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Aug 06 2026 Page B03 Clip resized 62%

Port Washington, Ozaukee Press

WISCONSIN NEWS TRACKER

Power line foes take aim at ATC application

By KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM
Ozaukee Press staff

■ *Local group opposed to route for data center electrical wires asks PSC to declare company's request incomplete*

A petition that asks the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to revoke its finding that an application to extend power lines to the Vantage Data Centers Lighthouse Campus in Port Washington is complete will be considered by the agency on Thursday, Aug. 6.

The hearing will be held in Madison at 10:30 a.m.

The Responsible Energy Alliance, a coalition of Saukville, Trenton, Fredonia and Farmington residents potentially impacted by the extension of the power lines, filed the petition, saying that since ATC's application was declared complete, the company has filed 564 additional application documents and 168 staff data request responses, making extensive changes to the project.

"Together these filings proposed a plethora of changes, modifications and updates to an application that ATC previously represented to the commission as complete," the petition states.

More than 1,000 comments on the petition have been filed with the PSC, according to Patti Plough, a leader of the alliance, who noted that comments were being taken until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5.

"We have accomplished something significant by getting so many people engaged and making their voices heard," she said in a letter to alliance members.

The petition quotes a PSC staff member as saying the alterations to the application have caused "more significant challenges than normal" for the review of the matter, especially given the timeframe for reviewing the case record.

"A major issue that went unaddressed in ATC's original application and remains unaddressed even after the application's 564 plus amendments and modifications is that ATC utterly fails to justify its shocking proposal to route the massive ... transmission lines directly through one of the most beautiful, pristine and environmentally sensitive greenfield areas of Ozaukee and Washington counties," the petition states.

It alleges that ATC's preferred and contingent-preferred routes "blatantly" violate criteria set by the Legislature that prioritizes following existing transmission corridors when building new lines.

Not only is using the existing corridor a viable option that bypasses two eight-mile greenfield segments opposed by the alliance, the petition states, it is one preferred by many communities along the route and Vantage itself.

The petition also says that the alliance's costing expert found discrepancies and errors in the transmission line budget that overstate any advantages of the preferred and contingent-preferred routes over the greenfield routes.

The petition seeks to either have the PSC revoke its finding that the application is complete and require ATC to refile its application or to order ATC to withdraw consideration of the greenfield segments opposed by the alliance.

Thursday's meeting comes as the PSC prepares to hold public hearings on ATC's

See **Power lines** *on page 4B*

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Power lines: *PSC hearings scheduled*

FROM PAGE 3B

transmission line request.

The PSC will hold public hearings from 2 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, at Fredonia Village Hall and from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, at the Kiel Community Center.

People may attend in person or via Zoom at https://us02web.soom.us/my/pschearings.

People who have registered as intervenors will be part of a public hearing session that begins at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 25, in the PSC hearing room in Madison.

That session may be viewed on YouTube at https://youtube.com/@PSCWI-Hearings.

Written comments may be submitted to the PSC by mailing them to Docket 137-CE-221 Comments, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 7854, Madison 53707-7854 or online at https://tinyurl.com/3vxeu2w9.

Written comments are due at the PSC on Friday, Aug. 28.

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Aug 08 2026 Page A01 Clip resized 43%

West Bend, Daily News



Back to starting gate for data center transmission lines

Public Service Commission revokes determination that ATC application was complete

By Charley Hanney
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262-305-8934

MADISON — The Public Service Commission on Thursday did something it has never done and revoked an application that it had already deemed complete.

But that was the ruling on American Transmission Company's application to build new 345 kV transmission lines through multiple counties, including Ozaukee and Washington, that would transport electricity to the Port Washington hyperscale AI data center.

The ruling means that the utility will have to refile the application, essentially starting over.

See **LINES**, PAGE 5A



Photo courtesy of Tom Stolp

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the native grasses and wildflowers of County Line Preserve in eastern Washington County, which risks the placement of four transmission lines within its boundaries and the clear-cutting of 150 feet of sensitive forested wetland habitats if the American Transmission Company's preferred power line path were to be approved.

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West Bend, Daily News

WISCONSIN NEWS TRACKER

Lines

From Page 1A

In a press release, the PSC said that a completeness determination starts the clock during which the commission must take final action in a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity proceeding. Once a project application is determined to be complete, the PSC has 180 days to take final action on the application, unless the PSC chairperson extends the time period for an additional 180 days.

On Dec. 15, 2025, the commission deemed ATC's application complete. Commission staff continued reviewing and analyzing the project, and various individuals and groups were granted party status to participate in the proceeding. A prehearing conference was held on March 20, and the docket schedule was set to ensure the commission issued a decision before the statutory deadline. "Throughout the proceeding, ATC filed a large number of substantial changes to its project application," according to the press release.

On July 1, the PSC's administrative law judge, who is granted the authority to regulate the course of the proceeding, raised serious concerns about the missing and changing information and issued directives requesting specific remedies to bring clarity to the proceeding.

Thousands submit comments

The PSC also received more than 2,500 public comments on the issue in a brief six-day window that ended early Wednesday afternoon, many of which directly addressed the specific question the PSC posed, while others explicitly called for revocation of the December 2025 PSC completeness determination outright, according to a press release.

The comments stemmed from a petition filed last month by the Responsible Energy Alliance, a citizen coalition asking that the PSC revoke its December determination.

"The Responsible Energy Alliance is extremely grateful that the Public Service Commission has revoked the completeness determination for ATC's application," the REA wrote in a press release. "With approximately 564 additional documents filed after the application was initially deemed complete, the record became extraordinarily difficult for affected property owners and members of the public to follow, understand, and meaningfully evaluate — much less use as the basis for such a consequential decision. We are thankful that the commission listened to the concerns raised by residents and stakeholders. This decision reinforces the importance of a complete, transparent and understandable record when decisions of this magnitude may affect families, farms, businesses, communities and natural resources for generations."

ATC responds

In a document filed Thursday, ATC said that the law does not authorize the ATC's revocation and noted that the PCS correctly found the utility's application complete on Dec. 15, 2025.

"And nothing since then provides a basis for revisiting the determination," ATC wrote.

The ATC said that even if the commission somehow could revisit completeness, it should not. The Dec. 15 determination was correct, it said.

"Completeness asks only whether the application contains the categories of information required by the four Commission's rules, not whether the applicant has already proved that a certificate should issue," the ATC wrote. "ATC's application supplied the required information, and no one has identified anything that was omitted."

The ATC may choose to file a subsequent application seeking a CPCN in a new, separate docket — an action that would start the process from the beginning, according to the Public Service Commission press release.

Due to the decision, public hearings originally scheduled for Aug. 18 in Fredonia and Aug. 19 in Kiel are canceled.

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Aug 10 2026 Page A03 Clip resized 40%

Milwaukee, Journal Sentinel



State PSC pushes pause on power line plan

Company must resubmit after hundreds of tweaks

Claudia Levens and Francesca Pica
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

State regulators have delivered a setback to the billion-dollar power line project that would serve the Vantage data center campus for OpenAI and Oracle in Port Washington.

The Public Service Commission told American Transmission Co. Aug. 6 to resubmit an application for the transmission line project, citing ATC's substantial number of changes to the proposal – to the point where commissioners feel as if they're assessing "a moving target."

The three-member commission unanimously voted to revoke the project's "completeness determination," which was issued in December 2025 and allows the project to proceed to the review stage. Once a project application is deemed complete, commissioners have 180 days to take final action.

The Waukesha-based power line company's plans include building around 100 miles of high-voltage lines, upgrading existing ones and constructing up to five new substations across Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Calumet, Sheboygan and Manitowoc counties, according to ATC's initial proposal.

ATC initially hoped to complete the project in late 2027, just before the first phase of the data center campus comes online. Now, the company must start the process from square one, likely changing that timeline.

In a statement to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel after the ruling, ATC said it's "disappointed" with the commission's decision and is "considering its options."

"We recognize there is significant public interest in this project and appreciate the time people have taken to participate in the PSCW process and share their perspectives," the company said.

In public filings submitted the day before, ATC said revoking a completeness determination is unprecedented in the commission's 95-year history, including the three decades since establishing deadlines for project approval.

It's not unusual to see small changes and occasional late filings in project proceedings, Commissioner Chairperson Summer Strand said during the commission's Aug. 6 meeting, but since December, ATC has made around 564 amendments to its original application.

Among those amendments were route modifications, changes to the scope of the project, revised costs and new environmental studies, Strand said.

The "magnitude and volume of changes" created a "murky record," Strand said.

That prevents the agency from upholding its statutory responsibilities in assessing the proposal, which includes determining its economic and environmental impacts as well as whether it's in the public interest, Strand said.

Equally troublesome, she said, are the barriers those changes create to stakeholders' and the public's ability to understand the proposal.

"This application is nearly underwater, and this action revoking the completeness determination is akin to tossing it a life preserver," Strand said.

"We had limited options, and our hand was forced."

The commission has also asked over 480 questions to ATC, largely to clear up conflicting information and errors in its filings. Many remain unanswered, Strand said.

Since July, more than 1,700 people submitted comments to the commission weighing in on the transmission line proposal and its completeness.

This comment period was triggered by a July 29 petition from a group of citizens opposing the project - many of whom live along the proposed routes for transmission lines - called Responsible Energy Advocates. The petition asked the commission to rescind the December completeness determination.

Other groups supported rescindment, including the conservation group Restoring Lands.

"Hundreds of Wisconsinites told the PSC directly, and in no uncertain terms, that the ATC application is not complete and should not move forward as written," Patti Plough, a local pastor and co-leader of Responsible Energy Advocates, wrote in an Aug. 5 press release. "This is not background noise – it's a

See POWER LINES, Page 4A

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Power lines

Continued from Page 3A

direct answer to a direct question, and the PSC should treat it as such."

Consumer advocate Citizens Utility Board also criticized ATC's application, writing in an Aug. 5 public filing that "the shifting contours of the project and absence of important information in the record have made it harder for CUB and other intervenors to evaluate the project."

"The Commission must not let a data center developer's zeal for a faster interconnection subjugate the efficacy of Wisconsin's regulatory process."

Other groups submitted filings urging the commission to maintain the completeness determination, including We Energies and Oracle – two companies with big plans for data center and power plant construction.

In Oracle's Aug. 5 comment, the tech giant said the issues identified by commissioners can be hashed out within the existing procedural schedule.

"Extending the proceeding would add time and administrative burden while potentially affecting the timing of facilities" that would serve the Port Washington data center campus, Oracle said. "The facilities proposed in this proceeding remain necessary to serve that load."

Separately, Oracle is suing the Public Service Commission over financial restrictions meant to hold data center developers responsible for their immense energy needs.

During the Aug. 6 meeting, commissioners also identified a profound conflict between rigid regulatory standards and the speed at which companies behind the AI data center build-out seek to get new projects online.

"This application represents a cautionary tale of when unrealistic and unreasonable speed-to-power expectations collide with a deliberative regulatory process," Strand said.

But commissioners stressed that their vote is not a denial of the power line proposal itself.

"This PSC is not opposed or hostile to data centers, construction, generation, transmission," Strand said. "We absolutely recognize and appreciate how crucial generation and transmission infrastructure and construction are to the state of Wisconsin and to the region."

Just before the vote, Commissioner Marcus Hawkins said "a new application is really the only way to give the public and intervenors the process that they deserve."

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Prairie du Chien, Courier Press (1852-1922 & 2005-current)

PSC deals major blow to transmission project supporting data center

By Joe Schultz

State utility regulators have dealt a major setback to a more than $1 billion transmission project that would serve the hyperscale data center campus being built in Port Washington.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin unanimously voted on Thursday to revoke a "completeness" determination for American Transmission Co.'s application to build a major distribution and interconnection project.

That means American Transmission Co., or ATC, will have to submit a new application for the project. Regulators said the application had seen such extensive revisions that it was difficult for officials and the public to adequately review.

PSC chair Summer Strand said ATC filed or refiled 564 application documents after receiving a completeness determination late last year. She said the "magnitude and volume of changes to the application" resulted in what she called a "moving-target application."

That "created a situation where our staff cannot uphold their responsibilities, and this has created an impediment to their preparation of offered evidence," Strand said. "In addition, and equally troublesome, the magnitude and volume of changes have created a barrier to parties and the public's participation in this proceeding."

A rare move

It's a rare move for the utility regulator.

American Transmission Co. and a ratepayer watchdog both say it's the first time they've seen the PSC revoke a completeness determination in recent decades, if ever.

While the decision isn't a denial of the project itself, ATC needs to file a new application in a new proceeding with the agency, essentially restarting the process from the beginning.

"This is not a decision made lightly," Strand said. "I recognize the impacts this decision will have on construction timelines and in-service dates for the project. This is an unfortunate outcome."

In PSC filings, ATC had said the project is needed to provide electric service to a new data center under construction.

A spokesperson for Vantage Data Centers, one of the developers behind the Port Washington data center campus, said in a statement that the company respects the commission's role, but it is disappointed in the decision.

The spokesperson said Vantage will work with utilities, officials and the public to pursue "responsible development" of the transmission infrastructure needed to support the project.

"We will review the Commission's written order when available and evaluate the appropriate next steps," the statement read.

The cost of the Ozaukee County Distribution project was estimated to be between $1.3 billion and $1.7 billion, according to a revised application filed in July. It would have included new substations, new high-voltage transmission lines and upgrades to existing infrastructure.

The project's infrastructure would have spanned Ozaukee, Washington, Sheboygan, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Manitowoc counties. American Transmission Co. hoped to begin construction in December and complete the build-out by the end of 2027.

The PSC previously gave the utility's application a "completeness" determination in December 2025. But since then, the agency said ATC filed "a large number" of substantial changes to its application.

Last month, the agency's administrative law judge raised concerns about missing and changing information in the application.

The commission's vote closed the current case and eliminated the December 2026 deadline for regulators to rule on that application.

Considering options

In a statement, an ATC spokesperson said the company was disappointed in the PSC's decision and was "considering its options."

"We recognize there is significant public interest in this project and appreciate the time people have taken to participate in the PSCW process and share their perspectives," the statement read.

American Transmission Co. argued against revoking the completeness determination in filings with the PSC, saying it would be a first for the utility regulator.

"In its entire history, the Commission has never revoked a determination that a CPCN application is complete," attorneys for ATC wrote in a regulatory filing. "It should not do so for the first time here."

But the project faced a lot of pushback from locals and anti-data center activists. That includes comedian Charlie Berens, who submitted comments to the PSC critical of the utility's proposal.

"It's no longer clear to the public or public officials what their actual plans are," he wrote. "Allowing ATC's half-assed attempt at transparency would set a terrible precedent for Wisconsin."

All three PSC commissioners were critical of the volume of changes to ATC's proposal.

PSC Commissioner Marcus Hawkins said he believed a new application was the only way to give the public and intervening parties "the process that they deserve."

"We have strict timelines that are feasible only when we have a complete application," he said. "Given that it sounds like we are finding that we do not have that today, this seems to be the only option that allows our requirements to play out."

Source: WPR.org

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CITY OF PRAIRIE DU CHIEN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROPERTY ASSESSMENT SERVICES

The City of Prairie du Chien is requesting proposals from qualified assessment firms (hereafter referred to as "Assessor") to provide assessment services for the City of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin (hereafter referred to as "City") for assessment years 2027, 2028, and 2029, beginning no later than January 1, 2027. The assessment firm must be able to provide one qualified individual to act in the capacity of Statutory Assessor for the City of Prairie du Chien.

There is no expressed or implied obligation for the City of Prairie du Chien to reimburse responding firms for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this request.

Any inquiries concerning the request for proposals should be addressed to Chad Abram, City Administrator, City of Prairie du Chien, 214 East Blackhawk Avenue PO BOX 324, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 (608-326-6406).

To be considered, one (1) original and two (2) copies of a proposal must be received by Chad Abram, City Administrator, City of Prairie du Chien, 214 East Blackhawk Avenue PO BOX 324, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 by 4:00 p.m. local time on Friday, August 25, 2026. Late proposals will not be accepted. Clearly mark proposals "Assessment Services 2027-2029" on the lower left-hand corner of the envelope. The City of Prairie du Chien reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted.

August 12, WNAXLP

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Aug 14 2026 Page A005 Clip resized 43%

Palmyra Enterprise

WISCONSIN WATCH

Microsoft won't be held to contract terms

Microsoft-We Energies contract retains provision commission struck down

By Paul Kiefer
WISCONSIN WATCH

This story was produced and originally published by Wisconsin Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom.

Microsoft's new 15-year electric service contract for its Mount Pleasant data center includes a provision Wisconsin regulators previously rejected.

Signed last month, the agreement with We Energies specifies that power plants built or purchased to serve data centers must be located in eastern Wisconsin or Michigan's Upper Peninsula. But Wisconsin's Public Service Commission (PSC) voted in May to remove those geographic constraints, which critics argued would cut off Microsoft's access to abundant wind power generated elsewhere in the Midwest and Great Plains.

We Energies says it will follow the commission's order – as opposed to the contract's language – while it works with the commission to resolve the discrepancy. In the meantime, some observers question how an outdated version of a high-stakes contract made it this far.

Where should data centers look for power?

The mismatch traces back to one of many disagreements that arose during the PSC's deliberations on a new rate structure for large data center customers: Should those facilities rely on nearby plants alone or be free to tap energy sources elsewhere?

The PSC-approved rate structure allows large data center operators to "subscribe" to new power plants, picking up the bill for purchasing or constructing them in exchange for the right to use the electricity they generate and revenue from selling surplus electricity on the wholesale market.

We Energies argued that those plants should be located as close as possible to the data centers they would serve.

Longer distances would increase the risk of grid failures disrupting data center operations, WEC Energy Group Director of Planning Jody Arendt told the PSC in January. WEC Energy Group is We Energies' holding company.

