

TOWN OF KOSHKONONG

JEFFERSON COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0923-BECI

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ROUTING OF THE BELL CENTER–COLUMBIA–SUGAR CREEK–ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN STATE LINE (BECI) 765-kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT THROUGH THE TOWN OF KOSHKONONG

WHEREAS, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (“MISO”) approved the Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–Illinois/Wisconsin State Line (“BECI”) transmission project as part of its Long Range Transmission Planning Tranche 2.1 portfolio, and the project includes new 765-kV transmission facilities extending through southern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Grid Solutions Wisconsin, LLC (“MGS”), a joint venture involving Transource Energy and BHE Transmission, is developing the BECI project in Wisconsin, and preliminary study corridors affecting communities in Jefferson County have been presented as part of the route-development process; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 1.12(6) establishes a State policy for the siting of new electric transmission facilities and provides that, to the greatest extent feasible consistent with economic and engineering considerations, electric-system reliability, and environmental protection, corridors should be utilized in the following order of priority: existing utility corridors; highway and railroad corridors; qualifying recreational trails; and lastly, new corridors; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 196.491(3)(d) requires the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, when considering an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, to consider whether the proposed design and route are in the public interest, including consideration of alternative routes, individual hardships, safety, reliability, economic and environmental factors, and whether the proposed facility will unreasonably interfere with orderly land-use and development plans for the affected area; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Koshkonong has adopted the *Town of Koshkonong Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2010–2035*, which establishes a community vision of retaining the Town’s rural character through the continuation of working farms, residential development appropriate to the rural landscape, important natural-resource areas, and protection of productive agricultural soils, wetlands, waterways, woodlands, groundwater, and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a predominant land use within the Town of Koshkonong and is specifically identified in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan as integral to the Town’s rural character, landscape, economy, and way of life, and the Plan establishes an objective of

allowing farmers to farm efficiently while protecting productive soils and the integrity of existing farm fields; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Comprehensive Plan identifies the avoidance of fragmentation of natural areas, woodlands, and farmland as an important land-use consideration and establishes goals for protecting environmental corridors, wetlands, groundwater, rivers, streams, Lake Koshkonong, agricultural soils, and other natural-resource areas; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Comprehensive Plan specifically provides that the integrity of scenic rural character, environmental corridors, natural areas, agricultural land, Town roads, and private property should be considered and protected when utilities are sited within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Comprehensive Plan further establishes an objective to protect Town infrastructure, scenic rural character, natural areas, agricultural land, environmental corridors, and private property from the impacts of utility construction, and specifically directs that new utilities should be sited along existing utility and road corridors where possible in order to minimize disturbance to residents, natural areas, and agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan further calls for consideration of environmental impacts associated with utility corridors and construction, protection of farmland and parks, preservation of farm-field drainage and soil profiles during utility construction, protection of Town roads and rights-of-way, and protection of unique viewsheds from overhead utility lines and obstructions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that construction of a new 765-kV transmission corridor through the Town has the potential to significantly affect residents and private property, agricultural operations and farm fields, rural character and viewsheds, natural-resource areas, environmental corridors, Town roads, and the Town's long-established land-use objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes that reasonable transmission-routing alternatives outside the Town of Koshkonong should be fully explored before routing new 765-kV transmission facilities through the Town, particularly where existing utility or transportation corridors or other less disruptive alternatives may be available;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Koshkonong hereby **formally opposes the routing of the BECI 765-kV Transmission Project through the Town of Koshkonong** and requests that MGS, MISO, and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin fully evaluate and pursue reasonable routing alternatives outside the Town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if routes through the Town of Koshkonong nevertheless remain under consideration, the Town strongly requests that existing utility corridors and established highway or railroad corridors be given priority to the greatest extent feasible, consistent with Wis. Stat. § 1.12(6), rather than the creation of new greenfield transmission corridors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any route remaining under consideration within the Town shall be evaluated with particular consideration for impacts to residences and private property, agricultural land and farming operations, environmental corridors, wetlands and waterways, groundwater resources, natural areas, scenic rural character, Town roads and infrastructure, and existing and planned land uses identified in the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town requests that MGS and any reviewing governmental agencies meaningfully evaluate alternative routes and individual hardships and document the basis for selecting any route affecting the Town of Koshkonong, including the reasons that less disruptive alternatives and existing corridors were determined not to be practicable; and

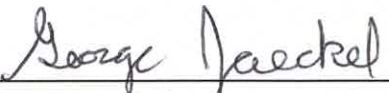
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that adoption of this Resolution shall not constitute the Town's consent to, approval of, or acquiescence in any route or portion of the BECI project affecting the Town of Koshkonong, and the Town expressly reserves all rights available to it to participate in, comment upon, or otherwise take action regarding any future Public Service Commission proceeding or other governmental review concerning the project; and

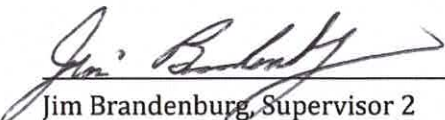
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Midcontinent Grid Solutions Wisconsin, LLC, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson County, and such other elected officials, governmental agencies, municipalities, or interested parties as the Town Board may direct.

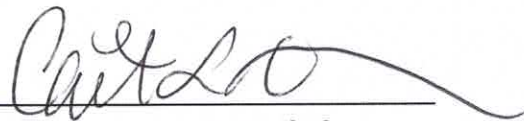
Adopted this 23RD day of September, 2026.

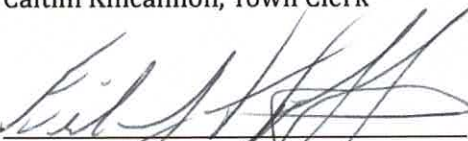
Effective upon posting and publication in accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 60.80.

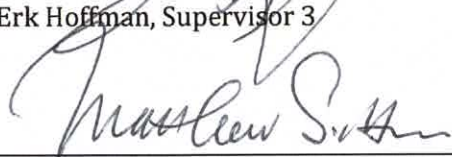

Kim Cheney, Town Chairperson


George Jaeckel, Supervisor 1


Jim Brandenburg, Supervisor 2


Caitlin Kincannon, Town Clerk


Erk Hoffman, Supervisor 3


Matt Hill, Supervisor 4