



Dear Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) / connect@mgsWisconsin.com,

The Baraboo Hills Ecology Research Collective is a scientific nonprofit committed to long-term ecological monitoring, conservation science, and community engagement in the Baraboo Range of southern Wisconsin, USA. It is our understanding that MGS is proposing a large 765 kV transmission line potentially affecting the ecology of the Baraboo Hills, including migration flyways and critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. It is also our understanding that the time period MGS has allotted to supply us the information we require in order to provide sufficient input and to participate in other required communications is very restricted due to MGS interest in submitting a CPCN application to the PSC as soon as February, 2027.

The proposed line study segment numbers from the MGS BECI project map that we write in reference to are study segments 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

We have examined the resources currently on your website. The supplied maps and information are inadequate in several respects that we have accounted for, below.

For these reasons, we ask MGS to place us on your contact list to receive all future notifications and to provide the answers and specified documents in electronic format specified no later than September 1, 2026.

1. Please email to us, digital format, high-resolution, to-scale, satellite imagery-based maps for each of the above study segments portraying the following features:
 - a. A graphic line, scaled to no more than 10' in width, depicting the considered location of the center line of the proposed 765 kV transmission facility line on each affected land parcel.
 - b. The centers of the proposed locations, with geo-coordinates, for all proposed 765 kV transmission towers on each affected land parcel;
 - c. Graphic lines depicting the boundaries of the proposed easement for the 765 kV facility on each affected land parcel;
 - d. The estimated sea level height, in feet, for each proposed 765 kV transmission tower along the study segments mentioned;
 - e. To-scale, elevation renderings of the 765 kV tower designs being considered with dimensions in feet along each study segment mentioned;
 - f. Depicted areas anticipated for construction and access roads through forested areas along each study segment mentioned.
2. Please provide the predicted electromagnetic field intensities under these exposures:
 - a. ground level at the center line of the operating 765 kV transmission line under Summer and Winter peak and Spring and Fall average shoulder load conditions;
 - b. At ground level at a distance of 300' from the centerline of the operating 765 kV transmission line under Summer and Winter peak and Spring and Fall average shoulder load conditions;



3. Please provide evidence showing that these levels of electromagnetic field exposure do not alter the behavior, movement patterns, or habitat use of birds, bats, or insects. In particular, please provide evidence that bird species which use electromagnetic fields for navigation during migration will not be impacted by the transmission line.
4. Please provide the predicted maximum average noise level in, dB(A), as perceived at these distances and conditions:
 - a. At ground level at the center line of the 765 kV transmission line operating under high humidity and damp conditions during Summer and Winter Peak Load and average Spring and Fall Shoulder Load;
 - b. At ground level at a distance of 300' from the center line of the 765 kV transmission line operating under high humidity and damp conditions during Summer and Winter Peak Load and average Spring and Fall Shoulder Load;
5. Please provide documentation that birds, frogs, and insects which use auditory communication are not negatively influenced by the levels of constant background noise addressed above. Please include evidence showing that birds, frogs, and insects do not need to expend greater energy to communicate in environments with similar noise levels as identified above.
6. Please provide documentation showing that birds (including raptors), bats and insects do not avoid corona discharge events associated with 765 kV lines.
7. Please provide a list with descriptions of all expected 765 kV easement corridor maintenance techniques to be used for vegetation structure management for parcels along these study segments, including:
 - a. measures that will be taken to prevent ecological degradation of surrounding habitat, such as invasive species introduction, during installation and maintenance.
 - b. regime of expected herbicide treatment frequency and intensity, as well as which herbicides will be used and what impacts they have on human and ecosystem health.
 - c. documentation showing there are no negative effects of the predicted herbicide regime on herbivorous invertebrates, as well as higher trophic-level species including birds and amphibians through biomagnification.
8. Please provide documentation accounting for the design and equipment measures that will be used to minimize impacts to each designated wetland (including floodplain forests, riparian corridors, and freshwater streams) that the proposed line crosses within these study segments, including acres of designated wetland habitat that will be within the proposed easement for these study segments.
9. Please provide the total linear distance of the proposed study line segments that will be placed in current forest interior habitat (defined as: forested areas with at least 200 yards on all sides from a non-forested edge). Please provide the acreage of this habitat that will be clearcut to accommodate the line and associated easement corridor. Separately, include the acreage of former interior forested habitat that will then fall within 200 yards of the edge of this new transmission line corridor.

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COLLECTIVE



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10. Please provide documentation showing that you have considered all possible alternative routing to avoid disturbance to forest bird species.
11. Please provide documentation that transmission lines will not cause electrocution of roosting birds, and will not result in bird mortality through collision with lines or towers.
12. Please provide the calendar date by which transmission line siting engineers under MGS direction will have met, individually, with directly impacted landowners and representatives of the Baraboo Hills Ecology Research Collective to consider and make necessary adjustments for inclusion in the 765 kV application to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maia Persche". The ink is dark and the script is fluid.

Maia Persche, President
maia.persche@gmail.com
S6674 Freedom Rd,
North Freedom, WI 53951

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Hartman". The ink is dark and the script is fluid.

Lisa Hartman, Board Member
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S8440A Hemlock Rd,
North Freedom, WI 53951

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sathya Chandra Sagar H8". The ink is dark and the script is fluid.

Sathya Chandra Sagar, Board Member
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North Freedom, WI 53951

cc: State Senator Sarah Keyeski
Sen.Keyeski@legis.wisconsin.gov
State Representative Karen DeSanto
Rep.DeSanto@legis.wisconsin.gov