

26-001

**TOWN OF HARMONY RESOLUTION REGARDING
POTENTIAL 765 kV TRANSMISSION LINE DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Dairyland Power Cooperative have announced intentions for a 765 kV transmission line known as, "LRTP Project #26, North Rochester, MN to Bell Center, WI;" that is designated to pass, in part, through Vernon, Crawford and Richland Counties; with an additional, double-circuit, 161 kV transmission line; **and**,

WHEREAS, a transmission line of this size and characteristics has never been considered or constructed in Wisconsin, to date; **and**,

WHEREAS, the cost of Project 26 to be assumed by ratepayers has been estimated at \$10.6 billion; **and**,

WHEREAS, within MISO's most recent FAQ, the regional utility interests' estimate of costs and benefits from the Tranche 2.1 expansion lines (including a potential 765 kV project through our area) would lead to an expense of about \$13.50 per month for an electric customer using 1,000 kWh per month; **and**,

WHEREAS, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin staff engineers have found that upgrades of existing transmission lines can provide the same benefits at much less expense to ratepayers; **and**,

WHEREAS, the official Independent Monitor of the MISO wholesale electricity market and MISO transmission planning, Potomac Economics, has found that MISO's Tranche 2.1 transmission lines, including the Project:

- Assume a view of the future that is "extremely unlikely."
- Forecast potential benefits to the customer that are "overstated" or "invalid" in five of eight key categories.
- Would lead to "uneconomic investment (that) will raise costs and undermine investment in resources, storage and other alternatives to transmission."
- The MISO Board should "postpone approval of Tranche 2.1 transmission lines;" **and**,

WHEREAS, MISO's Tranche 2.1 transmission expansion planning requires a very large buildout of wind and solar facilities which, traditionally, have relied on very substantial federal tax credit incentives that are now scheduled for elimination in 2028 as determined in the July 2025 Federal Reconciliation Budget Bill; **and**,

WHEREAS, use of electricity in Wisconsin has been statistically flat over the last 20 years; **and**,

WHEREAS, An Environmental Impact Statement jointly authored by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources found that even smaller 345 kV transmission lines "may result in negative affects to property values, tax credits and heritage tourism": and mentions studies showing devaluations from 10 to 45% depending on the proximity, visibility, size of parcel and whether sited in an industrial or natural setting; **and**,

WHEREAS, Harmony Township is opposing bringing the 765kV line through or next to the Townships of: Harmony, Genoa, Wheatland, and Sterling in Vernon County because the proposed placement of the 765kV line through these townships can significantly degrade or disrupt signal performance of our county-wide emergency communications; **and**,

1. Vernon County relies on precise and unobstructed line-of-sight between communication towers; **and**,

2. The placement of tall transmission structures within these pathways can significantly degrade or disrupt signal performance that can have an effect on the communications between law enforcement, fire, EMS, emergency management and dispatch operations across the region; **and**,
3. Primary risk arises from the physical placement and height of the transmission towers, which – if located near existing communication towers – obstruct, scatter, or attenuate crucial communication signals; **and**,
4. The townships of Harmony, Genoa, Wheatland and Sterling, Vernon and surrounding counties, as well as the region has an obligation to ensure that public-safety communications remain reliable, resilient, and uninterrupted, particularly during emergencies when system failure could put lives at risk: **and**,

WHEREAS, the karst geology of the region is unstable for extremely heavy development such as the transmission towers, and vulnerable to potential ground water pollution and soil erosion during and after construction; **and**,

WHEREAS, the line could discourage visitors who come for hunting, trout fishing, birding, and cycling. Specifically, concerns have been raised about the project's impact on the Mississippi River Flyway and the disruption of local wildlife patterns; **and**,

WHEREAS, the proposed 200-foot towers would be visible for miles, especially when placed on ridgetops. This "artificialization" of the landscape is seen as a direct threat to the aesthetic value that attracts tourists and retirees to our communities; **and**,

WHEREAS, LRTP Project #26, North Rochester-Bell Center as designed would add hazardous obstacles for migrating and resident raptors, waterfowl and songbirds that routinely utilize the Mississippi River Flyway; **and**,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Harmony Township Board hereby requests that Dairyland Power Cooperative and/or its assigns provide the following information either in written, electronic format or through an in-person presentation before our Board before May 21, 2026:

1. Provide a map of eligible, existing transmission line routes for the considered 765 kV/ 161 kV transmission line Project through Vernon and Crawford Counties.
2. Provide documentation accounting for MISO consideration and decision-making concerning the alternative use of HVDC transmission such as the SOO Green HVDC Link instead of above ground 765 kV transmission including the HVDC routes considered.
3. Provide images of the types of towers to be used for the transmission line Project in Vernon Counties.
4. Provide the range of the heights of these 765 kV/161 kV transmission towers, in feet.
5. Provide the estimated date that the 765 kV/161 kV transmission line is expected to be proposed to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.
6. Provide the estimated capital cost per month per customer in Vernon County over 40 years for Project #26.
7. Provide documentation of how Dairyland has mitigated the issue of the cracked and unstable karst geology in other 765 kV lines. If that's not ever been done, give thorough analysis of how 200' towers will be stabilized and built on karst geology. Give documentation on how surface and ground water will be protected during construction and what mitigation plans there are for soil erosion.

8. Provide documentation of the acreage amount of wildlife habitat that will be lost, how birds, raptors and waterfowl will be impacted in the Mississippi River Flyway, and how the bird impacts will be mitigated.
9. Provide (if any) Radio Frequency Interference Studies that accounts for diffraction, specular reflections, Fresnel zone blockage caused by the large amounts of metal to ensure the 200 ft. steel towers would not disrupt the "lines of sight" for point-to-point microwave connectivity systems local emergency personnel utilize.
10. Provide the contractor or specialist (if any) that has or will conduct an onsite Radio Frequency Interference Study or Technical review of the FCC Registered Towers in Vernon and Crawford Counties that utilize microwave connectivity.
11. Provide a list of Telecommunications towers located in the Townships of Genoa, Harmony, Wheatland and Sterling. Include if developers have contacted the owners/lessees to ensure they are aware of the potential radio frequency interference from the proposed large steel infrastructure.
12. Provide a list of the "significant economic development benefits" that the Project would deliver to the local economies adjacent to the proposed project through Vernon, Crawford, and Richland Counties.
13. Provide documentation explaining MISO's calculation of a net monetary benefit for Wisconsin residential electric customers if the estimated cost of the Project is around \$27.50 per month, while returning only \$10 to \$14 per month to ratepayers.
14. Provide a list of prior, combination 161 kV and 765kV transmission projects the developers of the Project have installed, with locations; and/or any other high voltage transmission line projects the developer has completed.
15. Provide documentation of siting and other accommodations the developer(s) plan to minimize noise and light pollution associated with corona discharge from a 765 kV transmission line under high humidity and high transmission load conditions.
16. Provide any mitigation measures or plans for the owner of the proposed line to assist in the loss of tourism and loss of revenue to Vernon, Crawford and Richland Counties.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Harmony, in Vernon County, WI hereby approves the resolution ADOPTED this day of 25 day of APRIL 2026.

Adopted by John Golde (chair)

Attested by Kent R. Mendon (chair)

on this 25th day of April 2026.

Clerk email address: harmonyclerk@tn.harmony.wi.gov

Developer contact information:

Eric Jacobson / Maribell Team
 Dairyland Power Cooperative
 3200 East Avenue S.P.O. Box 817 La Crosse, WI 54602
 Email: <Eric.Jacobson@dairylandpower.com>