The local power plants would be within the territory of the American Transmission Company (ATC), a transmission utility in which We Energies owns a majority stake – a relationship that could simplify coordinating repairs and upgrades, Arendt said.

Ratepayer advocates and clean energy groups criticized the plan, arguing it would limit data centers' access to wind energy.

Electricity generated by onshore wind farms is, by some measures, cheaper than electricity generated by new natural gas plants. The Midwest's regional grid operator has approved billions of dollars in grid upgrades over the past five years, in part to streamline transmitting wind energy from regions with high winds to population centers and industrial hubs.

We Energies fully or partially owns a half-dozen planned and operational wind farms in Wisconsin, including the new Badger Hollow wind farm in Iowa and Grant counties. But neighboring states – especially Iowa and Minnesota – have far higher average wind speeds and generate vastly more wind power.

"Any Wisconsin customers should be able to benefit from lower cost resources like the wind profile in southern Minnesota," Wisconsin Citizens Utility Board Executive Director Tom Content wrote in an email to Wisconsin Watch.

The PSC ultimately sided with CUB and clean energy groups, striking the location constraints from the data center rate structure it approved in May.



JOE TIMMERMAN/WISCONSIN WATCH *Southern Lakes Newspapers*

The sun sets as construction continues at Microsoft's data center project on Nov. 13, 2025, in Mount Pleasant.

"Over-indexing on a smaller geographic area comes with its own risks," said Commissioner Marcus Hawkins, adding that planned grid upgrades could resolve some of the challenges of powering data centers from afar.

Outdated contract

With the rate structure approved, We Energies sent Microsoft a contract to implement the new rate structure.

Microsoft asked the PSC in June to reopen the case, in part to address "multiple errors or inconsistencies" in We Energies' contract – including the provision limiting new power plants to eastern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula.

We Energies offered to drop the line, among other "ministerial changes that could streamline or improve" the contract.

After the PSC declined to reopen the case, Microsoft signed the contract as-is on July 16. A Microsoft spokesperson declined to comment on the contract.

Because the commission "did not reopen their decision or take up these changes," the utility still needs to work with the PSC to fix the contracts, We Energies spokesperson Brendan Conway wrote in an email. "We do not have a timeline for when the language will be updated."

"From a practical perspective," he added, Microsoft will be held to the PSC-approved rules, meaning it can subscribe to plants outside of eastern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula.

The companies are legally required to abide by the PSC's terms, commission spokesperson Meghan Sovey-Lashua wrote in an email.

"To the degree there are conflicts" with the PSC's order, Sovey-Lashua added, "there are procedural options" to bring the issue back to the commission for a resolution.

Ratepayer advocates, meanwhile, wonder why We Energies asked Microsoft to sign an outdated version of the contract in the first place.

"There's a basic and common-sense expectation that a utility's filing would be revised to reflect changes the PSC made to a proposal," Content wrote, "particularly for an issue that generated a fair amount of discussion during the seven-hour deliberation on this issue."

Microsoft has already signed up to purchase electricity from the planned Red Oak Ridge Energy Center in Kenosha County. We Energies is currently asking the PSC for permission to buy the natural gas plant from developer Invenergy for $1.8 billion while Invenergy awaits PSC approval to build the plant.

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Aug 21 2026 Page 004 Clip resized 41%

Wisconsin regulators send American Transmission Company back to the drawing board on data center connection project

by Paul Kiefer
Wisconsin Watch
https://wisconsinwatch.org

Wisconsin regulators voted Aug. 6 to send the American Transmission Company (ATC) back to the drawing board as the utility attempts to build the grid infrastructure needed to plug in the Port Washington data center.

Public Service Commission (PSC) Chair Summer Strand called the move a "reasonable reset" after ATC repeatedly adjusted the project's design, which commission staff and ratepayer advocates argued left both regulators and the public with a muddy picture of a grid expansion expected to cost well over $1 billion.

ATC and its partners, however, warned the decision — likely the first of its kind for the century-old commission — could set a dangerous precedent that drives away investment in Wisconsin's energy sector.

ATC, which owns and operates transmission lines in the eastern half of Wisconsin, is on the hook to connect the soon-to-open Port Washington data center to the electrical grid.

The company approached the PSC last September for permission to break ground on the project as early as this past May. Its initial application outlined a more than $1.3 billion infrastructure package, including a high-voltage transmission line and five new substations spread across Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Washington counties, needed to "reliably serve" the new data center by December 2027. After two months of back-and-forth over the "completeness" of ATC's application, the commission took up the proposal in December 2025.

ATC has since been vocal about the urgency of the infrastructure buildout needed to support the data center boom. The company is part of a coalition of utilities asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to speed up regional transmission projects needed to serve data centers by suspending competitive bidding, arguing that "bureaucratic red tape" presents a national security risk as the U.S. competes with China for "dominance" in the artificial intelligence race.

Meanwhile, the utility has repeatedly adjusted its plans since December, redesigning proposed routes and adding a set of temporary bypass lines needed to avoid outages during construction. The PSC is responsible for reviewing those changes and giving other parties, namely ratepayer advocates and affected landowners, an opportunity to weigh in.

Some commission staff sounded the alarm as the pile of revisions — and questions — grew.

"I don't recall any other comparable cases in my experience with as many application material document revisions and ongoing design changes throughout the process," PSC Environmental Affairs Coordinator Adam Ingwell wrote in testimony filed last month. "The sheer volume of documents and revisions, without adequate explanation, likely makes it more challenging than typical for a member of the public to find specific information about the project."

Those concerns reached Administrative Law Judge Michael Newmark, who criticized ATC for creating an "unreasonable burden" on commission staff and the public by scattering "a plethora of changes, modifications and updates" across six months of filings.

ATC, on the other hand, cast the revisions as "routine."

"Every application develops during review," the company's attorneys wrote on Wednesday. "Changes far larger and later than ATC's have never cast doubt" on whether an application should move forward, they added, citing a Barron County solar farm the PSC approved last March despite an "eleventh-hour" overhaul that included "relocating an entire substation."

"There is simply no principled basis on which to treat ATC's lesser and earlier changes more harshly," the attorneys wrote.

Ratepayer advocates generally avoid wading into fights over transmission line routes and substation siting, which Wisconsin Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Regulatory Affairs Director Corey Singletary described as a "zero-sum proposition" in which a victory for one group of landowners means shifting construction impacts onto another group of landowners.

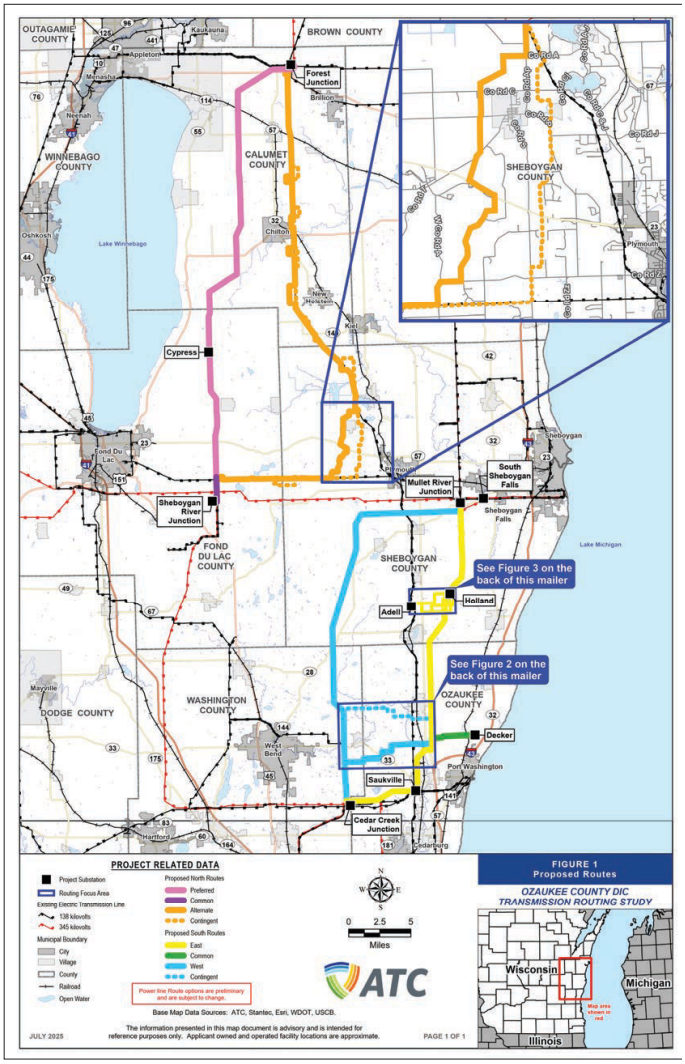
But CUB raised concerns that ATC's revisions make it difficult to forecast the project's cost.

The route changes and new bypasses make the price tag "a moving target," said CUB Executive Director Tom Content, as does the possibility that ATC still attempts to complete the project by December 2027. "Would they be paying double overtime or triple overtime to build it that quickly?"

The Wisconsin Utility Association itself weighed in on Wednesday to warn the PSC that any additional delays in the project will "lead to increased costs for customers."

Transmission utilities generally pass along the costs of new infrastructure to ratepayers of all kinds via their electrical bills; We Energies, for

See DATA CENTER/7



Public comment meetings originally scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, reported in the July 24 edition of The Review, for this proposed power line project were canceled after the Public Service Commission's decision. The map of the original proposed and alternate routes for the lines are shown above. Once the application is resubmitted, the routes may vary from what is shown here.



An aerial rendering of what the planned data center campus in Port Washington could look like. - Photo courtesy of City of Port Washington

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DATA CENTER from 4

instance, estimates that transmission-related costs account for about 10% of customers' bills.

The PSC can't require ATC to assign project costs to the companies developing the Port Washington data center. Only FERC, the five-person federal regulator that oversees interstate transmission, could overhaul billing rules to fully shield other customers from the costs of new lines and substations needed to serve data centers.

The commission offered an ad hoc solution this spring. The PSC's May order creating a new billing structure for We Energies' data center customers requires data center operators to pay a minimum transmission charge based on their projected electricity use. Wisconsin PSC Commissioner Kristi Nieto called the arrangement a "temporary stopgap measure" to protect other customers from the costs of overbuilt infrastructure if data centers use less electricity than anticipated.

ATC and We Energies have since asked the PSC and FERC to approve a minimum transmission charge agreement with Microsoft, the operator of the vast new data center in Mount Pleasant. "This is a customer protection mechanism that follows the 'cost causer, cost payer' methodology," an ATC spokesperson wrote in an email to Wisconsin Watch.

The utilities have not yet asked the commission to approve similar agreements with the companies developing the Port Washington facility: cloud computing giant Oracle, artificial intelligence firm OpenAI and data center developer Vantage.

In testimony filed last month, Singletary urged the commission to enforce "cost containment" measures for ATC's project, including requiring the utility to cap its annual revenues from the new transmission lines. He also suggested that the commission push ATC to disclose any bids it receives for "work to be performed and equipment to be procured as part of this project," which he argued would help keep an eye on the company's efforts to rein in costs.

All three commissioners aired matching frustrations during a hearing on ATC's infrastructure plans before concurring on what Commissioner Marcus Hawkins called the "least-bad option" — requiring ATC to resubmit its application and restarting the case's 180-day clock.

"There needs to be flexibility in the process," said Nieto, "but there also has to be some point at which the changes become significant enough that we need to evaluate whether we are still reviewing the same project that was originally proposed."

"This PSC is not opposed or hostile to data centers, construction, generation, (or) transmission," Strand said, calling the decision "an unfortunate outcome." Nevertheless, she added, "this application represents a cautionary tale of when unrealistic and unreasonable speed-to-power expectations collide with a deliberative regulatory process."

ATC has not indicated when it will resubmit its application as of Aug. 6, nor whether the December 2027 deadline is still within reach. "ATC is disappointed with today's Commission's decision and is considering its options," a company spokesperson wrote after the hearing.

But the company's final filing before the hearing signaled the possibility of a legal fight. "To date, the Commission has processed the application consistent with the law," the company's attorneys wrote. "At this stage," restarting the process "would be the one action to depart from that."



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Plymouth, The Review



Aug 21
2026
Page 002
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Town applauds public pushback on powerline project

Herbicide damage to soybeans reported

by Tomas Ward
Review Correspondent

LYNDON – A proposed American Transmission Company (ATC) project goes back to square one after its' docket with the Public Service Commission collected thousands of opposed comments. *(See detailed story on page 4)*

"The PSC ruled that they had an incomplete application," said supervisor Chris Kestell. Docket 137CE-221 had detailed a transmission line install and upgrade plan for multiple counties including new substations in Sherman and Lima in Sheboygan.

Additional line construction was indicated for Lyndon. However a protracted timeline and changes to the scope of work were challenged by people opposed to the plan. The PSC said that the company must create an entirely new docket should they choose to re-apply.

"There were over 2700 comments made," said Chair JoAnne Friedman. "That had a huge effect on the PSC and it was good to see that people cared enough to file on the docket."

ATC is still causing headaches though as supervisors grappled with how to be made whole after saying that the company did damage to a section of Blueberry Lane.

"The $2,440 estimate was for a patch job where their excavators dug into the road," Kestell said. Lyndon does not possess a video record for the road condition prior to ATC's recent operations, and supervisors discussed the feasibility of collecting from the company.

"Are they going to, out of the grace of their heart, write the town a check?" asked Supervisor Dave Eisentraut. Kestell replied that he has heard from a county transportation official that ATC is "easy to work with," based on a situation in the Town of Mitchell.

The board agreed to outlay the cost for repairs to a larger portion of Blueberry and send the company a bill for what is deemed to be their portion of repairs including a video of the present state of the damaged road.

Another road damage anomaly was presented during public works director Steve Stuebs' report to the board.

"I have to mention, it looks like I've done some herbicide damage to soybeans on two routes," Stuebs said. Kestell is one of the affected farmers. The parties agreed to wait until harvest time to assess the damage extent and determine compensation.

"The disappointing part is that I called an agronomist and this is what he sold me, [but] I guess it's toxic to soybeans" Stuebs said of the herbicide selected for controlling right-of-way weeds. "

Lyndon also held a working meeting on ATV/UTV use on public roads prior to the Supervisors' meeting. The board agreed at a previous meeting to draft an ordinance allowing access for the quad machines, and stakeholders came to the Kris Hughes Memorial Town Hall to contribute input.

"I'd like to suggest that Cedar Lane. not be part of the [allowed route] map," Jack Woodland told the board, speaking in public comment at the general meeting. "A lot of people walk dogs there. It's quiet, it's a historic road. It's also our only unpaved road," he said, adding that ATV tires do more damage to gravel roads compared to car and truck tires.

Supervisor Jennifer Wiskirchen is putting communication protocols with Lyndon's legal counsel on next month's agenda after a confusing situation involving several parties. "I've had reports of citations and things that are being referred to our attorney, and I'm not in the loop," she said. Friedman said that she was also partially in the dark about a citation that was dropped with little explanation, and supervisors will address the issue in September.

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Cedarburg, News Graphic



Aug 25
2026
Page A01
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‘We will be refiling’

Utility said the need to power data center has not changed

By Charley Hanney
channey@conleynet.com
262-283-6775

PORT WASHINGTON — Officials with American Transmission Company said Friday that the need to build new 345 kV transmission lines through Ozaukee and Washington counties to transport electricity to the Port Washington hyperscale AI data center has not changed.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin earlier this month voted to revoke the completeness determination of ATC’s application for the project, meaning the electric utility company will need to refile and start the entire review process all over again. The PSC noted in an Aug. 6 statement that its administrative law judge raised serious concerns about the missing and changing information submitted after the commission deemed ATC’s application complete in December 2025.

“The PSCW’s Aug. 6 open meeting discussion was not a denial of the project and the need for the project has not changed,” ATC told the News Graphic. "The commission has not issued its order yet, but we will be refiling the application."

The utility proposed between 96 and 123 miles of transmission lines to support the data center on the north side of Port Washington. It would run through six counties — including Ozaukee — and carry an energy load that would be one of the largest in Wisconsin, according to its application.

The PSC has received more than 2,500 public comments on the issue, with more than 100 of them coming within the last eight days. Many of which explicitly

See ATC, PAGE 6A

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Aug 25 2026 Page A06 Clip resized 43% From A01

Cedarburg, News Graphic

WISCONSIN NEWS TRACKER

ATC

From Page 1A

called for revocation of the December 2025 PSCW completeness determination outright.

Meanwhile, the Responsible Energy Alliance said it is redoubling its efforts to protect open lands across the Ozaukee and Washington counties.

The environmental group, which is comprised of residents, landowners and community members from the two counties, said it plans to formally organize itself as a not-for-profit entity, stating that it will stand against not only ATC's proposed south preferred and south preferred-contingent routes for the data center transmission lines, but against any proposed routing from ATC or another utility that "would carve new transmission corridors through pristine, undeveloped greenfield areas of Ozaukee and Washington counties, when viable alternatives exist along established utility corridors."

The citizen coalition noted that it seeks to ensure that ATC, We Energies and Vantage respect the state and federal laws protecting communities and urges them to find an alternative routing path or source.

"We understand that the data center needs power. But that is between ATC, We Energies and Vantage," said Pastor Patti Plough, a leader and charter member of REA. "This onus should not be on landowners in rural Wisconsin. Look, when you threaten to take private land for multibillion-dollar private companies that function for profit, with no or little regard for the destruction of private land, building a coalition of passionate people was easy. Our ranks are expanding and we will continue to fight."

Public comments filed with the Public Service Commission also address We Energies' electric rate hike and to continue to pour in. One resident called it "corporate greed" while another said they were "stunned." We Energies' transmission charge for delivering bulk electricity from power plants to distribution substations is approximately 10% of residents' bill, according to its website.

