

TOWN OF AZTALAN
JEFFERSON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-04

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ROUTING AND CONSTRUCTION OF
THE PROPOSED BELL CENTER–COLUMBIA–SUGAR CREEK–
ILLINOIS/WISCONSIN STATE LINE (BECI) 765-KV TRANSMISSION
PROJECT THROUGH THE TOWN OF AZTALAN**

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Grid Solutions, LLC (“MGS”) is developing the proposed Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–Illinois/Wisconsin State Line 765-kV Competitive Transmission Project (“BECI”), a proposed approximately 190-mile high-voltage transmission line extending across southern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the BECI project is currently in the planning and public-input phase, and MGS is evaluating study segments and potential routing alternatives before a final route is selected; and

WHEREAS, portions of the Town of Aztalan are located within the area being studied for the proposed BECI project, creating the potential for significant impacts to residents, property owners, agricultural operations, natural resources, public roads, public health and safety, and the rural character of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Aztalan adopted its Comprehensive Plan on September 11, 2019, establishing a long-term vision for the Town that calls for Aztalan to retain its rural character through careful planning and intergovernmental cooperation, preserve its farmland, protect its natural features, promote its cultural resources, enhance the community’s natural beauty, and enhance the character and well-being of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Comprehensive Plan specifically identifies the Rock River and Crawfish River as important natural assets and calls for the Town to value and protect those rivers, while also recognizing the importance of wetlands, environmental corridors, groundwater, surface waters, wildlife habitat, woodlands, and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Comprehensive Plan identifies Aztalan State Park, parks and recreational areas, trails, and other natural and cultural resources as important community assets that contribute to the Town’s identity, quality of life, recreation, tourism, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Comprehensive Plan recognizes the importance of the Town’s cultural resources, including historic and archaeological resources, and supports their identification, preservation, and protection; and

WHEREAS, Aztalan State Park contains nationally significant archaeological and cultural resources associated with the ancient Aztalan settlement, and the Town recognizes the importance of protecting the historic, archaeological, scenic, and cultural character of this area; and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Comprehensive Plan establishes goals and policies intended to protect environmentally sensitive areas, including environmental corridors, wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, groundwater resources, woodlands, wildlife habitat, and areas containing rare or endangered species; and

WHEREAS, the construction and long-term operation of a 765-kV transmission line and associated infrastructure could result in significant impacts to private property, agricultural operations, farm access, property use, viewsheds, natural resources, wildlife, drainage, waterways, wetlands, environmental corridors, cultural and archaeological resources, roads, construction traffic, noise, and the long-term use and value of affected properties; and

WHEREAS, the Town is particularly concerned about the potential fragmentation of agricultural parcels and the resulting impacts on farming operations, including the ability of landowners to efficiently use, access, maintain, and continue agricultural operations on affected property; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Comprehensive Plan recognizes the importance of protecting surface and groundwater quality and identifies groundwater quality and quantity as important concerns for Town residents, noting that private wells supply nearly all of the water for domestic, commercial, and industrial uses within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town believes that protection of public health and safety must be an important consideration in evaluating any proposed transmission-line route, including potential impacts associated with construction, heavy equipment and traffic, noise, dust, erosion and runoff, impacts to private wells and groundwater resources, emergency access, electrical infrastructure, and other reasonably foreseeable impacts associated with the construction and long-term operation of a major transmission facility; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that questions concerning potential public-health effects associated with high-voltage transmission infrastructure should be evaluated based upon competent scientific evidence and applicable state and federal standards, and the Town therefore requests that all relevant public-health and safety considerations be fully evaluated and disclosed as part of the regulatory review process; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Comprehensive Plan establishes a goal of providing safe and efficient roads while minimizing impacts on landowners and farmers and directs the Town to work with the County and State to ensure safety on Town roadways; and

WHEREAS, construction of a major transmission project could result in increased heavy truck traffic, construction access points, equipment movement, road restrictions, and other transportation impacts that could affect the safety and condition of Town roads and the safety of residents, farmers, emergency responders, bicyclists, pedestrians, and other road users; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the importance of maintaining a reliable and adequate regional electric transmission system, but believes that any need for additional transmission infrastructure must be balanced against the impacts imposed upon affected communities, property owners, agricultural land, natural resources, cultural resources, public health, public safety, and the rural character of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town expects that any proposed BECI route affecting the Town of Aztalan will be evaluated in accordance with all applicable Wisconsin statutes, administrative rules, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin ("PSC") requirements, environmental requirements, and applicable transmission-line siting criteria, including requirements concerning the location and routing of transmission facilities and the avoidance and minimization of impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Town believes that the potential impacts of routing a new 765-kV transmission line through Aztalan's rural and agricultural landscape warrant serious consideration and that reasonable alternatives that avoid or substantially reduce impacts to the Town should be fully evaluated before any route through Aztalan is considered; and

WHEREAS, the Town further believes that the Town Board, residents, property owners, agricultural operators, and other affected members of the community should have meaningful opportunities to review project information and provide input throughout the planning, routing, environmental review, and regulatory approval process; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Aztalan desires to formally place its position on the record during the BECI planning and public-input process and to communicate that position to MGS, the PSC,

Jefferson County, state officials, and other governmental agencies involved in reviewing the proposed project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Aztalan, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, as follows:

1. Opposition to Routing Through Aztalan.

The Town of Aztalan formally opposes the routing and construction of the proposed BECI 765-kV transmission line and associated facilities through the Town of Aztalan.

