

**TUESDAY, November 10, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-\_\_\_\_\_**

### **Authorizing Jefferson County to Intervene in Any Proceedings Before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Involving the Bell Center- Columbia-Sugar Creek- Illinois/Wisconsin State Line 765-kilovolt Transmission Project (“BECI Project”)**

#### Executive Summary

Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) has proposed a 765-kilovolt transmission line – known as the BECI project – intended to run approximately 190 miles across southern Wisconsin, including potential routes through Jefferson County. Jefferson County residents have expressed strong concerns and opposition to the proposed transmission project. On September 8, 2026, the County Board passed Resolution 2026-27 opposing the current route alternatives and requesting additional consideration on a series of topics. Additionally, on September 1, 2026, the Finance Committee reserved funding from contingency to retain outside legal services as necessary to protect Jefferson County’s interests in this matter.

MGS has filed an application for Certificate of Authority (“CA”) to operate as a public utility in Wisconsin with the Public Service Commission. Receiving public utility status would enable MGS to exercise eminent domain authority to acquire the land necessary to construct this project. Additionally, MGS has stated their intention to file for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) with the Public Service Commission for the BECI project in early 2027. In the CPCN proceeding, the PSC will consider public need, regional benefits, and design and route selection.

Wisconsin law allows interested parties the opportunity to request to intervene in cases pending before the PSC. To ensure that the concerns and positions of Jefferson County are properly considered by the PSC, it is imperative that Jefferson County make all options available to it, including intervening in the PSC proceedings concerning the BECI project.

This resolution authorizes Jefferson County to intervene in any proceedings before the PSC involving the BECI project, including the CA and CPCN proceedings, and authorizes the County Administrator to retain outside legal and professional services as needed to effectuate intervention. The Executive Committee considered this resolution at its meeting on October 27, 2026, and recommended forwarding it to the County Board for approval.

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WHEREAS, the Executive Summary is incorporated into this Resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors has reviewed the proposed routes for the 765-kV BECI transmission line project, and

WHEREAS, the proposed transmission corridors would require the construction of steel towers roughly 175-200 feet tall and easements approximately 180 feet wide, posing significant and permanent impacts to Jefferson County’s agricultural lands, natural resources, rural character, historic and cultural sites, residential properties, and tourism assets, and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County has a substantial interest in the PSC's decisions on MGS's applications for a Certificate of Authority and a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity because those decisions could affect existing residences, farmland, businesses, and the health, safety, and welfare of County residents, and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that early engagement is the most effective means of ensuring that County concerns are given meaningful consideration in this process, and

WHEREAS, to effectively research, determine, and present the concerns and positions of Jefferson County, outside legal and professional services will be required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors authorizes Jefferson County to intervene in any proceedings before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission related to the BECI project, including the pending CA proceeding and the anticipated CPCN filing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is authorized to contract with outside legal and professional services to effectuate any intervention pursued by Jefferson County.

*Fiscal Note: On September 1, 2026, the Finance Committee authorized a transfer of \$50,000 from Contingency to the Administration budget to secure counsel to advise the County in this matter. No budget amendment is necessary.*

*Strategic Plan Reference: None*

Referred By:  
Executive Committee

10-27-2026

REVIEWED: Corporation Counsel: DHT ; Finance Director: MAD

**APPOINTMENTS BY COUNTY BOARD CHAIR**

By virtue of the authority vested in me under Section 59.54(8) of the Wisconsin Statutes, I hereby request confirmation of the following appointment:

- a. Tim Sullivan to the Local Emergency Planning Committee as representative of broadcast and print media for an indeterminate term.