"We are sacrificing our clean water, our energy, and the quality of life of our people to be collateral damage in an 'AI race,' which for the most part is our own companies competing against each other," Brooke R. of Monroe commented. "We wake up to news of data centers being built in our backyards because our DNR and our local officials didn't think we needed to be part of that discussion. Data centers and rate hikes are symptoms of a bigger problem and a disrespect for the people."

Scott Symes of Port Washington called it disappointing how We Energies are "so slow to move to energy sources such as wind and solar, given the increasing electricity demands and the negative impact of additional natural gas power plants."

Racine's Keith Kohlman added that residential rate payers should not be forced to pay more to cover the demand from emerging data centers.

"The utility should raise their investment capital through private financing, not through regulatory manipulation of customers' rates," he said.

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Aug 26
2026
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‘We will be refiling’

Utility says the need to power Port Washington data center has not changed

By Charley Hanney
channey@conleynet.com

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Letters to the Editor

Candidates should pledge to limit power-line intrusions

To Ozaukee Press:

Wisconsin's next governor will help decide whether the farmland, woodlands and cultural and historical landscapes of Ozaukee County remain intact for the next generation — or whether they are sacrificed to make way for new, unnecessary transmission corridors.

As many readers know, American Transmission Company's proposal for a new 345 kV line through our county has already run into serious trouble, with the Public Service Commission recently revoking its determination that ATC's application was even complete.

But this fight is not over and is bigger than one application. It is about whether Wisconsin will honor its own law, which directs that new transmission infrastructure be routed along existing utility corridors whenever a reasonable alternative exists, rather than cutting new paths through greenfield land.

That is why the citizen coalition known as Responsible Energy Alliance has asked both candidates for governor, Tom Tiffany and David Crowley, to make a clear public commitment: as governor, they will not permit greenfield transmission routing in our county, or anywhere in Wisconsin, when viable alternatives along existing corridors are available.

This should not be a partisan issue. It is about protecting the Milwaukee River watershed, farmland, wetlands, rare and threatened species habitat and irreplaceable historic and cultural sites — the kind of places, once destroyed, that can never be restored.

It is also about respecting the families and communities that have stewarded this land for generations. We also feel that the use of eminent domain power to "take" private land for private end-users like the mega AI data center in Port Washington is unconstitutional under the Fifth Amendment.

We believe our next governor should stand on the side of Wisconsin residents, not on the side of routing convenience for utilities or their multi-billion dollar out-of-state corporate clients. We are asking both candidates to say so, publicly and unambiguously, before Election Day.

We encourage our neighbors to ask the same of both campaigns, and to make clear that protecting our greenfield areas is a priority at the ballot box.

Collins Whitfield
Fredonia
Responsible Energy Alliance

Letters to the Editor

Ozaukee Press welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Letters must include the name, telephone number and address of the writer. Only the name and a general address (community of residence) will be published. To submit a letter:

- Go to **ozaukeepress.com**, click on "op-ed" and "submit a letter."
- Or email your letter to **editor@ozaukeepress.com.**
- Mail or bring your letter to Ozaukee Press, 125 E. Main St., Port Washington, WI 53074.

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Milwaukee, The Daily Reporter

Aug 31
2026
Page 0003
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Microsoft, ratepayer advocates challenge ATC plan for data center transmission costs

Paul Kiefer
Wisconsin Watch

Microsoft and Wisconsin ratepayer advocates are asking federal regulators to hit the brakes on a proposal to allocate the costs of transmission infrastructure built to serve data centers.

Both argue that We Energies and the American Transmission Company's (ATC) recent proposal to federal regulators fails to adequately protect Wisconsinites from picking up the construction bill, among other concerns.

The utilities' plan — setting a minimum transmission charge for Microsoft based on its Mount Pleasant data center's anticipated electricity needs — mirrors elements of a strategy approved by Wisconsin's Public Service Commission (PSC) earlier this year.

We Energies and ATC argue the minimum charge will help prevent their other customers from paying for overbuilt infrastructure if the facility uses less electricity than anticipated.

Microsoft and ratepayer advocates, however, argue that the proposal falls short on protecting Wisconsinites from cost shifts and that the two closely related utilities left little room for input from those most affected.



The sun sets during construction of Microsoft's data center in Mount Pleasant in November 2025. *(Joe Timmerman/Wisconsin Watch)*

Who pays for data center transmission upgrades?

ATC anticipates spending more than $500 million to upgrade the Mount Pleasant facility's connection to the electrical grid. The utility passes infrastructure costs to customers of all kinds through their electrical bills; We Energies, for instance, estimates that transmission-related costs account for about 10% of customers' bills.

The PSC can't require ATC to bill data center developers for the full cost of infrastructure built to serve them. Only the five-member Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which oversees interstate transmission, could overhaul billing rules to fully shield other customers from the costs of new lines and substations for data centers.

The PSC signed off on a work-around this spring, requiring We Energies to set a minimum transmission charge for its large data center customers based on their projected electricity use — the same projections used to plan transmission upgrades.

ATC and We Energies asked FERC earlier this month to approve a one-off transmission billing plan for Microsoft's Mount Pleasant data center. The arrangement would require We Energies to pay ATC for the data center's projected transmission capacity and pass that cost to Microsoft. The 15-year arrangement would take effect once ATC completes the infrastructure needed to serve the facility.

"This is a customer protection mechanism that follows the 'cost causer, cost payer' methodology," an ATC spokesperson wrote in an email to Wisconsin Watch.

Microsoft says proposal leaves gaps

The utilities didn't consult with Microsoft before filing their plan with federal regulators.

"The entire purpose of these agreements, by ATC's own description," is to serve the Mount Pleasant data center, Microsoft's attorneys wrote in a protest to FERC on Friday. Moving ahead without Microsoft's input, they added, would risk "the timely interconnection and operation of this infrastructure."

In their view, the utilities' current proposal contains "systemic" flaws.

Some, they argue, pose risks to Microsoft's finances, including an early termination fee that could force the company to pay "excessively more" than the remaining value of the transmission infrastructure if it backs out of the agreement before the 15-year mark.

Both Microsoft and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) argue other elements of the proposal pose risks to ATC's other ratepayers, including those outside of We Energies' territory.

In a separate protest filed Friday, CUB regulatory affairs director Corey Singletary noted that the proposal would base minimum transmission charges on ATC's standard interconnection rates.

"The electric demands and associated supporting infrastructure investments are so large relative to traditional loads and investments" that ATC will almost certainly undershoot the actual cost of data centers' transmission needs, Singletary wrote.

"While ATC's proposal would likely be an improvement over the status quo," he added, it still falls short of shielding the utility's other customers from data-center-driven transmission costs.

Microsoft's attorneys echoed those concerns, emphasizing that Microsoft signed the White House's Ratepayer Protection Pledge this spring: a commitment to "pay for all new power delivery infrastructure upgrades required to service (its) data centers" and "ensure that these expenses are not passed on to the ordinary household."

Microsoft urges more scrutiny

We Energies' parent company, WEC Energy Group, is ATC's largest shareholder.

"A negotiated bilateral contract between them — especially one involving such large sums — should be further scrutinized," Microsoft's attorneys wrote.

Microsoft also pointed out that the proposal wouldn't require the utilities to seek their company's input before amending some terms of the contract, nor would it "create a clear path for Microsoft (or anyone else) to inquire and scrutinize the scope or prudence of expenditures made on its behalf."

Microsoft's attorneys called that opacity "a recipe for future misunderstanding and litigation."

Microsoft is asking FERC to send the entire proposal to a settlement judge, creating a venue for all parties to work through their concerns. As an alternative, the company's attorneys suggested that the commission reject the utilities' proposal outright. CUB, meanwhile, urged the commission to create a uniform transmission cost allocation process for all large data centers in ATC's territory — including those in Port Washington and Beaver Dam.

ATC has yet to file a response to the complaints.

"ATC is reviewing Microsoft's filing and will respond through the established FERC process to demonstrate that existing customers are fully protected by the agreements," a spokesperson wrote in an email on Tuesday. "We remain committed to cost transparency and protection of existing customers while ensuring reliable transmission service."

THE DAILY REPORTER

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Eagle River, Three Lakes News



Testing the atmospheric limits

Severe storms cause widespread damage across North; tornado strikes Fox Valley

BY MICHELLE DREW
EDITOR

The severe thunderstorm that passed through the area the morning of July 27 "tested the limits" of the atmosphere, leaving behind significant debris and tree damage due to the high winds.

At about 8:30 a.m., skies abruptly turned dark as night, winds picked up, and quarter-sized hail fell from the sky.

Some communities to the south of here reported 4-inch baseball-sized hail, while the Fox Valley was hit hard by a rare EF-3 tornado.

Geoff Weller, Newswatch 12's head meteorologist, shared his knowledge of how a storm of this magnitude developed.

"Monday's severe weather certainly tested the limits of what the atmosphere is capable of in July in Wisconsin," he said.

Weller explained that through much of Sunday, July 26, into Monday, an atmospheric cap was in place over northern Wisconsin, the U.P. of Michigan, and back into Minnesota.

"In a normal atmosphere, the atmosphere gets colder as you go up in height. Heat likes to rise through cold air, but when a cap is in place, a layer of air above the surface is warmer than the air below it. This shuts down the rising air needed for thunderstorms and effectively prohibits a thunderstorm from developing. Many forecasted severe weather events have busted because the cap held and thunderstorms never developed," Weller said.

"As meteorologists, Sunday night into Monday we were waiting on pins and needles for the cap to break. It just takes one developing thunderstorm with a strong updraft to break the cap. When it goes, it tends to go explosively."



Reports of extremely large hail like the one shown here came in from the Crandon area. Locally the hail was much smaller, closer to quarter-sized. —Photo Courtesy of WJFW Newswatch 12

That was the case in northern Wisconsin, and although Weller expected the cap to bust Sunday night, it didn't actually happen until Monday morning.

"All the elements for severe thunderstorms to develop were in place. We had energy dropping down from Canada over Lake Superior," he said. "Intense changes in wind direction with height and a very buoyant (unstable) atmosphere. When the initial thunderstorm broke the cap, it quickly rose to over 50,000 feet into the atmosphere just over the U.P. border. This thunderstorm gradually drifted into eastern Vilas, Forest and Florence counties before turning almost directly south into eastern Oneida and Langlade counties."

What resulted was a high-altitude thunderstorm that quickly turned day into night by blocking out the sun.

"Initially, this thunderstorm produced large hail and damaging wind gusts as it developed over Star Lake back to Eagle River," Weller said. "Numerous trees came down in this area along with reports of quarter-size hail."

The storm increased in coverage and intensity as it moved toward Crandon, where golf ball- to baseball-sized hail reports started flooding into WJFW's station from Crandon, over to Wabeno and down to

To STORM Pg. 7

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From A001

Storm

FROM PAGE 1



Multiple trees were down on Illinois Road in Eagle River just after the storm. Emergency crews were able to trim them back to make the road passable in short order and returned the following day to do a more comprehensive clean-up. —Staff Photo By MICHELLE DREW

Wittenburg as the storm traveled south at a speed of about 35-40 mph.

"At some point, as the storm was about to move into Crandon, I measured, using radar, 96 mph winds about 5,000 feet above the surface, knowing that if that wind energy was transferred down to the surface it would be devastating in this heavily forested part of the state," Weller said.

The storm was still growing as it got east of Antigo, with more reports of baseball- to softball-sized hail coming in "left and right," he said.

"We have computers that can estimate how big the hail is within the storm. They were giving us measurements around 3 inches," Weller said. "To actually start getting viewer photos and trained spotter reports of 4-inch hail gave us pause. It's just so rare. Hail needs strong updrafts in the thunderstorm to grow. The forces it takes to suspend a baseball- to softball-sized piece of ice are incredible."

Rare EF-3 tornado hits Green Bay area

Weller said that soon after those reports, the most intense part of the thunderstorm left our viewing area into the Green Bay market.

"They had a monster on their hands. The thunderstorm continued to grow as it approached Appleton," Weller said. "There, a rare (Wisconsin has seen three this year) EF-3 tornado was produced. This tornado was almost 1,500 yards wide and traveled 12.1 miles through a densely populated area before dissipating over Lake Winnebago."

He explained that EF-3 tornadoes have wind speeds of 136 to 165 mph; similar to a Category 4 hurricane. EF status is determined by the damage, and there is a chance this tornado could be upgraded to EF-4 as the National Weather Service continues its surveying of the area.

That damage prompted Gov. Tony Evers issued a state of emergency July 28 for communities in eastern Wisconsin still reeling from the destruction. He also activated the Wisconsin National Guard to support Winnebago County's ongoing recovery response.

Weller said that for the Northwoods, EF-3 tornadoes are exceptionally rare.

"I can think of two. The fall of 1971 produced one from near Antigo to White Lake," he said. "To this day, you can still see the scar on the Earth from this tornado on visible satellite pictures. The other one was the summer of 1985 with a general track from Park Falls to the Rhinelander area."

Weller expects this thunderstorm will be remembered for its explosive development turning day into night, damaging wind gusts, and long duration.

Localized damage

With such high winds, many communities saw multiple trees come down, causing power outages and some property damage.

In Eagle River, city Administrator Robin Ginner said Silver Lake Road near the beach bore the most significant damage to infrastructure with five electrical poles either snapped or damaged, and a large tree down near Hirzel Road.

A large spruce tree also snapped at Riverview Park, falling onto the roof of the bathroom facility and damaging several fencing panels at the pickleball courts. The golf course also saw some significant tree damage.

Mike Sanborn, director of Eagle River Light and Water Utility, said the utility started getting reports of power outages by about 8:50 a.m., clocking 322 customers out of power when the storm ended, which included both residential and commercial.

"A big portion were out south of the river between the river and Wall Street, from Maple/Walnut and Ninth Street to Willow Street," Sanborn said. "Mckinley Boulevard was also out, and Sherburn and Michigan streets also had outages."

Light and Water was able to restore power to approximately half of its customers before the decision to call in mutual aid was made. Crews came from New London, Clintonville, Medford, Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids. Crews worked until about 1:30 a.m. to restore power where they could.

Sanborn thanked Brad Adamovich at Public Works and the street department for their assistance.

Three Lakes Public Works Superintendent Josh Paetow said the north half of the town had damage, with some areas hit harder than others. Crews and residents turned out in force to help mitigate the damage and blocked roadways.

"Our hardest hit areas are the Clearwater area and Wheeler Island, with most centralized damage being Meta Lake Road, Green Bass Road, Braeger Road, Wheeler Island Road, and Bonkowski Road," Paetow said. "Our crews were out opening roads up just after the storm had passed about 9:30 a.m. Monday morning. As of late afternoon on Monday, all roads were passable (maybe one lane) with the exception of a few roads that had power lines in the trees. We also had many residents cutting trees off the roads where they live."

He indicated that Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) also called in many crews, including subcontractors, to restore power in the many affected areas.

Paetow was pleased with the efforts of all involved in the clean-up. "I'd like to personally thank our town crew, police department, fire department, WPS, and many residents for their assistance in the clean-up efforts and dealing with the downed power lines," he said.

According to WPS's communications director Matthew Cullen, WPS crews restored power to more than 20,000 customers affected by the storms across northeast and north-central Wisconsin.

"The storms caused more than 150 power outages for WPS customers across the Northwoods, with Vilas and Oneida counties among the areas most affected by the damage," Cullen said. "Our crews, as well as extra contract lineworkers, encountered significant damage, including broken utility poles, downed wires and trees and branches that fell onto our equipment. All available staff worked around the clock to make repairs and restore power to our customers."

WPS finished restoring power to all affected customers in the evening on July 28.

The School District of Phelps
Daycare is looking for a
Full-time Teacher Assistant
Position begins ASAP

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Aug 12
2026
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PUBLIC SAFETY — Eagle River's National Night Out offers up a chance each August for community members to get to know their public safety agencies, with live demonstrations by many county-wide groups including Vilas County Public Health, Vilas County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Forest Service, Eagle River Area Fire Department, Eagle River Light and Water, Aspirus, DNR and others. Eagle River Police Department also cooked up free brats and chips for guests.

Above: Attendees explore the interior of the Aspirus MedEvac helicopter.

Right: Eagle River Light and Water staff demonstrates how electricity works.

Bottom right: Vilas County Sheriff's Deputy Zach Stern and K-9 unit Helo were popular stops during the event.

Bottom left: A little girl gazes in awe at all the lifesaving equipment that is encapsulated in the Aspirus MedEvac helicopter.

Below: The DNR's Forestry Department brought along trucks and equipment to give hands-on demonstrations.

—Staff Photos By MICHELLE DREW









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Eagle River to face electric rate increase

City extends contract with supplier to 2073

By Fred Williston
SPECIAL TO THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Eagle River city council, during its Aug. 18 meeting, was informed city users will likely face an increase in electric rates beginning in January, pending the outcome of a public hearing and deliberations among the council.



SHARYN UMAÑA/LAKELAND TIMES

AGING DEER

Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist Curt Rollman uses a collection of deer jaws to demonstrate how biologists determine the age of white-tailed deer during his presentation of "Deer Behavior – A Look at a Northwoods Icon" at the Walk on the Wild Side program on Saturday, Aug. 22, at Minocqua Winter Park.

Mike Sanborn, Eagle River light and water department director, explained the need for a rate-hike to the council.

"The light and water commission approved ... moving forward with submitting to the PSC (Public Service Corporation) for an electric rate increase," he said. "The last rate increase we had was going on three years ago. In part of the public service commission's letter — going along with that last rate increase — they said that we had to go through another rate increase within three years, so we're going to fall under that.