2. Protection of Rural and Agricultural Character.

The Town Board believes that routing a new 765-kV transmission line through Aztalan would be inconsistent with the Town's adopted Comprehensive Plan and its stated interest in protecting its rural and agricultural character, productive agricultural land, existing land uses, natural resources, and the quality of life and well-being of its residents.

3. Protection of Public Health and Safety.

The Town requests that public health and safety be given meaningful consideration throughout the evaluation of the BECI project, including consideration of potential impacts associated with construction activities, heavy equipment and traffic, noise, dust, erosion and runoff, private wells and groundwater, emergency access, electrical infrastructure, and the long-term operation and maintenance of the transmission facilities.

4. Protection of Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Resources.

The Town requests that particular consideration be given to potential impacts on the Rock River, Crawfish River, wetlands, floodplains, groundwater resources, environmental corridors, wildlife habitat, woodlands, Aztalan State Park, parks and trails, archaeological resources, historic resources, scenic resources, and other natural and cultural assets identified in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

5. Evaluation of Alternatives.

The Town requests that MGS and all reviewing agencies fully evaluate reasonable alternative routes and configurations that avoid or substantially minimize impacts to the Town of Aztalan, its residents, property owners, agricultural operations, public health and safety, natural resources, cultural resources, and recreational resources.

6. Agricultural Impacts.

The Town requests that particular consideration be given to impacts on productive agricultural land, farm operations, field access, drainage, irrigation, fencing, livestock operations, farm infrastructure, parcel fragmentation, and the long-term ability of affected landowners to continue agricultural operations.

7. Groundwater and Natural Resources.

The Town requests that potential impacts to groundwater, private wells, surface waters, wetlands, environmental corridors, wildlife, and other environmentally sensitive resources be fully evaluated, particularly given the Town's reliance on private wells for its water supply and the importance the Town's Comprehensive Plan places on protecting groundwater and surface-water quality.

8. Cultural and Archaeological Resources.

The Town requests that potential impacts to archaeological, historic, cultural, and scenic resources be fully identified and evaluated, including potential impacts to Aztalan State Park and other culturally significant areas within or near the Town.

9. Property and Community Impacts.

The Town requests that potential impacts to homes, property use, property values, viewsheds, natural resources, public roads, construction traffic, noise, and the overall rural character of the Town be fully identified, evaluated, documented, and considered in any routing decision.

10. Transportation and Road Impacts.

The Town requests that anticipated construction traffic, heavy equipment, access points, road use, potential road damage, traffic safety, emergency access, and impacts to agricultural and residential access be identified and addressed before any route affecting Town roads is approved.

11. Consistency With the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

The Town requests that the Town of Aztalan Comprehensive Plan be specifically considered in evaluating any proposed BECI route through the Town, including the Plan's goals and policies concerning rural character, agricultural preservation, natural-resource protection, cultural-resource protection, public health and safety, property rights, transportation safety, recreation, and community well-being.

12. Compliance With Applicable Law.

The Town requests that any proposed BECI route through or affecting the Town of Aztalan be evaluated and approved only in accordance with all applicable Wisconsin statutes, administrative rules, PSC requirements, and other applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

13. Public Participation and Information.

The Town requests timely access to complete and accurate project information, including proposed routes, route alternatives, anticipated right-of-way requirements, construction impacts, environmental information, agricultural impacts, public-health and safety considerations, cultural-resource information, and other information necessary for the Town and affected property owners to meaningfully participate in the review process.

14. Preservation of Town Rights.

Nothing in this Resolution shall be interpreted as waiving, limiting, or otherwise restricting any rights, objections, comments, interventions, legal remedies, or other interests available to the Town of Aztalan, its residents, property owners, or other affected parties under applicable law. The Town expressly reserves the right to provide additional comments, objections, testimony, evidence, and recommendations as the BECI project progresses.

15. Request for Consideration.

The Town requests that MGS, the PSC, Jefferson County, and all other governmental agencies and decision-makers give full consideration to the concerns and position expressed in this Resolution when evaluating the BECI project and any proposed route affecting the Town of Aztalan.

16. Distribution.

The Town Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to Midcontinent Grid Solutions, LLC; the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin; the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Jefferson County; the Town's state and federal legislative representatives; and any other governmental or regulatory entity the Town Clerk determines appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Aztalan hereby requests that no route for the proposed BECI 765-kV transmission project be approved through the Town

of Aztalan where the route can reasonably be avoided or where the impacts to the Town, its residents, property owners, agricultural operations, natural resources, cultural resources, public health, public safety, and rural character have not been adequately evaluated and minimized.

Adopted this 9th day of September 2026.

TOWN OF AZTALAN
JEFFERSON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Jeremy Chwala, Chair

Larry Christianson, Supervisor

Megan Dunneisen, Supervisor

Attest: _____
Kathleen Pitzner, Clerk

SIGNED COPY ON FILE