

Town of Deerfield Resolution 2026-03

A Resolution Opposing the Proposed Bell-Center Columbia-Sugar Creek-Illinois/Wisconsin State LINE (BECI) 765 kV Competitive Transmission Project Through the Town of Deerfield, Dane County, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, the Town of Deerfield, Dane County, Wisconsin is a predominantly rural and agricultural community characterized by prime farmland, family farms, wetlands, woodlands, open space, rural residences, and natural resources that contribute substantially to the Town's economy, environment, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) has approved the Bell Center-Columbia-Sugar Creek-Illinois/Wisconsin State Line 765 kV Transmission Project (BECI) as part of its Long-Range Transmission Planning portfolio, and Midcontinent Grid Solutions has been selected to develop the project; and

WHEREAS, the BECI Project is proposed to consist of approximately 190 miles of new single-circuit 765 kV transmission facilities extending across Wisconsin to an interconnection at the Illinois/Wisconsin state line, and a final transmission-line route has not yet been selected; and

WHEREAS, the proposed BECI 765 kV transmission project is intended to serve regional transmission needs and would provide little or no direct benefit to the residents, farms, businesses, or taxpayers of the Town of Deerfield while imposing significant local burdens; and

WHEREAS, construction of a new 765-kV transmission corridor through the Town could require substantial rights-of-way, clearing of vegetation, installation of large transmission structures, construction access, and permanent restrictions on the use and development of affected property; and

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

WHEREAS, such a corridor could reduce property values, limit the use and enjoyment of private property, fragment productive farmland, interfere with farming practices and drainage systems, compact soils, cause crop losses, and reduce the productivity and long-term agricultural value of farmland; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Deerfield's rural scenery, agricultural landscape, natural resources, and community character contribute to recreation, local businesses, and the overall attractiveness of the area, and large-scale transmission infrastructure could discourage and negatively affect these economic activities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed corridor could affect wetlands, woodlands, waterways, wildlife habitat, environmental corridors, conservation easements, and other natural resources, while permanently altering the rural landscape, agricultural heritage, scenic character, open space, and residential quality of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the proposed corridor will affect migratory bird corridors, bee pollination of orchards and vegetable crops, honey production, dairy herd calving and milk production, monarch butterfly restoration activities, and other diverse agricultural endeavors within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that the potential loss of property value, agricultural productivity, recreational activity, local economic development, tax-base stability, and use of local land and natural resources would result in an overall negative impact on the Town's economy, revenues, residents, and resources; and

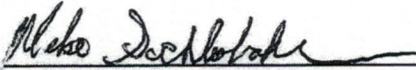
WHEREAS, the Town Board believes transmission planning and routing decisions should fully evaluate alternatives that avoid or minimize impacts on established rural communities, productive agricultural lands, residences, environmentally sensitive areas, and private property, with meaningful participation by affected municipalities and landowners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Deerfield in Dane County, Wisconsin, formally and unequivocally opposes the routing and construction of the proposed BECI 765-kV high-voltage transmission line through Wisconsin and the Town of Deerfield finding that the project would provide little or no direct benefit to Deerfield residents while placing disproportionate burdens upon the Town through potential reductions in property values, loss of productive farmland, impacts upon agricultural operations, deterrence of tourism and recreation, disruption of the rural landscape, and negative effects upon the Town's local economy, revenues, natural resources, and quality of life. The Town Board further urges Midcontinent Grid Solutions, MISO, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and any and all other agencies and entities involved with the planning, inspection, assessment, and approval of this project to select a route that avoids the Town of Deerfield and minimizes impacts upon agricultural lands, rural residences, private property, tourism, environmentally sensitive areas, and local economic resources.

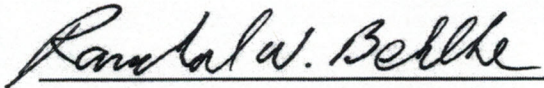
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to forward copies of this resolution to MGS Project Management, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Dane County Board of Supervisors, State Senator Melissa Ratcliff, and State Representative Joan Fitzgerald.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that nothing in this Resolution is intended to conflict with or supersede any applicable state or federal law or the lawful jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin or any other governmental agency.

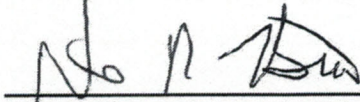
Adopted and approved this 21st day of September, 2026, by the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Deerfield, Dane County, Wisconsin.



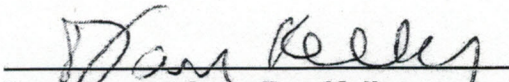
Town Chair: Mike Schlobohm



Town Supervisor: Randy Behlke



Town Supervisor: Nick Brattlie

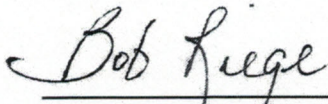


Town Supervisor: Dan Kelly



Town Supervisor: Katie Michel

ATTEST:



Town Clerk: Bob Riege