"We're looking at a 1.75 percent overall increase. That equates for the average homeowner, who uses 503 kilowatt hours, they'll see about a 93-cent increase on their monthly bill. And for the average commercial customer using 1370 kilowatt hours, they'll see about a $2.47 increase on the monthly bill.

"The process is that PSC is going to review it. Then there will be a public hearing on it, to allow the public who have any issues with it to voice their opinions. We're looking at implantation after the first of the year."

No date has been set yet for the public hearing.

During the same meeting, the council approved an extension of the city's contract with Wisconsin Public Power Incorporated (WPPI), the supplier from which Eagle River purchases its electricity.

Sanborn explained WPPI was established in 1981.

"In 1989, the 35-year agreements were set up with all of the 51 municipal utility members," he said. "In 2002, they extended the contracts by 13 years. In 2015, they extended it again to another 40 years. Now, they're looking to extend it another 18 years to 2073."

Sanborn then read from a letter authored by the power supplier.

"WPPI's revenues under the long-term contracts have been pledged to secure bonds issued to finance ownership of generating units and transmission assets," he said while reading the letter. "In addition, WPPI routinely seeks ever-longer contractual arrangements to allow WPPI to continually reliably serve members and stay at low and competitive rates. Without extension of the long-term contracts, WPPI would be restricted in its ability to finance and acquire generating and transmission assets. It will seek to meet its power-supply obligations for members through contracts with increasingly shorter-term purchases. Such short-term purchases would be a greater cost variability.

"In essence, a lot of these assets that they're looking at for long-term power supply, they take out 30-year bonds on them. And because we just dropped below that — we currently have about 29 years left in our contracts, as do all the other 50 municipal utilities that are members — they cannot take out bonds for 30 years, so that's the main reason why they're looking at extending the contract."

Sanborn told the council he had consulted with the city's attorney on the matter.

"Steve Garbowicz is in full support of this extension," he said. "The light and water commission has already passed a resolution saying they are for the extension.

"What would be next is approval by the city council. And then Steve Garbowicz would have to put together a letter of opinion after you guys make the approval. Then we send out paperwork to WPPI."

Sanborn explained the letter of opinion from Garbowicz is a formality to verify "the process was done correctly".

The council then voted unanimously to extend the city's contract with WPPI for the additional 18 years.

EAGLE RIVER FLEA

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FLORENCE UTILITIES

A WPPI ENERGY COMMUNITY

ENERGY NEWS – AUGUST 2026

DIGGERS HOTLINE – DIAL 811

Do not forget – if you plan to disturb the soil in any way, call 811 three working days prior to the start date of your project to have your utility lines marked for free. Please note that Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are NOT working days. Contact Florence Utilities at 715-528-3330 if you are unsure about whether you should call 811.

BUDGET BILLING

It is not too late to consider enrolling in the budget plan for payment of your utility services. The budget billing program is a free service offered to all residential customers. The program is designed to help you avoid unpredictable utility bills and make balancing your budget a little easier. Your monthly budget amount is based on the average of your actual bill charges during the previous 12 months. Any expected increases in the cost of electric and/or natural gas are also calculated into the monthly payment when you enroll in the program. We continue to read your meter every month and your utility bill will show how much energy you used, the actual bill amount and the balance on your account. Some months you will pay less for what you actually used - some months you will pay more. Our budget year runs from September through August. If you would like more information, or are interested in budget billing, please call our office at 715-528-3330.

PIPELINE 101

Pipelines are located in many states, including Wisconsin, and it is possible you may live near or drive past one every day. Pipelines are commonly buried underground but they are identified by aboveground markers (signs, placards or stakes) to provide notification of their presence, approximate location, and product carried with the name and contact information of the company that operates the pipeline. THE PRESENCE OF THESE MARKERS DOES NOT REMOVE THE NEED TO CALL 811 PRIOR TO EXCAVATION! The markers provide an approximate location of where a pipeline might be, and must be verified through a call to 811. The primary function of these above-ground markers is to identify the location of the pipeline to help the public understand the placement of pipelines and prevent excavation damage accidents. Pipelines are generally buried 3 to 4 feet underground or deeper. Some cases require the pipelines to be buried much deeper to go under rivers or roads. The pipeline lies within an area called the pipeline right-of-way or corridor, which is kept clear of trees and other vegetation, buildings or other structures. Other functions of the above ground signs and markers include identification of the pipeline for routine patrols. Pipeline corridors are inspected regularly as a safety tool to ensure that activities that might damage the underground pipe are noticed and can be assessed immediately.

If you are witness to activity on the pipeline right-of-way or corridor that may cause damage to the pipeline, contact Florence Utilities at 715-528-3330.

UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

Once again, we want to stress the importance of updated customer information. If the need should arise to contact you due to a utility related emergency on your property, it is crucial for us to have current contact information available. Please call us at 715-528-3330, or email florenceutilitieswi@florenceutilitieswi.gov to provide a current telephone number. (Florence Utilities does not disclose personal information to third parties.)

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DAILY PRESS

Gladstone Commission opens 29th to ORVs, seeks to sell land, extends energy contract

August 4, 2026

GLADSTONE — During its last regular meeting, the Gladstone City Commission extended a contract with WPPI Energy, hired a realtor to sell city-owned property in another township and removed a street near Cameron Elementary from the list of places prohibited to off-road vehicles (ORVs).

The City of Gladstone is a member of WPPI Energy, which supplies electricity to 51 communities in Wisconsin, Iowa and Upper Michigan. Brett Niemi from WPPI explained that in order to carry out projects, the time in the contract needs to extend beyond a project's duration.

The existing power supply contract was for 29 years. 18 years was added, bringing the contract's conclusion from 2055 to 2073.

"WPPI typically needs a minimum of 30 years of obligation from its member utilities to finance future power supply projects," read a staff report from the electric department. "This (extension) will provide the long-term commitment needed for WPPI to continue meeting the City's power needs."

Niemi said that it's better to do an 18-year addition than a smaller amount because of how time-consuming reworking contracts for all members is. WPPI recently made similar agreements recently with L'Anse, Baraga, and Negaunee, he reported.

Another item of business involved a property in Escanaba Township that the city owns; in the past it was used for gravel production, but Gladstone no longer has a use for the property and is seeking to sell it.

The property, two combined parcels, is 29.05 acres, is zoned industrial, and "is mostly wooded with nearly 1000 feet of frontage along the Escanaba River," stated the city's request for proposals from real estate brokers.

The only bid received was from Key Realty Delta County LLC. Jamie Beaver, who grew up in West Gladstone, and Lucas Gestwicki will represent the City of Gladstone and work to

market the property to potential buyers. They recommended that the list price should be between $230,000 and $240,000.

The commission authorized the city manager to sign a one-year contract with Key Realty to market and sell the now-unused land.

A topic that came up at previous meetings and was addressed again was the issue of ORVs crossing through the grounds of Cameron Elementary School, which is believed to happen because the road nearby -- 29th Street from the 600 to 900 block -- was off-limits to ORVs. Though the commission had thought earlier that an ordinance change was required, a subcommittee learned that a simple amendment could easily strike that street from the list of prohibited routes.

"We are going to wait about a year and assess the efficacy of the Escanaba golf cart ordinance as guidance on how to proceed with that piece," read the report from subcommittee members Whitney Maloney and Steve O'Driscoll.

One resident who lives on M-35 spoke during public comment to ask whether the city would address the illegal operation of ORVs on the highway. He was interested in attending subcommittee meetings on the subject when they happen.

In other business at the July 27 meeting of the Gladstone City Commission, a change order was approved for the wastewater collection system improvements, bringing the total cost from $5,129,901 to $5,154,662. The increase of about $24,760 is 7.3% of the contingency built into the budget. The reason for the higher cost was reported as being more heavy cleaning and sewer lining than anticipated.

West Bend, Daily News



Aug 01
2026
Page A01
Clip resized 33%

Hartford extends energy agreement

City expects to allow access to future developments within utility industry

By Andrew Abler
aabler@conleynet.com
262-306-5076

HARTFORD — The Hartford Common Council has approved an amendment to the city's agreement with WPPI Energy, a not-for-profit, regional joint-action agency that provides wholesale power and utility resources.

City Utility Director Brian Rhodes said Hartford Utilities represents one of 51 locally owned, public power electric utilities across Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, and Iowa represented by WPPI. The organization operates as a "joint action agency," meaning it allows these 51 smaller utilities to pool their resources, share costs on modern technologies, and invest in joint power generation and transmission.

This cooperative model gives local municipalities the bargaining power and economies of scale needed to secure diverse, affordable, and responsible electricity. Together, these community-owned utilities purchase their power from WPPI to supply reliable and affordable energy to over 200,000 homes and businesses.

The amendment approved Tuesday extends its contract with the service through December 2073. The agreement's previous end date was set for 2055, but WPPI has presented plans and projects that would provide additional benefits to its partners which are expected extend past the original end date. This extension allows for the city to benefit from WPPI's ongoing improvement endeavors. According to Rhodes, this agreement will result in lower wholesale costs for the city.

"This isn't anything new for us; we have extended the contract multiple times since WPPI was formed in 1980," said Rhodes. "WPPI continues to be one of Hartford Electric's biggest assets; our electric rates have remained consistently competitive and for many years now have been significantly lower than our neighboring utilities. I believe extending this agreement is the best long-term commitment for Hartford."

Alderman Joe Kohler expressed support for WPPI and its continued partnership with the city at the meeting, expressing appreciation for its versatility and service so far.

"WPPI has multiple methods to generate and provide electricity, not just one, so it gives us different options," said Kohler. "If you look at the competition out there, WPPI has served us well. They're a good company, and I see no problem with extending."

Alderman Tom Pechacek shared Kohler's sentiment, emphasizing the positive relationship it has maintained with the city as well as the benefits the partnership has brought.

"I had the opportunity to go to (WPPI's) facility with Brian (Rhodes) and it was really wonderful; solid company, solid leadership and really good rates," said Pechacek. "I'm very comfortable going this far out because they've demonstrated their diligence and commitment to getting the best rates possible for Hartford."

Following the brief explanation of the item, the amendment was approved unanimously.

E-bike code approved

Other business undertaken at the meeting included the final approval and adoption of a city ordinance regarding updates to language within the city's municipal code regarding the operation of e-bikes and other recreational vehicles at a recent meeting.

See **HARTFORD**, PAGE 5A

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Hartford

From Page 1A

According to attorney Ian Prust, these changes are very similar to ones being seen not only in other Washington County municipalities but in communities across the state as e-bike usage and similar vehicles continue to increase in popularity. Municipalities are increasingly adopting e-bike ordinances due to a rapid surge in usage, a spike in safety complaints and widespread confusion over what constitutes a legal electric bicycle. To manage these issues and keep public spaces safe, municipalities are adopting new state regulations into their own municipal codes.

According to Prust, most of the updates to the city's Municipal Code included clarifications and additions of language pertaining to the vehicles themselves.

Wisconsin, electric bicycles are classified into one of three categories, based on the capabilities of the vehicle. According to state statutes, these classifications include:

■ **Class 1 Electric Bicycle** — A bicycle equipped with an electric motor of 750 watts or less that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 mph.

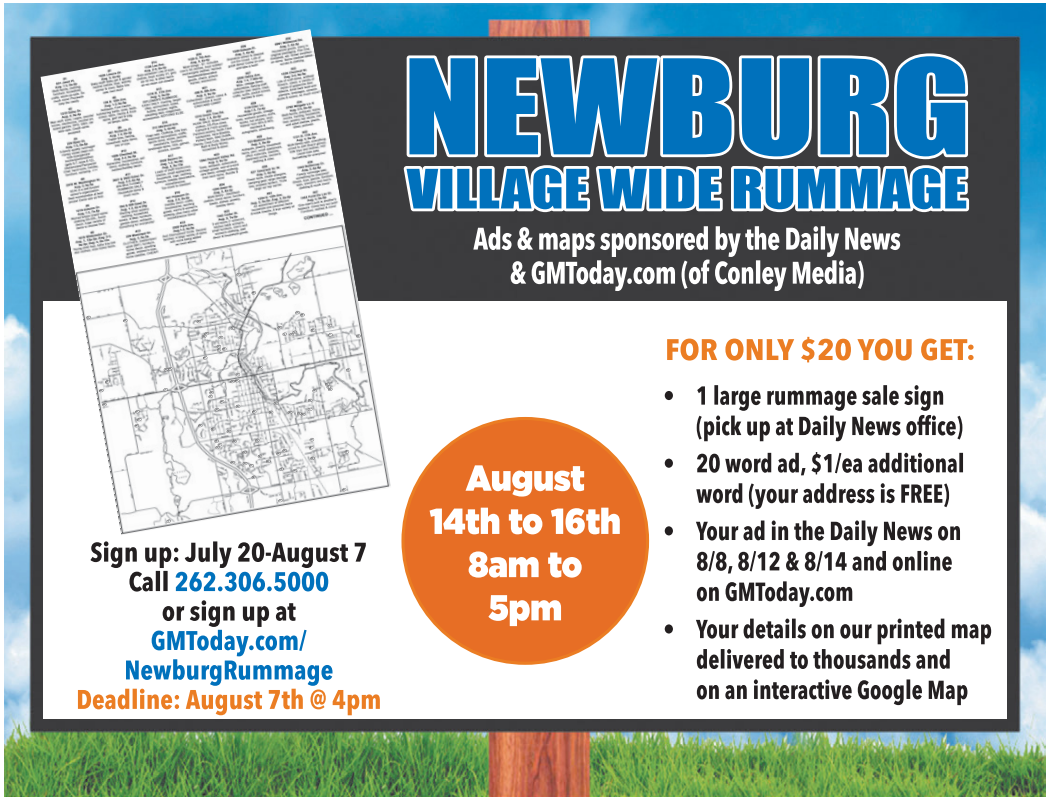
■ **Class 2 Electric Bicycle** — A bicycle equipped with an electric motor of 750 watts or less that may be used to propel the bicycle without pedaling but does not assist when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 mph.

■ **Class 3 Electric Bicycle** — A bicycle equipped with an electric motor of 750 watts or less that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 mph.

The largest issue with the use of these vehicles has been their operation on sidewalks. While operating the vehicles on sidewalks downtown is prohibited for the safety of pedestrians in the busiest walkways in the city, use on other sidewalks will be allowed provided the cyclists yield to pedestrians when needed.

Ordinances require two approvals to formally pass and be implemented, and the first approval previously occurred. Following a brief re-introduction of this item, it was given its second approval unanimously.

The next meeting of the Hartford Common Council is scheduled to be held on Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Hartford City Hall, 109 N. Main St.



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Photo courtesy of the City of Hartford

Laborers work to clean up the damages caused by a tornado that blew through Menasha on July 27.

Hartford Utilities sends crew to Menasha to assist with tornado relief efforts

HARTFORD — Following last week's tornado in Menasha, Hartford Electric has responded with mutual aid to support Menasha Utilities as they work through extensive storm damage.

According to the formal emergency declaration from Menasha, the city was struck by severe weather just before 12:30 p.m. on July 27. A substantial amount of damage and destruction was brought upon by the tornado and the high-speed winds and other severe conditions the storm caused, including downed power lines, extensive collections of debris and more. These conditions prompted the Hartford Utilities as well as groups from other communities to offer their assistance.

The Hartford Utilities crew comprised of Dan Meier, Matt Breuer, and Curt Kreilkamp have all traveled to assist with power restoration and will remain on site for several days. The utility has expressed great pride in their ability to extend a helping hand to a community in need.

"(The team's) support strengthens Menasha's recovery efforts and helps ensure residents regain service as quickly as possible," said the utility in a recent statement. "We're grateful for the opportunity to support another public power community in a time of need."

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Aug 20 2026 Page A05 Clip resized 62%

West Bend, Daily News

WISCONSIN NEWS TRACKER

Hartford Electric extends power supply contract with WPPI Energy

HARTFORD — Hartford Electric extended its Long-term Power Supply Contract with WPPI Energy through 2073, which will help WPPI keep power costs low to provide greater rate stability for the city and other utility members.

"WPPI has been a great partner for Hartford Electric since 1980. Being part of WPPI gives us access to a diverse and cost-effective power supply that we could not secure on our own," said a social media post from Hartford. "That partnership is a major reason Hartford has been able to maintain competitive electric rates over the years."

According to the city, by extending their partnership with WPPI Energy through 2073, it gives WPPI the ability to "continue planning and investing in long-term generation and transmission resources" that will help the company keep power costs competitive going forward.

"We're happy to continue the partnership and look forward to the benefits it will provide Hartford Electric and our customers for many years to come," said the post.



Photo courtesy of Hartford

WPPI President and CEO Mike Peters, left, and Hartford Director of Utilities Brian Rhodes with Hartford Electric's recently signed contract to extend it's long-term power supply with WPPI Energy through 2073.

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Independence Bulletin-Journal
Publication Date: 08/12/2026 Page Number: 001



Title: STORM SURGE
Author: BY AILIS MCCARDLE EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM
Size : 97 Inches Sq Independence,IA Circulation: 2029
Keywords: Independence Light & Power, Telecommunications

STORM SURGE

Downed trees, power outages, and more

BY AILIS MCCARDLE
EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

Buchanan County was left reeling after a wave of severe thunderstorms and even a tornado came through Friday night.

The EF-2 tornado touched down just southeast of Fairbank, leaving a swathe of damage in its wake. Downed trees, fallen power lines, and damage to homes, garages, barns, and field crops were observed by the Bulletin Journal all across the county.

Thousands of county residents were also left without electricity, with Independence Light and Power handling the vast majority of in-town outages by Tuesday afternoon.

The city of Independence released a statement on social media following the storms.

"A major storm rolled through Independence this afternoon, and our teams have been working tirelessly to clear debris and ensure everyone's safety.

