

February 14, 2012 **RESOLUTION #2012-1 CAPX2020 (PASSED)**

RESOLUTION REGARDING CAPX2020 APPLICATION FOR A 345 kV
TRANSMISSION POWERLINE PROJECT - #2012 - 1

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power and others have proposed CapX2020 transmission line project including a 345 kV high voltage power line from Alma to North La Crosse; and

WHEREAS, the CapX2020 Alma-North La Crosse 345 kV project includes proposed route corridors which cut across rivers, farms, forests and valleys, scenic bluffs, wetlands and wildlife and waterfowl habitats, exceptional water resources, cultural and economic districts in the Town of Belvidere; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Belvidere is charged with protecting and enhancing the Town's public safety and assets, including the scenic beauty of the hills and coulees – which would be adversely affected by the 130 to 170 foot steel towers and high voltage power lines proposed for the CAPX2020 Alma-North La Crosse project; and

WHEREAS, the use of electricity in Wisconsin and adjacent states has declined since a 2006 peak and demand is projected to remain flat in the predictable future; and

WHEREAS, it is the township's belief that the claim of need for the line is overstated and that there are other ways of meeting any electrical need claimed by applicants that should be considered and implemented first, including efficiencies, demand and supply side management, locally produced and distributed renewable energy, and energy-related economic development, before high voltage transmission is considered; and

WHEREAS, the Alma-North La Crosse high voltage power line would cost ratepayers more than \$250 million and be part of a \$2.3-3.6 billion grid expansion project in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, building a high voltage transmission line would require use of public rights of way and condemnation of private property for easements; and the centerline of this transmission line on its 150 foot right of way could be placed within 75 feet of a residence or business; and

WHEREAS, a new 345kV transmission line will result in increased electricity costs for all ratepayers, loss of property value and tax base because of the impact on viewshed and dangers that high voltage power lines inherently carry, and create adverse effect on the area's tourism and general economy; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of health concerns including medical studies which have shown an association between exposure to electromagnetic fields produced by high voltage transmission lines, childhood leukemia, neurological diseases and conditions, and other health effects; and

WHEREAS, transmission line projects approved by the PSC of WI are required by WI statutes (196.49 (3) and 196.491(3)(d)) to have costs that are in proportion to their benefits, must satisfy the reasonable needs of the public for adequate energy supply and must also not be overbuilt or designed in excess of probable future energy needs;
THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that

1. The Town of Belvidere opposes the planned grid expansion project in the Midwest and specifically the Alma-North La Crosse 345 kV power line; and
2. The Town requests that additional on the record public hearings be held near the Town of Belvidere in Wisconsin before a recommendation on a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is made for the project; and
3. The Town requests that it not be utilized as a pass through for transmission for which it incurs significant costs, but receives little to no benefit; and
4. The Town requests that clear, detailed information be provided to the town explaining the perceived need for the 345 kV power line which includes supporting objective studies and forecasts with a cost benefit analysis comparing the efficiency-only, locally produced and distributed generation options with the high voltage option, individually and in combination; and
5. The Town requests, rather than build transmission lines, that every effort be made in developing or enhancing the energy system on which the Town relies to do the following:

Implement and enforce WI State Statute 1993, Wisconsin Bill 414 that states:

"In meeting energy demands, the policy of the State is that, to the extent cost-effective and technically feasible, options be considered based on the following priorities, in the order listed:

- (a) Energy conservation and efficiency.
- (b) Noncombustible renewable energy resources.
- (c) Combustible renewable energy resources.

(d) Nonrenewable combustible energy resources, in the order listed:

- 1) Natural gas.
- 2) Oil or coal with a sulphur content of less than 1%.
- 3) All other carbon-based fuels."

6. Furthermore, the Town requests that any local need be met through adoption and enactment of Wisconsin's energy policy by implementing local ownership of energy generation that includes dispersed renewable energy to support the local economy, and to minimize the size, scale, voltage and environmental impacts of electric transmission.

The Town Clerk is hereby authorized to request that the Town be added to project notice lists and request a copy of the application for the CAPX2020 transmission project from the utilities to be available in the Town. The Town Clerk is directed to transmit this resolution and other appropriate documents to the WI Public Service Commission Docket # 5-CE-136 and Docket # 137-CE-160 and to the Administrative Law Judge and state Commission staff conducting proceedings for the CAPX2020 345 kV Transmission Line Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Belvidere, Buffalo County, hereby ADOPT this RESOLUTION on the _14th___ day of FEBRUARY, 2012.

/s/ David Danzinger
David Danzinger, Chairperson

ATTESTED BY: /s/ Deborah M Ruff
Deborah M Ruff, Clerk