby introducing persistent, industrial noise that will actively degrade the quiet acoustic baseline of the outdoor learning spaces; 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 twelve months for meetings between landowners and transmission siting engineers to resolve hazardous and undesirable siting conditions;

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2026, representatives of 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 approximately seven months;

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

WHEREAS, a seven-month period is insufficient for the developer to meet these important responsibilities unless the developer's public responsiveness is immediate and accelerated; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the regional necessity of reliable electrical grid infrastructure, and that such projects must be balanced against local community impacts, public health considerations, and the preservation of educational environments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sauk Prairie School District Board of Education formally expresses its strong opposition to the construction of the Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–IL/WI State Line 765 kV Project anywhere within the Sauk Prairie School District boundaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board condemns any transmission line routing proposal that places 765 kV infrastructure or associated high-voltage corridors in close proximity to school campuses or directly over outdoor learning spaces regularly utilized by students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board urges the Public Service Commission to mandate comprehensive, site-specific environmental, visual, acoustic, and health impact studies that account for the integrity of public educational facilities in low-noise rural soundscapes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board strongly urges that any necessary grid expansion prioritize the utilization of **existing established utility corridors** rather than creating new infrastructure corridors through rural communities and educational assets, and demands maximum protective buffer zones from public educational facilities and associated outdoor learning spaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sauk Prairie Board of Education hereby requests that Midcontinent Grid Solutions-Wisconsin (MGS) provide the following documentation, in written electronic format, no later than September 7, 2026:

1. A list of meetings, with times and locations, at which MGS will make its transmission siting engineers available to work with impacted landowners including Sauk Prairie School District representatives on resolving hazardous conditions and other avoidable hardships; and
2. A list with descriptions including all expected techniques used to maintain the vegetation structure within the transmission line easement corridor; and
3. Digital-format, high-resolution, to-scale, satellite-imagery-based maps for land parcels **020-0971-00000, 020-0967-00000, 020-0966-00000, 020-0968-00000, 020-0798-00000, 020-0797-00000, 020-0793-00000**, portraying:
 - (a) the proposed locations of all 765 kV transmission towers on each parcel
 - (b) the locations of all existing transmission support structures on each parcel;
 - (c) graphic lines depicting the boundaries of the proposed easement on each parcel;
 - (d) the proposed height, in feet, of each proposed 765 kV transmission tower on each affected parcel;
 - (e) to-scale renderings, with dimensions in feet, of all tower designs being considered for each parcel.
 - (f) the expected electromagnetic field produced by the 765 kV lines along a gradient from directly underneath the transmission lines to a distance of 0.65 miles to the south of the proposed lines.
 - (g) the expected average and range of noise levels in dB(A) produced by the 765 kV lines along a gradient from directly underneath the transmission lines to a distance of 0.65 miles to the south of the proposed lines.

ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026, BY THE FOLLOWING SIGNATORIES, FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE TO MIDCONTINENT GRID SOLUTIONS-WISCONSIN (via Connect@MGSWisconsin.com), WITH COPIES TO THE WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, OUR STATE SENATOR SARAH KEYESKI, AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE KAREN DESANTO.


James Isaacson, School Board President


Jeff Wright, Superintendent