We want to extend a sincere thank you to our Streets, City of Independence Iowa, Police Department, and City of Independence Iowa, Fire Department, along with all other city crews out on the ground, for their rapid response and hard work," the statement read.

Residents who received even mild damage are encouraged to reach out to Buchanan County Emergency Management to report.

"We want to make sure all affected residents and properties are accounted for and appropriate resources are available. If you have storm damage, please reach out and report it—even if the damage seems minor. Your information is important and helps us assess the impact of the storm in our county," Emergency Management said in a statement following the storms.

Independence Bulletin-Journal
Publication Date: 08/12/2026 Page Number: 001

Title: STORM SURGE

Author: BY AILIS MCCARDLE EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

Size : 97 Inches Sq Independence,IA Circulation: 2029
Keywords: Independence Light & Power, Telecommunications



A large tree down in the street on the southeast side of Independence following Friday evening's intense storms.

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Publication Date: 08/12/2026 Page Number: 001

Title: STORM SURGE

Author: BY AILIS MCCARDLE EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

Size : 97 Inches Sq Independence,IA Circulation: 2029
Keywords: Independence Light & Power, Telecommunications



AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

Fallen tree branches at First Ward Park in Independence after storms on Friday.

Independence Bulletin-Journal
Publication Date: 08/12/2026 Page Number: 001

Title: STORM SURGE

Author: BY AILIS MCCARDLE EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

Size : 97 Inches Sq Independence,IA Circulation: 2029
Keywords: Independence Light & Power, Telecommunications



BETH FARLOW-MESSENGER/PHOTO

A tree fallen on a home on the northeast side of Independence following Friday's storms.

Independence Bulletin-Journal
Publication Date: 08/22/2026 Page Number: 004



Title: Letter to the editor
Author:
Size : 31 Inches Sq Independence,IA Circulation: 2029
Keywords: Independence Light & Power, Telecommunications

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

When severe weather strikes Independence, our community naturally wants to assess the aftermath. It is human nature to want to step outside and see how our neighborhoods, parks, and local businesses weathered the storm. However, we are writing today to ask for your help. After a severe storm concludes, we strongly urge all residents to stay home rather than driving around to look at the damage.

While curiosity is understandable, post-storm sightseeing creates significant challenges for our emergency responders and utility crews. When our streets are congested with unnecessary traffic, it directly hinders our ability to clear roadways, restore power, and assist those in immediate need.

Here is why staying off the roads is critical for our community's recovery efforts:

Crew Access: Our Public Works teams, Police Department, Fire Department, and Independence Light & Power, Telecommunications (ILPT) crews need clear paths to navigate large vehicles and heavy equipment. Neighborhood traffic delays our ability to remove fallen trees, clear storm debris, and replace broken utility poles.

Hidden Dangers: Downed power lines can be incredibly difficult to see, especially at night or when tangled in branches. Driving over or walking near a downed line puts you at risk of severe injury and forces our utility crews to halt restoration efforts to address a preventable emergency. We ask everyone to assume every downed wire is energized and dangerous.

Secondary Accidents: Distracted driving while looking at storm damage often leads to vehicle collisions. These accidents require immediate responses from our emergency services, pulling our first responders away from urgent storm-related recovery tasks.

We understand the desire to stay informed and check on the community. However, the most effective way you can support our city after a severe weather event is to remain safely at home. If you must travel, please do so only for essential needs and treat all dark intersections as four-way stops.

Our teams are dedicated to restoring normalcy to Independence as quickly and safely as possible. By giving our crews the space they need to work, you become a vital part of that recovery process. We thank you for your cooperation, your patience, and your ongoing commitment to keeping our community safe.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sidles

General Manager, Independence Light & Power, Telecommunications

Matthew R. Schmitz

City Manager, City of Independence

Kaukauna Utilities helping Menasha get reconnnected

By Brian Roebke
Editor

Kaukauna Utilities helped the City of Menasha reconnect its electricity last week after the F-3 tornado tore through the city on Monday, July 27.

Manager of Engineering and Project Management Eric Miller said KU sent roughly two crews (three to six fellas) at a time to aid their sister municipal electric system — Menasha Utilities — in support of their restoration efforts since the tornado happened, generally working 16-hour days.

KU and MU are both members of WPPI Energy, a wholesale power company owned by its 51 local utilities members partnering for the benefit of the customers and communities they serve.

"We actually do not have an 'end date' set for concluding our assistance to the good people of Menasha as of yet," Miller said.

He added some KU crews that have been to Florida to help with hurricane restoration in the past say what they have seen in Menasha is the worst they have witnessed, and it is truly a wonder/blessing that no one was killed.

"We continue to keep those good folks in our thoughts and in our prayers and are glad to offer what assistance we can in support of their rebuilding efforts," Miller said.



Submitted photo

Line crews from Kaukauna Utilities assisted Menasha Utilities through mutual aid, and are proud to be part of a public power community that always comes together to support one another. Pictured are Leadman Josh Warden, Journeyman Jason Burton, and Leadman Eric Bley.

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Aug 19
2026
Page A011
Clip resized 108%

Working smoke detector saves resident from basement fire

The Kaukauna Fire Department responded the evening of Wednesday, Aug. 12, at approximately 8 p.m,. to report of a structure fire on the 100 block of Grant Street. Initial reports indicated "lots of smoke coming from the first floor."

The Kaukauna Fire Department arrived on scene to find smoke coming from the front door and the entire home filled with smoke. A full scene assessment revealed the fire was in the basement, and the resident had safely evacuated prior to the arrival of firefighters.

Fire crews made their way to the basement and quickly knocked down the fire within 30 minutes of arrival.

Crews remained on scene for an extended period ventilating the basement of smoke and gases.

No civilians or firefighters were hurt in the fire, but one resident was displaced. Damage to the building and its contents are estimated to be $100,000. Fire damage was confined to the basement, however, the first floor sustained significant smoke damage as well.

The Kaukauna Fire Department was assisted by Little Chute Fire Department, Kaukauna Police Department, WE Energies, Kaukauna Utilities and the American Red Cross.

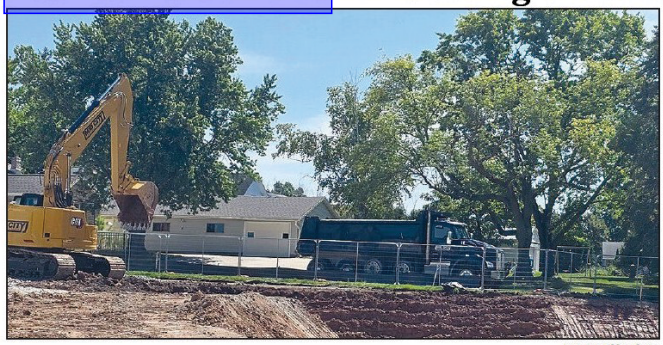
No cause has been determined. The single occupant of the home was awoken from their sleep by working smoke detectors. The Kaukauna Fire Department reminds everyone to install and maintain working smoke detectors in their homes. This incident serves as an important reminder that smoke detectors can provide critical early warning to save lives.

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WISCONSIN NEWS TRACKER

Aug 26 2026 Page 0003 Clip resized 43%

Kaukauna Utilities remodeling office area for operational needs



Brian Roebke photo

Excavation has begun at the site of the new Kaukauna Utilities water treatment plant No. 1 on Beaulieu Hill above the Kaukauna Aquatic Center.

Compiled by Brian Roebke
Editor

Staff received Kaukauna Utilities Commission approval on Wednesday, Aug. 19, to proceed with a small office remodel that reconfigures three existing offices into four, while also improving privacy and functionality for current staff.

Engineering & Operations Director Dave Pahl said as the utility continues to grow and modernize, its office space must also adapt to meet changing operational and staffing needs. The contract was awarded to Lerdahl in the amount of $54,165.18

The configuration allows two of the offices to be fully enclosed with doors.

"This has become increasingly important due to the growing number of phone calls and web-based meetings, which require quieter and more private workspaces and can otherwise be disruptive to nearby staff," he reported.

The third, larger office, will be split in two by adding a wall down the middle and adding a doorway in a current wall.

When the building was remodeled in 2008, the DIRTT wall system was selected in part for its sustainability and modular design. The system allows interior spaces to be reconfigured as organizational needs change while making use of the existing wall components. The proposed remodel takes advantage of this flexibility by modifying the existing DIRTT system to add one wall and three doors. Because the work involves modifications to the proprietary DIRTT wall system, the project needs to be completed by the authorized DIRTT seller and installer serving our area, Lerdahl.

Energy Services Manager Frank Barth and General Manager Michael Avanzi will be attending an awards ceremony for Ahlstrom employee, Dave Leeder, at the state capitol building on Sept. 29. Leeder is being awarded the Focus on Energy Energy Efficiency Excellence Champion award.

He is one of four recipients, and the only individual to be receiving the award, since the other three recipients are organizations. Focus planned to visit Kaukauna yesterday for interviews with Leeder and his colleagues, which will include time at the Kimberly Hydro unit, for which he was the catalyst behind the plant's conversion from 25hz to 60hz during his time at the Kimberly paper mill.

Through efforts from Focus on Energy advisors, regular energy team meetings will begin at the McKinley paper mill. Focus has hired a new advisor who will, for the near future, spend one day a week working with folks at the mill. The mill is currently working on a project that will reduce scrap and save an estimated 429,000 kWh annually.

Pahl said the workload in the engineering department remains intense.

- To enforce a service upgrade with a customer pushing their service capacity in the Village of Little Chute
- Design a service for a soon-to-be-largest-in-state dairy farm
- Process a number of new solar PV installations
- Work to complete our connection to Kimberly Hydro Plant through the fair Village of Kimberly
- Collaboration with Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Town of Kaukauna for the rebuilding of a bridge on Farrell Road
- Continue to run to keep in stride with WisDOT's rebuilding of IH-41
- Engineer the utility's response to three new subdivisions
- Create designs for the rebuilding of DeBruin Road
- Create designs for the rebuilding of Freedom Road
- Work with Point of Beginning in their design efforts for the new middle school
- Keep up with a significant number of new residential service requests

Following the tornado on July 27, many of KU's line workers volunteered to help with the mutual aid effort in Menasha.

Finance & Administration Director Aaron Wallin said nothing has changed with the electric rate study since last month, and KU is just waiting on the order.

"When inquiring about the status, we are told the same each time, the order is in the final review process and expected to be issued in the next few weeks," he reported.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin continues to experience staff significant turnover and blames this for the delays. The electric case was on the PSCW commission meeting agenda on April 9 when all contested issues were decided. Commissioners were largely aligned with PSCW staff recommendations of a $1.55 million or 2.77 percent increase.

Tenaska took over as agent for the Elm Street peaking plant on July 1 and has been representing the generator with MISO. While the financial benefit of the capacity value has been communicated previously, KU is now receiving the financial benefit of the energy produced and ancillary services it provides. For the month of June, KU received a credit from WPPI for Elm Street for almost $35,000 for revenue generated from MISO. In July, Elm Street revenue from MISO was about $300,000. These revenues were offset by about $86,000 in fuel costs.

KU is also working on the water rate increase application for 2027-28.

"We have discussed the application with the PSCW and they have provided some guidance on how to complete the application and provided similar cases filed by other municipalities to use as a guide," Wallin reported.

He is reviewing the final components of the filing and expect to be ready to file by the end of August.

Environmental & Compliance Manager Zach Moureau told the commission the Ann Street relay project continues with completion expected later this month. Liquidated damages are included within the construction contract to ensure the project is completed prior to the start of school. Replacement of the watermain that crosses the river adjacent to Riverside Park is scheduled to start at the end of this month. The watermain installation near the new middle school is approximately 75 percent complete and water is now available for the construction contractor during the remainder of con-

See Kaukauna, page 7







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Kaukauna, Heart of the Valley Times-Villager



Brian Roebke photo

Utilities work has been completed on Ann Street in Kaukauna, and the city expected Northeast Asphalt to apply a 2-inch layer of the road surface from curb to curb sometime this week. Street paving will be done a few years from now.

Kaukauna

continued from page 3

struction.

Hydrant painting is completed for the year with a total of 152 hydrants painted. The colors of hydrants differ depending on their flow strength. Blue is the strongest, green is medium, and orange is low.

This project continues in the coming years with approximately 10 percent of hydrants being painted each year. Residents are not permitted to paint or maintain fire hydrants.

Due to the lack of available painting contractors, touch up painting of the industrial park water tower will likely need to be postponed until next year. The original contractor that committed to repairing the paint has stopped responding to correspondence.

Erosion control measures and topsoil removal have been completed at the water treatment plant 1 site. Excavation of the ground storage reservoir is underway with the reservoir subcontractor expected to start construction of the reservoir this week.

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Aug 10 2026 Page A05 Clip resized 94%

LAKE MILLS

Car hits utility pole, knocks out power Friday

CHRIS LEE
chris.lee@apg-sw.com

LAKE MILLS — Power was knocked out for an area on the south side of Lake Mills on Friday morning, Aug. 7, after a car left South Main Street and hit a utility pole, authorities say.

Lake Mills Fire Chief Jason Russ said they were paged out at 5:27 a.m. for a single-vehicle crash in the 1300 block of South Main Street, which is north of St. Paul Lutheran School and Unzhaven Lane and south of the Glacial Drumlin Bike Trail.

Russ said the cause of the crash was not immediately known.

"He didn't seem to have a medical event," Russ said. "He refused to be transported to the hospital."

Lucas Caine, utility director for Lake Mills Light & Water, said the total number of affected customers was still uncertain, but it was probably hundreds initially.

Photos from the scene showed a four-door sedan on its side and the utility pole tilted from the impact.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY SCANNER FACEBOOK PAGE

A photo shows a four-door sedan on its side after it left the roadway and hit a utility pole in the 1300 block of South Main Street in Lake Mills on Friday morning, Aug. 7. The crash knocked out power in the area, authorities said.

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Watertown Daily Times



Aug 10 2026 Page A05 Clip resized 84%



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Monticello Express
Publication Date: 08/05/2026 Page Number: 011



Title: Eastern Iowa town discusses data center electricity impacts
Author: By Kelly Gerlach Staff Writer
Size : 43 Inches Sq Monticello,IA Circulation: 2926
Keywords: Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility

Eastern Iowa town discusses data center electricity impacts

Officials say adding data center to grid would stabilize rates

By Kelly Gerlach
Staff Writer

An Eastern Iowa town is weighing the pros and cons of a proposed data center development.

Maquoketa is close to going dark.

Electricity is running low.

If that scenario were to happen tomorrow, Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility (MMEU) would start up its generators to supply power to its customers until the situation was resolved, according to Chris Krogman, MMEU general manager.

That response would remain the same even if a data center is built within city limits because the data center would be running its own backup power generator, not using city power, Krogman explained.

"It doesn't matter where the data center is, the demand on the system is the same. Maquoketa is at no greater risk of blackout" with or without a data center, he said.

"We have all we need to back up our current load [electricity demand]. If we had a data center in town, they would be so independent of our portion of the system that we would tell them up front, as far as backup generation goes, you provide your own," Krogman said.

Electricity consumption and rates feature heavily on the minds of people both here and across the country who oppose data centers.

Data centers house rows of servers and other technology used to store information people access every day. Operating that equipment requires a lot of power, and the larger the data center, the more power they consume.

Local fears echo those of people around the nation: If a data center moves in, it will use too much of the available power, forcing the electric utility to build new substations, the cost of which would land on the backs of ratepayers.

And if there's a blackout, who's at the top of the pecking order to get power first – residents or data centers?

Let's take a look.

Who gets power first?

Every new electricity user added to the system increases the load, whether that be a single-stall garage or a hyperscale data center. The rapid pace of data center construction nationwide is fueling a massive expansion in energy demand, and many eastern Iowans are worried about what that could mean.

One of the most

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common questions asked in social media posts associated with data center-related news stories published by this newspaper involve how electrical shortages would be managed.

The originator of a Facebook page titled "No Data Center in Maquoketa" asked: "How does Maquoketa plan on fueling a power hungry data center when they are literally asking us to turn off our ceiling fans?"

The question came after MMEU publicly encouraged people to reduce their power use July 15 due to the extreme heat.

Krogman explained that Maquoketa gets its power through WPPI Energy based in Wisconsin. WPPI is part of MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator), a not-for-profit organization that manages the electric power grid and wholesale energy markets across 15 states stretching from Canada to Louisiana.

Being part of a larger network can lead to more power supply at lower costs, Krogman said. That's crucial

(cont'd on page A16)

Maquoketa Sentinel-Press
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Title: Board residency rules in question for MMEU
Author: By KELLY GERLACH News Editor kgerlach@mspress.net
Size : 33 Inches Sq Maquoketa,IA Circulation: 3879
Keywords: Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility

Board residency rules in question for MMEU

By KELLY GERLACH
News Editor
kgerlach@mspress.net

Should people serving on city boards live in the city or area they represent?

The Maquoketa City Council has faced that question recently as volunteers serving on commissions moved outside city limits but wanted to continue their service.

The council amended city code in June to accommodate a member of the Airport Commission.

The original code required all five members of the commission to live in the city. The updated code requires all five members to live in Jackson County, but only four must live within Maquoketa city limits.

Meanwhile, the council tabled action related to the Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility Board of Trustees while awaiting more information.

In that case, a longtime trustee moved outside city limits but wants to continue serving on the board.

City code requires all five trustees to live within Maquoketa city limits. The board is asking the city to change the residency requirement so only four members must live in the city.

The volunteer board oversees delivery of electric services to residents and businesses of Maquoketa and within the MMEU service area.



MARK LYON
Maquoketa City Councilman



RICHARD RICKERL
Maquoketa City Councilman

Maquoketa City Manager Josh Boldt said the city set a precedent with the Airport Commission change and noted that MMEU's service territory extends beyond city limits.

Councilman Richard Rickerl asked if the trustee in question still lives within the MMEU service area. Boldt said he did not know.

Rickerl said he would not support the change unless the trustee in question lives within the service area.

Councilman Mark Lyon shared his concern. "Why would you want someone on your board who isn't served by" the MMEU, he asked.

The council tabled the first reading of an item that would allow one MMEU trustee to live outside city limits as long as all members lived in Jackson County.

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THE CLEANUP

Aug. 11 damaging storm officially classified as a derecho

By KELLY GERLACH
News Editor
kgerlach@mspress.net

Cell phones buzzed to life with tornado alerts about 8 a.m. on Aug. 11.

People who ran to doors or windows at the sound saw a massive wall of black clouds approaching from the west.

Additional content:
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The muggy stillness gave way to driving winds that topped 75 to 99 mph.

Buildings and streetlights went black after storm debris knocked out electricity for an hour or more in some areas. After about an hour, saws buzzed to life, cutting into thousands of damaged and fallen tree limbs.

A confirmed derecho blitzed through Eastern Iowa, Illinois and Indiana last week, leaving destruction in its wake, according to the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center.

A derecho is a widespread windstorm that produces at least 58 mph winds consistently while traveling at least 250 miles and lasting at least three hours, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In addition, there must be several reports of destructive winds in excess of 75 mph, akin to an inland hurricane or an EF-1 tornado.

This derecho produced wind gusts of 97 mph in Holy Cross in Dubuque County, 79 mph at the Dubuque Airport, and 99 mph in Gary, Indiana.

STORM | PAGE **2**

STORM

Continued from page 1

The sustained winds left residents scrambling as damage knocked out power in Maquoketa about 8:20 a.m. Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility restored most power within about an hour.

Within minutes of the storm alerts, Jackson County emergency dispatchers reported high call volumes, receiving reports of tree limbs and power lines down and blocking roadways, Maquoketa Police Chief Brendan Zeimet said.

There was a report that a mobile home was damaged, he said. "We did have numerous trees and limbs came down throughout town, affecting power in some of those areas," he said.

A power pole landed on a roof on South Eliza Street in Maquoketa, while tree and tree limbs fell atop vehicles and buildings across the area.

Volunteers mobilized across the area, calling Maquoketa City Hall and going to social media to find areas of high need and lending a hand in cleanup efforts.

City officials declared a community disaster period for cleanup. As a result,

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city residents can place brush and tree limbs along the curb for Public Works staff to pick up and dispose.

City officials urged patience as cleanup may take two to three weeks.

Contractors cleaning up tree debris may temporarily take everything to the city's dump site on Birch Drive.

Jones County also sustained damage, particularly to corn and soybean crops hit hard by heavy rain and hail.

To help farmers and landowners address these and other storm-related issues, the Jones County Extension and Outreach Office was scheduled to host a free public informational meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Last week's derecho appears to have done less damage than a destructive derecho that hit Iowa on Aug. 10, 2020.

The 2020 storm wreaked the most havoc in the Cedar Rapids area, where electricity was out for about six days, streets were impassable and roofs torn off. It left 1.4 million people without power, some 585,000 of them in Iowa, according to PowerOutage.us.

In addition to the wind and rain, last week's derecho spawned at least six confirmed tornadoes in the northwest Chicago area, the National Weather Service reported.

Rain continued to pound Eastern Iowa straight through the weekend, causing government agencies to issue flood watches as creek and river levels rose.

Sirens silent

One thing missing from the Aug. 11 derecho: storm sirens.

Many people said the storm caught them unprepared because storm sirens did not sound in Maquoketa.

Zeimet said human error led to the city's outdoor warning sirens not being activated.

"We understand this caused confusion and concern among residents who depend on these alerts during dangerous conditions," the police chief said.

An on-duty emergency dispatcher failed to release a safety switch before pressing the sirens' activation button, resulting in no sound, Zeimet said.

The city activates the outdoor warning sirens when the area is under a severe thunderstorm warning with winds exceeding 70 mph or under a tornado warning.

"Storms can develop quickly, and decisions must be made in real time, but we recognize the importance of consistent and reliable warning systems," Zeimet said.

Staff will receive additional training, he said.

Storm sirens no longer sound in Clinton County. The Clinton County Board of Supervisors decided in 2024 to stop using outdoor warning sirens after a siren provider phased them out.

Other mass-alert technology already exists to provide weather warnings. The federal government's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, started in 2012, automatically sends tornado warnings to cell phones.

Alert Iowa also allows residents to sign up to receive alerts.

Clinton County residents can sign up to the Clinton County Emergency Notification System through Clinton County's website. People can also get alerts through commercially available weather apps, television and radio.

How often do derechos impact the area?

According to KWQC TV, the Quad Cities area experiences an average of one to two derechos per year. The most notable was in 2020, but another notable one was in 2008.

Derechos seem to surface every couple of years, according to the

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National Weather Service, which listed Iowa's most notable recorded derechos as the following:

- July 31, 1877
- July 4-5, 1980
- July 19, 1983
- July 28-29, 1986
- July 7-8, 1991
- July 8-9, 1993
- May 30-31, 1998
- June 29, 1998 (central Iowa)
- July 20, 2008
- July 11, 2011 (east central Iowa)
- June 30, 2014
- Aug. 10, 2020
- Dec. 15, 2021 (western Iowa)
- May 12, 2022 (northwest Iowa)
- July 5, 2022 (northern Iowa)
- June 29, 2023 (southern Iowa)
- May 24, 2024 (central Iowa)
- July 15, 2024



A large tree snaps in half and crashes onto a garage during the Aug. 11 storm, damaging power lines and leaving the residents without electricity. Downed lines hang dangerously around the damaged garage following the storm.

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MSP photos by Brittany Nopar

Cleanup gets underway after powerful winds tear through Maquoketa Tuesday morning, Aug. 11, toppling trees and damaging homes and vehicles. A worker cuts branches from a large tree that fell onto a Jeep as residents and crews begin clearing the wreckage left by winds reported at more than 75 mph in and around Maquoketa.







MSP photos by Brittany Nopar

A man cuts a massive fallen tree into manageable pieces after it blocks a Maquoketa street. **A trampoline lies** overturned after powerful winds sweep through Maquoketa. **A split tree crashes** onto a Maquoketa home during the Aug. 11 storm. Caution tape surrounds the damaged area as cleanup begins.

Maquoketa Sentinel-Press
Publication Date: 08/26/2026 Page Number: 006



Title: Power outage map accessible on MMEU website
Author:
Size : 9 Inches Sq Maquoketa,IA Circulation: 3879
Keywords: Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility

Power outage map accessible on MMEU website

Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility launched an outage map on its website mmeu.org.

Customers can report outages online by navigating to the outage map button on the MMEU site. The customer must enter the phone number registered on their account, select their address, and submit basic information.

When an outage is reported, a notification is sent to linemen, the office, and the law center, which dispatches crew if the message is not already known.

In the future, MMEU hopes to be able to notify customers of outages via text message if they have signed up for notifications.

Oshkosh Northwestern



Aug 05
2026
Page A01
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MENASHA

Tornado recovery enters a new phase

Rebecca Loroff
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

A week after the July 27 Menasha tornado devastated the western Fox Cities, damage still persists but the needs have changed, according to Winnebago County officials.

The area affected by the tornado is moving "from the emergency response phase into long-term recovery," said a post from Winnebago County Emergency Management.

Aug. 3 will be the last day that Volunteer Fox Cities will deploy large numbers of volunteers from the general public, the Menasha Police Department said an Aug. 2 news release. While volunteers are still needed, the organization will transition to sending groups of specialized volunteers starting Aug. 4.

Volunteer Fox Cities' president, Carolyn Desrosiers, told the Appleton Post-Crescent that the organization was canvassing storm-affected neighborhoods and encouraged people to check Volunteer Fox Cities' social pages and websites for information about how to volunteer later in the week.

The volunteer center at the former University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus is no longer accepting donations at the site as of Aug. 2. Instead, resources will be distributed closer to where they're needed most, Winnebago County officials said. Those who would still like to donate items are encouraged to check Volunteer Fox Cities for specific item requests or take items to local food banks and other established charities. The county also encouraged people to consider donating money to the tornado recovery fund run by United Way of the Fox Cities and Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.

According to Community Foundation president Curt Detjen, that fund has reached almost $850,000 as of Aug. 3, and the organization has committed $255,000 in grants to local nonprofits assisting with storm recovery.

In the meantime, cleanup continued over the weekend. Winnebago County officials said that the special storm-damaged household garbage collection had finished Aug. 2 and that the city would start regular trash

See RECOVERY, Page 4A

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Recovery

Continued from Page 1A

collection again starting Aug. 3.

The boil water advisory in the east side of Fox Crossing utilities has been lifted as of Aug. 1. Most of the Menasha Utilities service area had power restored over the weekend while crews continue to work on Doty Island. The curfew will remain in effect from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Menasha and Fox Crossing, while Menasha, Fox Crossing and Neenah will keep the burn ban in place. Nonresidents are being asked to avoid travel to storm-damaged areas unless absolutely necessary.

The county will continue to post updates and resources on social media and at winnebagocountywi.gov.

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Aug 02
2026
Page A02
Clip resized 27%



The Menasha Water Filtration Plant stands in ruins after it was hit by an EF-3 tornado on July 27. PHOTOS BY WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Neenah supplies Menasha, Fox Crossing with municipal water after tornado



Watchdog Q&A
Duke Behnke
USA TODAY NETWORK – WIS.



Menasha and Fox Crossing are receiving municipal water from Neenah after the Menasha Water Filtration Plant sustained severe damage during a July 27 tornado.

Reader question: In the aftermath of the July 27 tornado, how was Neenah able to supply Menasha with water? Are their pipes connected?

Answer: The Neenah and Menasha water utilities maintain three interconnected pipes that allow one city to supply the other city with treated water in event of an emergency.

The damage caused by the EF-3 tornado unequivocally qualifies as an emergency. The tornado produced peak winds of 140 mph and left a path of destruction that extends 12 miles long from Appleton to Neenah, with the Menasha area being the hardest hit.

The Menasha Water Filtration Plant at 57 Manitowoc St. sustained severe damage, and there is no timeline for when the plant can be repaired or replaced to resume operation.

Menasha requested water from Neenah, and within two hours of the tornado's passing, the three connections were opened so Neenah could supply Menasha with water.

"This is part of our emergency operations plan," Neenah Water Utility Director Tony Mach said. "It's something that we practice every few years."

Fox Crossing sustained severe damage to its water distribution system on the east side of Little Lake Butte des Morts. The eastside system gets about half of its water from two wells, and the other half is purchased from Menasha Utilities.

The tornado knocked out the power to the well pumps, and it wrecked buildings and ruptured water lines in the Valley Road/Palisades Park area, causing the system to drain and lose pressure. In addition, Menasha closed its connection to Fox Crossing to preserve the integrity of its distribution system.

"The storm knocked out our backup generators for the wells, so we had no well production," Fox Crossing Village Manager Jeff Sturgell said, "and we had no water coming in from the [Menasha] treatment plant."

Fox Crossing also requested water from Neenah to supply its eastside system, and Neenah agreed. The water flows from Neenah to Menasha and then from Menasha to Fox Crossing.

"We let Menasha know that, 'Yes, we have enough capacity, so if you want to open them up, go ahead,' and they did," Mach said. "We're basically pumping up their system as well. My hope is that they have plenty of pressure."

The loss of pressure in Fox Crossing's eastside system is what led to the ongoing boil-water advisory. Without adequate pressure, there is concern that contaminants such as bacteria can enter the system.

The advisory covers not only Fox Crossing customers but also Menasha, Appleton and Harrison customers who are served by the eastside system.

Sturgell said the power to the well pumps has been restored, and with the water from Neenah, the system is being recharged as pipe repairs are made.

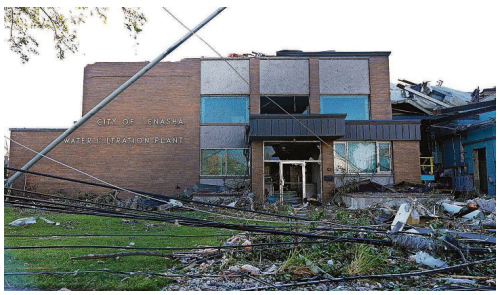
Once the system is fully operational and pressurized, the water must pass safety tests on consecutive days.

Sturgell said he hopes the boil-water advisory will be lifted by Saturday or Sunday.

Who will cover the cost of the Neenah water pumped into Menasha and Fox Crossing hasn't been decided, Mach said. The priority is to get water service restored to the affected areas.

"We will have that conversation later, when everything settles down," Mach said. "We don't want them to worry about that. They've got bigger things to worry about."

Got a question about local government? Contact Duke Behnke by email at dbehnke@usatodayco.com or by phone at 920-993-7176.



Debris covers the Menasha Water Filtration Plant at 57 Manitowoc St. It is no longer operational.

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THE POST-CRESCENT

Donations continue for those affected by tornado

Thousands join forces to remove storm debris

Appleton-Menasha tornado recovery moves to long-term stage

Aug 05 2026 Page A01 Clip resized 42%

Appleton, Post-Crescent

Appleton-Menasha tornado recovery moves to long-term stage

Rebecca Loroff
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

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See RECOVERY, Page 3A

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Recovery

Continued from Page 1A

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The county will continue to post updates and resources on social media and at winnebagocountywi.gov.

Rebecca Loroff is an education reporter for the USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin. She welcomes story tips and feedback. Contact her at rloroff@gannett.com.



Clean-up and repair continues Aug. 3 in Menasha, one week after an estimated EF-3 tornado tore through the area July 27.

WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

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Aug 05 2026 Page 01 Clip resized 62%

Oshkosh Herald



County coordinates area's cleanup efforts after tornado

By MaryBeth Matzek
Oshkosh Herald

More than a week after an EF-3 tornado devastated parts of northern Winnebago County, cleanup crews are clearing streets of downed wires and trees, tarping damaged roofs, reconnecting homes to electricity and water and helping provide victims with food, water and other supplies they need.

Along with county, municipal and contracted crews, thousands of volunteers stepped forward to help with the cleanup.

"It's been an amazing response," County Executive Gordon Hintz said. "We've been prioritizing what needs to be done and a lot is happening all at once."

Winnebago County's Office of Emergency Management began implementing its emergency response within minutes of the July 27 tornado hitting parts of Menasha, Neenah and Fox Crossing.

Hintz said an emergency operations center was established at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department with personnel from a variety of county departments, including the sheriff, public health, human services, emergency department, solid waste and planning and zoning, who used their GIS tools to help map areas impacted by the storms. They were joined by officials from Menasha, Fox Crossing, Neenah and the Town of

See **Storm cleanup** on Page 6



Photo by David Hall

An EF-3 tornado hit parts of northern Winnebago County July 27, causing extensive in as much as a mile wide in parts of Menasha. The extent of the damage could be seen Sunday, almost a week after the storm.

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Storm cleanup

FROM PAGE 1

Neenah.

Despite the destruction, no fatalities or serious injuries were reported. Officials later reported 68 people were treated at local hospitals due to mostly minor injuries related to the storm.

The first goal was establishing shelters for those affected by the storm then clearing roadways and getting the utility crews into the different neighborhoods to restore power.

Roadways blocked by debris, including downed trees and powerlines, is one of the county's biggest challenges in the cleanup operation, Hintz said.

"We needed to get in there and clean up," he said, adding the Menasha Police Department blocked off traffic to parts of Doty Island for a couple of days so they could concentrate on clearing the streets.

Gov. Tony Evers declared a state of emergency, allowing the National Guard to start helping over the weekend. Guard members are primarily helping with traffic control and securing areas as major cleanup operations take place.

As the week went on, the operation transitioned from meeting immediate needs, such as providing food and water to victims, to working on longer-term needs, such as evaluating cost of the destruction and beginning repairs.





Oshkosh Herald

Valley Road on the border of Menasha and Fox Crossing, one of the areas hardest hit by the July 27 tornado, was closed down later in the week as crews cleaned up damage and repaired utilities.

"The cleanup is a marathon, not a sprint," Hintz said. "It will be a long recovery, but it's been incredible to see the outpouring of support in the community."

The county turned to the former UW-Fox Cities campus as the center point for community response. With its ample parking and proximity to the affected storm area, it served as a good location for people to drop off donations of supplies and those impacted by the storm to pick them up and for volunteers to sign up and be assigned locations to work. Volunteer Fox Cities coordinated the volunteer response to the storm.

As of Sunday, the center stopped collecting donations, asking people to donate items instead to their local food pantries and established community organizations. On Tuesday, Volunteer Fox Cities stopped accepting walk-up volunteer registrations and will remain open to coordinate specialized volunteers, previously organized volunteer groups and other targeted recovery needs.

"Assistance is not ending," said Matthew Roe, community liaison officer with the Menasha Police Department. "The resources are being moved closer to where they are needed most."

Good communication is essential during disasters, such as the tornado, Hintz said. Initially, media briefings were held twice a day to update everyone on the situation before going to once a day. A lot of information was shared on the county and local municipalities' social media sites, not only for affected by the storm but for those looking to help.

"We knew that would be the best way to reach the most people," Hintz said.

Christ the Rock Church in Harrison stepped forward immediately to offer itself as a shelter for storm victims. It was near to where the tornado struck, had enough space and had electricity and running water. Other organizations and businesses have stepped up to serve as collection and distribution sites for supplies, cooling locations, places offering meals or a place to charge their phone.

United Way Fox Cities, in collaboration with the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, is collecting monetary donations to help storm victims. People can donate at unitedwayfoxcities.org.

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Aug 05 2026 Page 09 Clip resized 104%

Oshkosh Herald



Photo by Michael Cooney

Tornado cleanup

Volunteers helped residents clean up damage from a tornado that hit Menasha, Fox Crossing, Neenah and Appleton July 27. Homes, businesses, trees, utility poles and more were damaged in the storm, leading to more than 2,700 volunteers registering to help Volunteer Fox Cities with organized relief efforts.

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Aug 19 2026 Page A01 Clip resized 56%

Appleton, Post-Crescent

Menasha lifts curfew, burn ban as recovery continues

Taima Kern
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Residents are once again allowed to stay out past 10 p.m. and take out burn permits in Menasha.

The 10 p.m.-to-5 a.m. curfew and the burn ban put in place in the city following the July 27 Appleton-Menasha tornado were lifted Aug. 17, the Menasha Police Department announced on Facebook.

"This is another positive step forward as our community continues to move on from the immediate response into the longer recovery process," the post read.

The restrictions were meant to protect those working in the area following the storm, including cleanup teams, emergency personnel and utility workers restoring power to the area. They

See RECOVERY, Page 2A



Clean-up of damage from the July 27 tornado continues in the Palisades Park area on Aug. 12, in Fox Crossing. WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

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Recovery

Continued from Page 1A

were put in place soon after the tornado passed, with Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz saying of the curfew that with street lights out, being out after dark could be dangerous, given downed powerlines, gas leaks and other post-storm hazards. As for the burn ban, residents were asked to not burn tree debris, construction materials or other materials, as the action might put others at risk.

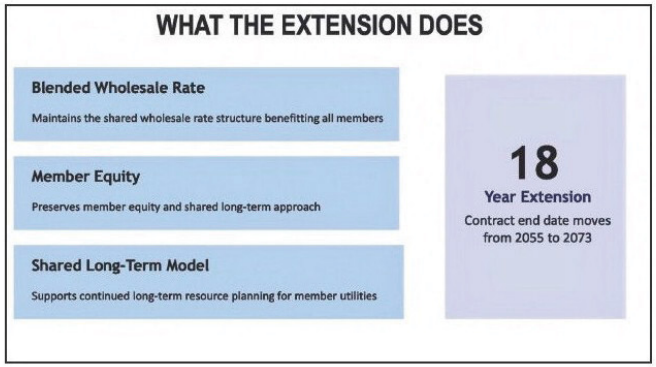
The post concluded with an uplifting message: "There is still plenty of recovery work ahead, but each step like this is a reminder of how far our community has come since the tornado."

Taima Kern is editor of the Appleton Post-Crescent. Reach her at tkern@usatodayco.com or 920-993-7104.

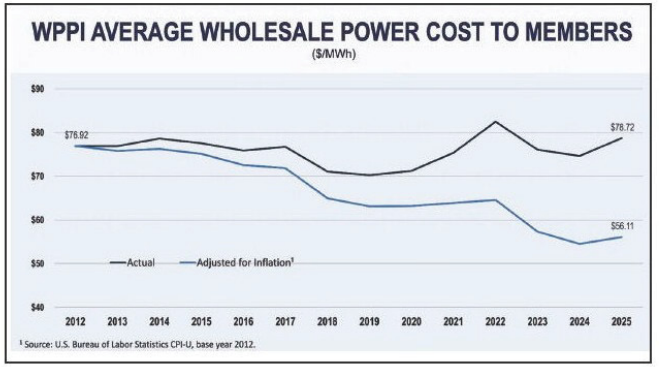
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Local Government

WPPI contract extended by NG village board



Extending the agreement between the Village of New Glarus and WPPI Energy allows for a blended wholesale electric rate, according to WPPI Energy President and CEO Mike Peters. *Graphic courtesy WPPI Energy/Village of New Glarus*



The amount that WPPI Energy members pay for electricity has remained fairly steady when adjusted for inflation, according to this chart provided for the village board packet. *Graphic courtesy WPPI Energy/Village of New Glarus*

By Chris Mertes
Post Messenger Recorder

It's New Glarus — not Mount Horeb.

That's what one New Glarus Village Board member told Wisconsin Public Power Inc. President and CEO Mike Peters after his presentation Aug. 5 for consideration of a contract extension to 2073.

The village's wholesale electricity supplier formed in 1980 as WPPI (now WPPI Energy). It has 51 members in the states of Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, with 225,000-plus member customers and 120 employees. WPPI Energy, which employs 120 people, is headquartered in the Sun Prairie Business Park.

WPPI Energy's peak demand was 1,061 megawatts experienced in 2023 and has total assets of $764 million as of 2025, with an annual budget of $537 million in 2026. Roughly 60% of WPPI's electricity comes from wholesale market purchases and contracts with developers like Point Beach Nuclear and solar programs, with 40% sourced from owned assets, including coal plants, natural gas plants, and wind turbines.

The member-led organization plans to phase out using coal to generate electricity by 2035, and replacing coal generation with natural gas, renewables, and nuclear energy.

WPPI Energy also provides policy advocacy and assistance to the village when it is seeking to get rate increase approval from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

"We see ourselves as part of your utility," Peters told the board during his 33-minute presentation.

WPPI Energy's current contract for electrical supply to the village-owned electric utility expires in 2055, but Peters sought an 18-year extension to 2073 because of future power supply and transmission investment needs. The extension requires 34 members to ensure financial stability.

But one of the board members wondered why Peters kept saying "Mount Horeb" instead of New Glarus. When Peters finished his presentation, one of the board member asked him why he kept saying Mount Horeb. "You're in New Glarus," the board member said.

A confused Peters stopped and tried to respond.

"Well, you should start over," another board member said.

After the laughter in the village board room subsided, Peters apologized: "I should start over and sincerely apologize. I've done 15 of these, and it's the same presentation every time, and somehow in my head, I just — I know it's embarrassing. I drove through the Swiss village. I know where I'm at. I just — I am so embarrassed."

But the board also discussed the extension, which Peters said was for planning purposes.

Key near term opportunities cited in the board packet and by Peters include funding for new natural gas peaking units to meet peak demand for electricity throughout the WPPI Energy system; pre-paying for energy transactions for cost savings and new investments such as Grid Forward and Project WISE.

WPPI Energy also has investments in American Transmission Company that will occur after the 2055 contract expires and will continue after the contract extension in 2073.

And what happens if WPPI Energy doesn't get 34 members to extend the contract through 2073?

"If we don't get 34, then the current contract is still there . . . their current contract goes out to the year 2055, and so that would stay in effect. We would have to really rethink how we plan for power supply longer term," Peters said.

"As I said . . . we know we need to add some generation in this in this area here. That's 2035. So if we didn't have enough members extend and our contracts only went out to 2055 . . . it would be a much more challenging planning environment because we're looking at investing in an asset that's going to be around for 40 or 50 years," Peters added. "So we would have to plan differently and finance differently than what we would otherwise do. Most likely, it would be more expensive."

Board members received the information from WPPI in July, which allowed them more time than just Peters' presentation to think about the issue, according to Village Administrator Kelsey Jenson. Village Attorney Bill Morgan reviewed the information and recommended approval by the village board.

Following the discussion, board members approved the contract extension to 2073.

After the vote, Peters apologized again.

"We're going to need you to sing a New Glarus song," a board member said.

"I will learn the New Glarus fight song, if I need to, as an apology," Peters said. "But I'll do it later."

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Oconto Falls Oconto County Times-Herald



Aug 14 2026 Page A01 Clip resized 60%

Electric company aids Menasha after tornado

Line workers from more than two dozen public utilities help restore power

Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities workers have been assisting the crews of Menasha Utilities after a devastating EF-3 tornado swept through the city at the end of July, helping to restore electricity for more than 80% of area customers in the week that followed.

"This level of destruction is hard to see, especially when it happens so close to home," said Beth Rank, utility manager of Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities. "I think any one of us would say we were more than ready to go and help the Menasha crews get those lights back on."

After the tornado hit a central part of the community, Gov. Tony Evers declared the area in a state of emergency. Debris continued to hamper restoration efforts as crews arriving through mutual aid started to make progress repairing and restoring the electricity infrastructure. Roads were unpassable as more than 60 power line poles snapped in half, electric wires, tree limbs and materials from damaged homes and buildings needed to be cleared before crews could assess the extent of the damage and begin to restore power.

Mutual aid crews from neighboring utilities hopped in trucks and made their way to the area. It began with a few, then grew to more than a dozen as crews began to set down new poles. Power began

TORNADO, continued on page 3



Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities employees Justin Beaman and Travis Zielinski were among the many who offered help to those without power after a tornado hit the Menasha area at the end of July. CONTRIBUTED

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WISCONSIN NEWS TRACKER

TORNADO, continued from page 1

to come back on for some customers.

A week after the tornado hit, there were roughly 80 line workers from more than two dozen public power communities who had been contributing their help with restoration. And the hard work could be seen, as power was restored to 90% of the area and to 80% of Menasha Utilities customers.

Cleanup is still expected to take weeks. Long-term damage will mean months of work. The city's water filtration treatment plant was severely damaged and will take some time to either be fixed or replaced.

Menasha Utilities staff continue to be in good spirits, despite the devastation, and the whole community has been supportive by providing resources to those who may have lost their home or need water or food. The staff has also been coordinating support for visiting line crews as they spend days in the field to help restore power for Menasha residents.

"We are beyond grateful to have our public power partners here to help make sense of the damage and what immediately needed to be done, in addition to what still needs to be done here," said Menasha Utilities general manager Melanie Krause. "We can't say thank you enough to all those who have responded and continue to support us."

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Oconto Falls Oconto County Times-Herald



Aug
14
2026
Page
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Bringing community, first responders together



Pulaski Police Officer Brady Sinotte, center, talks with Pulaski residents Justin Leveille, left, and Christyna Leveille during National Night Out on Aug. 4 at Veterans Memorial Park in Pulaski. National Night Out gives community members a chance to interact with local law enforcement and other first responders in an atmosphere outside of tragedy and emergency. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



A long line forms for children and adults alike to check out Eagle III, an air and ground medical transport for northeast Wisconsin, during National Night Out on Aug. 4 at Veterans Memorial Park in Pulaski. The helicopter landed shortly after 5 p.m. and was a big attraction at the event. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

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TORNADO, continued on page 3



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INSIDE

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Aug 13
2026
Page 004
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From left, RUC Commission General Manager Brett Schuppner and SOAC Founder Gary Williams convene for a donation from RUC. (Submitted photo)

RUC donates equipment to SOAC

Submitted story

The Reedsburg Utility Commission recently donated Darwin digital microscopes, SRAM bicycle shifter sets and bicycle brake cable housings to the Summer Outdoor Adventure Club (SOAC) of Reedsburg, providing equipment that can support the organization's outdoor education and bicycle programs for area youth.

SOAC is a Reedsburg-based non-profit organization dedicated to connecting young people with nature and providing opportunities for outdoor education, adventure and hands-on learning.

Founded by Gary Williams, the organization has grown from a small summer adventure program into a year-round organization serving students each year through summer trips, school field trips and its bicycle repair and recycling program.

The donated digital microscopes will provide another tool for hands-on exploration and environmental education, while the SRAM shifter sets and brake cable housing can be put to use through SOAC's bicycle program.

"SOAC has been giving kids in Reedsburg and the surrounding area opportunities to learn, explore and build confidence for more than 30 years," said Brett Schuppner, general manager of Reedsburg Utility Commission. "We're pleased to donate equipment that can be put to good use in programs that directly benefit local youth."

SOAC's programs are designed to help young people become more comfortable in the outdoors, develop confidence and independence, and build an appreciation for nature and the environment.

The donation reflects Reedsburg Utility Commission's longstanding commitment to the community it serves.

As a locally owned, not-for-profit municipal utility, Reedsburg Utility Commission provides electric, water and communications services while supporting efforts that contribute to the development and well-being of the Reedsburg community.

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Aug 14 2026 Page A01 Clip resized 74%

Sun Prairie, The Star



NEIL JOHNSON/NEIL@GAZETTEEXTRA.COM

Construction site imagery of Meta's 500-acre data center being built in Beaver Dam.

As data centers sprawl, Sun Prairie looks to brace for impact

No current proposal exists

ETHAN FERRELL
eferrell@hngnews.com

Dane County had a crash course on data center development after QTS Data Centers approached the Village of DeForest with a 615-acre campus in the fall of 2025.

After DeForest residents, elected officials, and village staff navigated months of public engagement, fact finding and negotiations, the proposal was ultimately rejected.

Neighbors, like the City of Sun Prairie, were taking notes during this time in an effort to prepare themselves for a similar situation.

It has been just under a year since the City of Sun Prairie first started its internal Data Center Workgroup. Staff were first directed to review city ordinances and policies, and how they would apply to potential data center development last fall.

With information on a litany of factors like water and power usage, pollution, zoning, economic development compiled, staff are ready to start reporting their findings out to the community.

More **IMPACT** | **A29**

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Aug 14 2026 Page A29 Clip resized 53% From A01

Impact/ from A1

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Those presentations will result in a proposal for the city council to enact a data center moratorium resolution to temporarily halt their development on Aug. 18.

An ordinance that would put a moratorium into effect will have a first reading that evening and be up for adoption on Sept. 1 after a public hearing at the plan commission's Aug. 25 meeting.



Clements



Weiss

Sun Prairie Planning Director Josh Clements and Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) General Manager Jill Weiss said that no current data center proposal exists in the city.

But, the past year of work has prepared them to handle the likelihood of a future proposal with transparency and residents' best interests in mind.

WITH A LOT TO CONSIDER, SUN PRAIRIE HAS A HEAD START

Joined by Clements in an interview with the Star on Aug. 11, Weiss stated that there is "a lot of awareness" throughout the electric industry about what data center developers are asking for and what their large-scale projects are requiring.

Comparing those expectations to the city's existing operations, practices and ordinances has been the bulk of the workgroup's efforts so far.

"With the work group we started to evaluate internally, if one were to show up tomorrow, how ready would we be with current code and how would we address that?" Weiss said.

She added that Section 13 of Sun Prairie's Municipal Code of Ordinances, which pertains to public services, is light on language pertaining to energy usage. This has been identified as staff as an area for improvement in the near future.

SPU's capacity to support various degrees of data centers with power, what kinds of upgrades might be necessary, and when developers would be responsible for paying for them, have all been considered for practical purposes at this time.

Data centers don't have to be huge; they can and have been small, but being familiar with either size helps the city approach a proposal with preparedness and efficiency when they eventually come knocking at the door.

Weiss noted that when it comes to the public's cost burden for increased area power demands and upgrades, Sun Prairie owning its own utility company makes the situation different from DeForest's. There, privately-held Alliant Energy was QTS' prospective energy partner.

"We have no shareholders. We're not for profit. Everything we do is basically to ensure that those essential services are provided to our community and all of our customers in perpetuity. That's our only goal. It's very simple and straightforward," she said.

A 5- or 10-Megawatt (MW) data center's energy needs are much different than a 500-MW project. Weiss said that in cases like the latter, a substation would need to be constructed and SPU would require the developer to pay for that.

"There's a thought out there that everybody pays more (when a data center is built)," Weiss said. "There's a place where that can occur depending on when that infrastructure is being built… But, it's structured with the idea that the new customer is paying for the cost of those things; that the burden is not being placed on the existing customers."

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"We're like a mom and pop shop, but we're able to buy like a big box store. So, we're able to buy a lot of power and do it in a very economical way," Weiss said. "Our portfolio and how we purchase energy is basically based on the best decisions available: sustainability, cost, all of those things."

The workgroup has also taken a look at the water needs for large-scale data center cooling systems.

While they cannot control what a private developer might propose, Weiss and Clements said that staff prefer closed-loop cooling systems at this time. Additionally, existing city ordinances prevent the construction of private wells unless under extreme circumstances.

"While they (closed loops) use substantially less water, it's uncertain what kind of other materials and chemicals are in the water when they do have to flush their system," Clements said. "That's just something we don't know."

He continued by saying that if a data center proposal were to include additives to the water it uses to cool its machines, the city's wastewater system operator would need to be fully informed of this so they could be prepared to treat them.

While the technology and business practices of data center developers and operators is constantly changing, Weiss and Clements seem confident that the knowledge base and workgroup's head start put the city in a good place going forward.

They both acknowledged the issue's continued evolution, however, and that establishing the basics is needed to react to changes in the future, like imminent, new transmission lines.

NEW TRANSMISSION LINES COULD DRASTICALLY CHANGE THE ENERGY LANDSCAPE

Recently, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) approved the BECI Project, which entails approximately 190 miles of new 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines spanning Wisconsin.



FILE PHOTO

ATC's North Madison Substation in Vienna off of Patton Road. Currently, the transmission lines that feed into the substation are the largest in the area, carrying a load of 345 kV. The BECI project will service the region with transmission lines carrying 765 kV lines.

MISO selected Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) as its contractor for the BECI Project. MGS will be responsible for deciding the transmission lines' route across the state to connect Crawford County with Walworth County before continuing to the state line from there.

The topic has begun to make the rounds in area social media groups online, as one of the proposed routes would run within 15 miles of Sun Prairie and impact other parts of southern Wisconsin.

Transmission line upgrades are meant to connect the country's relatively old energy grid and provide wider reliability across regions.

For example, with more and more energy being produced by rural facilities like Iowa wind farms, that power needs to be transmitted to higher-density metropolitan areas so that it can be fully utilized.

With the increased stability that these lines will bring about, more opportunities for developments with high energy demands will naturally crop up in the area.

"If you were a facility site selector for a data center or someone who's going to be using a ton of power, as you're looking around you're asking, 'Where's the transmission?' Because that's your key variable," Clements said. "Just like if you're Amazon, you're following the highway."

There is a very real prospect that Sun Prairie's position in regional load capacity could become more coveted.

Clements and Weiss say that the workgroup's efforts up until this point are helpful for having a good base to go off of, and will be important for adjustments as the situation evolves.

MGS is planning to host a series of open houses across various southern Wisconsin counties that will be impacted by the new transmission lines during the week of Aug. 24.

Dane and Dodge Counties' session will be held at The Round Table in Sun Prairie on Wednesday, Aug. 26, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The city, itself, has no say in the matter. MGS will have to apply to the PSC to become a utility in the state, and local citizens will have the opportunity to submit comments and speak at hearings related to the prospect as time goes on.

THE WORK ISN'T ALL FOR WATT

In the meantime, Sun Prairie staff like Weiss and Clements will continue to keep themselves in the know and prepare for large-scale utility customers outside of just data centers.

While data centers have been at the forefront in the minds of Wisconsinites in recent times, they aren't the only ones that will be looking to begin business in Sun Prairie after transmission lines are built.

"We don't have transmission now for a large facility… So, wherever this corridor is placed, it increases the potential. You still have substations and all this other kinds of stuff, but that corridor is going to be on a lot of different kinds of industries' maps," Clements said.

Staff are obligated to provide information to any prospective developer who is interested in establishing operations in the city, and that information may not always be as readily available as the public may like.

But, they see it as a balancing act that needs to be struck between transparency and being a good business partner.

Releasing information about a company's plans before they decide whether or not to pursue business in a community can have negative effects. Their competitors may use the information to hinder those plans, and in turn give a municipality a bad reputation that trickles down through all industries large and small.

For Sun Prairie's municipal staff, the focus is on what they can control and being prepared to leverage that to protect residents and utility customers.

"It's not so much that we don't have the infrastructure in place, but more that we want to make sure that we've got the appropriate regulation in place to do it right," Weiss said.

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Aug 14 2026 Page A06 Clip resized 80%

Sun Prairie, The Star

Sun Prairie Utilities workers help restore power in Menasha

CONTRIBITED
Sun Prairie Utilities

SUN PRAIRIE — Sun Prairie Utilities workers have been assisting the crews of Menasha Utilities after a devastating EF-3 tornado swept through the city at the end of July, helping to restore electricity for more than 80% of area customers in the week that followed.

"Mutual aid reflects the best of public power—communities helping communities when the need is greatest," said Jill Weiss, general manager of Sun Prairie Utilities. "When Menasha Utilities needed assistance, SPU was ready to respond. We are proud of Jake and Hayden for supporting the restoration effort, and grateful to every lineworker and utility team member whose skill, dedication and long hours helped restore service and move the Menasha community toward recovery."

After the tornado hit a central part of the community July 27, Gov. Tony Evers declared the area in a state of emergency. Debris continued to hamper restoration efforts as crews arriving through mutual aid started to make progress repairing and restoring the electricity infrastructure.

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A week after the tornado hit, roughly 80 lineworkers from more than two dozen public power communities had been contributing their help with restoration. Power was restored to 90% of the area and to 80% of Menasha Utilities customers. In just under two weeks, there were more than 100 crew members responding and 120 poles had been replaced.

Menasha Utilities announced that power was completely restored to customers on Aug. 7.

Cleanup is still expected to take weeks. Long-term damage will mean months of work. The city's water filtration treatment plant was severely damaged and will take some time to either be fixed or replaced. Menasha Utilities staff continue to be in good spirits, despite the devastation, and the whole community has been supportive by providing resources to those who may have lost their home or need water or food. The staff has also been coordinating support for visiting line crews as they spend days in the field to help restore power for Menasha residents.



LIZ BECKER

Sun Prairie Utilities journey lineworkers Jake and Hayden in Menasha helping the utility restore service after a tornado in July 2026.

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Aug 20
2026
Page A25
Clip resized 57%

As data centers sprawl, Sun Prairie looks to brace for impact

No current proposal exists

ETHAN FERRELL
eferrell@hngnews.com

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FILE PHOTO
Sun Prairie Planning Director Josh Clements.



CONTRIBUTED
Sun Prairie Utilities General Manager Jill Weiss.

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"We're like a mom and pop shop, but we're able to buy like a big box store. So, we're able to buy a lot of power and do it in a very economical way," Weiss said. "Our portfolio and how we purchase energy is basically based on the best decisions available: sustainability, cost, all of those things."

The workgroup has also taken a look at the water needs for large-scale data center cooling systems.

While they cannot control what a private developer might propose, Weiss and Clements said that staff prefer closed-loop cooling systems at this time. Additionally, existing city ordinances prevent the construction of private wells unless under extreme circumstances.

"While they (closed loops) use substantially less water, it's uncertain what kind of other materials and chemicals are in the water when they do have to flush their system," Clements said. "That's just something we don't know."

He continued by saying that if a data center proposal were to include additives to the water it uses to cool its machines, the city's wastewater system operator would need to be fully informed of this so they could be prepared to treat them.

While the technology and business practices of data center developers and operators is constantly changing, Weiss and Clements seem confident that the knowledge base and workgroup's head start put the city in a good place going forward.

They both acknowledged the issue's continued evolution, however, and that establishing the basics is needed to react to changes in the future, like imminent, new transmission lines.

NEW TRANSMISSION LINES COULD DRASTICALLY CHANGE THE ENERGY LANDSCAPE

Recently, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) approved the BECI Project, which entails approximately 190 miles of new 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines spanning Wisconsin.

MISO selected Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) as its contractor for the BECI Project. MGS will be responsible for deciding the transmission lines' route across the state to connect Crawford County with Walworth County before continuing to the state line from there.

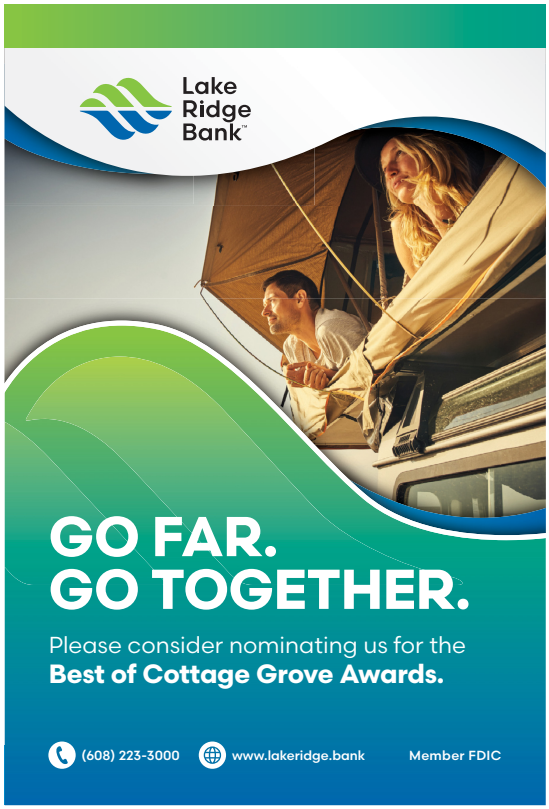
The topic has begun to make the rounds in area social media groups online, as one of the proposed routes would run within 15 miles of Sun Prairie and impact other parts of southern Wisconsin.

Transmission line upgrades are meant to connect the country's relatively old energy grid and provide wider reliability across regions.

For example, with more and more energy being produced by rural facilities like Iowa wind farms, that power needs to be transmitted to higher-density metropolitan areas so that it can be fully utilized.

With the increased stability that these lines will bring about, more opportunities for developments with high energy demands will naturally crop up in the area.

More IMPACT | A26



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Impact/from A25

"If you were a facility site selector for a data center or someone who's going to be using a ton of power, as you're looking around you're asking, 'Where's the transmission?' Because that's your key variable," Clements said. "Just like if you're Amazon, you're following the highway."

There is a very real prospect that Sun Prairie's position in regional load capacity could become more coveted.

Clements and Weiss say that the workgroup's efforts up until this point are helpful for having a good base to go off of, and will be important for adjustments as the situation evolves.

MGS is planning to host a series of open houses across various southern Wisconsin counties that will be impacted by the new transmission lines during the week of Aug. 24.

Dane and Dodge Counties' session will be held at The Round Table in Sun Prairie on Wednesday, Aug. 26, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The city, itself, has no say in the matter. MGS will have to apply to the PSC to become a utility in the state, and local citizens will have the opportunity to submit comments and speak at hearings related to the prospect as time goes on.

THE WORK ISN'T ALL FOR WATT

In the meantime, Sun Prairie staff like Weiss and Clements will continue to keep themselves in the know and prepare for large-scale utility customers outside of just data centers.

While data centers have been at the forefront in the minds of Wisconsinites in recent times, they aren't the only ones that will be looking to begin business in Sun Prairie after transmission lines are built.

"We don't have transmission now for a large facility… So, wherever this corridor is placed, it increases the potential. You still have substations and all this other kinds of stuff, but that corridor is going to be on a lot of different kinds of industries' maps," Clements said.

Staff are obligated to provide information to any prospective developer who is interested in establishing operations in the city, and that information may not always be as readily available as the public may like.

But, they see it as a balancing act that needs to be struck between transparency and being a good business partner.

Releasing information about a company's plans before they decide whether or not to pursue business in a community can have negative effects. Their competitors may use the information to hinder those plans, and in turn give a municipality a bad reputation that trickles down through all industries large and small.

For Sun Prairie's municipal staff, the focus is on what they can control and being prepared to leverage that to protect residents and utility customers.

"It's not so much that we don't have the infrastructure in place, but more that we want to make sure that we've got the appropriate regulation in place to do it right," Weiss said.

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Aug 27 2026 Page A28 Clip resized 58%

Sun Prairie takes first step toward data center moratorium

Public hearing set for Aug. 25

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Construction site imagery of Meta's 500-acre data center being built in Beaver Dam.

A moratorium on data center development is now in the cards for the Sun Prairie City Council after alders unanimously voted in favor of a resolution directing staff to get the wheels in motion on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Tuesday's meeting also served as host to the first reading of the ordinance that would amend the zoning code to enact the temporary, year-long moratorium.

The Sun Prairie Plan Commission already has a public hearing scheduled for the ordinance amendment on Tuesday, Aug. 25. If the commission were to recommend the amendment for adoption, the city council is expected to vote on its final adoption that following Monday, Sept. 2.

Two Sun Prairie residents attended the Aug. 18 meeting to voice their support for the move; meanwhile an additional seven residents submitted jot forms that were also in favor of the moratorium.

"I am in favor of it. I think it sends a nice message and I think that given this topic in general, I think that it would make Sun Prairie a place that more people would want to live if this is on the books," Sun Prairie resident Kimberly Larson said during public comment.

Prior to the city council's vote, Sun Prairie Planning Director Josh Clements and Sun Prairie Utilities General Manager Jill Weiss presented some of the city's Data Center Workgroup's findings on the topic from the past year of work.

When Weiss and Clements sat down with The Star for an interview earlier this month, they explained how city staff have been working behind the scenes to educate and prepare themselves on how a hyper-scale data center proposal would be managed in Sun Prairie.

"This is a way for the city to be clear that there is nothing happening, there's no proposal that will be received, to allow for space to update our policies, regulations and things of that nature," Clements said on Aug. 18 about the moratorium proposal.

If the moratorium were to be passed, it would include the following provisions as written in the current draft proposed by staff:

- The moratorium would last for 12 months following the effective date of adoption.
- City staff will not accept, process, and if appropriate, approve zoning purposes for a data center over 10,000 square feet during that time.

The moratorium would be used by staff to adequately assess the impacts and secondary uses of hyperscale data centers in order to prepare and update regulations and policies to protect public health, safety and general welfare.

Readers can view the proposed ordinance amendment through the city's online meeting agenda for Aug. 18's city council meeting.

NOT ALL DATA CENTERS ARE THE SAME

Clements used a portion of his presentation to put data centers into the context of Sun Prairie, and dispel any misconceptions about them as well.

For example, the planning director noted that there are already smaller scale data centers in operation in Sun Prairie but that they are indistinguishable from other commercial buildings in their size and strain on water and power.

District 3 Alder Mike Jacobs posed a series of questions to Weiss and Clements related to the possible positive and negative impacts of a moratorium that evening.

The gist of the discussion was that a moratorium designed to put a pause on hyperscale developments could also hinder new development of smaller data centers the city could handle.

"A smaller data center, like 100,000 square feet, I think the primary concern is just: 'Where does it go from a city perspective?'" Clements said. "It would not even be close to the larger users in our business park. From that perspective, it would probably look like most of the other buildings we have (there)."

After hearing from staff that the would be "comfortable" from a planning perspective with welcoming a 4-Megawatt data center of no more than 100,000 square feet, Jacobs alluded to adjusting the ordinance amendment to be more targeted.

"I don't have a fear of a small data center," Jacobs said. "I do have a fear of any mega data center, I just want to make that clear."

Other portions of the council's discussion that evening centered around for direction for staff to investigate more.

District 4 and District 2 Alders Emily Comstock and Santiago Rosas both expressed concerns about noise and other forms of pollution with closed loop cooling systems.

Staff have said they would prefer this type of cooling method because they use less water than a system continuously drawing from a well.

"I'm concerned about the noise, how much noise are we talking about? The vibration, how much are we talking about? Air pollution, how much are we talking about? If that's going to (have) an adverse effect on the community when you have a data center put in," Rosas said.

Sun Prairie Wastewater Treatment Plant Conveyance and Treatment Director Jeremy Cramer also noted that his team would need to know, very clearly, what would be added to a closed loop's water system.

This way, if a facility were to open and needed to "dump" the water it was filled with, then the city could be prepared to treat it properly.

HOW READERS CAN LEARN MORE

In addition to the plan commission's upcoming Aug. 25 public hearing, residents can read The Star's interview with Weiss and Clements or view their presentation of the workgroup's findings to the Sun Prairie Utilities Commission through the Sun Prairie Media Center website.

One new aspect of this topic in the area is that new, high-voltage transmission lines were recently announced to be built in the coming years throughout the state.

Midwest Grid Solutions (MGS), the contractor undertaking the infrastructure project, has not finalized where exactly the lines will be installed. But, one proposed route does run near the city's northeast border.

The electrical grid upgrades are being pursued to better harness energy generation throughout the region, so that it can be transmitted to higher population areas and fully utilized.

MGS has scheduled its open house for Dane and Dodge Counties in Sun Prairie at The Round Table on Wednesday Aug. 26, from 4 to 7 p.m.

HASKINS

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Aug 28 2026 Page A02 Clip resized 76%

WISCONSIN NEWS TRACKER

Sun Prairie Plan Commission recommends data center moratorium for approval

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The City of Sun Prairie's proposed 12-month moratorium on hyperscale data centers over 10,000 square feet was recommended for approval by the city's plan commission without much fanfare on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Tuesday's plan commission meeting held one agenda item: a public hearing for the proposed zoning ordinance amendment though no residents attended in person or virtually to share their thoughts on the prospect.

Following a presentation of findings by city staff's internal Data Center Workgroup, commissioners unanimously voted in favor of recommending the ordinance amendment for approval.

As a result, the Sun Prairie City Council will hold a second reading of the ordinance amendment and have the opportunity to pass the moratorium at its next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Plan commissioners did take advantage of the expertise brought by Sun Prairie Planning Director Josh Clements and Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) General Manager Jill Weiss that evening, however.

While posing questions to the pair, some novel information did come about.

For example, Commissioner Mark Brehmer asked about the legal defensibility of a moratorium. Clements said that he and staff believe the moratorium draft would hold up well in front of a judge.

"We've looked at how moratoriums were adopted in the past, which were legally challenged, so we believe that ours is defensible," Clements said in response.

He added that city staff drew inspiration from existing moratorium language from other Wisconsin communities who have already taken the action when drafting Sun Prairie's.



FILE PHOTO

Sun Prairie City Hall.

"I have been trying to get wise to this type of use for several years, before even DeForest had their proposal just because we could see it coming," Clements said about how he and staff have tried to catch themselves up to speed with hyperscale data centers.

Another new aspect of data center development in Sun Prairie that hadn't previously been broached was whether or not a developer needed to use SPU as its electricity provider when locating within the city.

The answer was an intriguing "no" from Weiss.

She has been keen to stress to residents and city officials that SPU is a municipally-owned not-for-profit utility company, meaning its only obligation is maintaining quality service for its customer base.

While users within city limits are required to be hooked up to SPU's municipal water supply, "electric is very different," according to Weiss.

She spared the commission the nuance of electric service territories that evening. But, she noted that there are already users within Sun Prairie limits who are customers of Alliant Energy and those outside of the city who are serviced by SPU for electric.

"It's very possible that something can be built, they could annex into the city. They're going to remain that other utility's customer, they wouldn't become ours by just annexation," she said.

Some further discussion between commission members also took place regarding the arbitrary nature of the ordinance amendment's language referencing the maximum size of data centers allowed during the moratorium.

This was also a subject broached by District 3 Alder Mike Jacobs when the city council first discussed the topic on Aug. 18.

The city council will have the opportunity to pass the moratorium, adjust its language, or both, at its next meeting on Sept. 1.

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Aug 07 2026 Page A11 Clip resized 80%

Waunakee, The Tribune Enterprise

Waunakee electric rates to go up at the start of August

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Waunakee Utility customers will see their electric rates go up effective Saturday, Aug. 1. Electric rates were last changed in July, 2021.

Residential customers will now pay $12 flat per month as a customer charge and $1.084 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), an increase from $10.50 and $1.005, respectively.

Meanwhile, General Service customers will pay $14.00 as a customer charge for phase-three generators and $0.1139 per kWh, an increase from $13.00 and $0.1071.

Readers can view the utility's brochure detailing all its current rates for all utility charges, including optional-time-of-day service, by visiting the Rate Summary page on www.waunakeeutilties.com.

Waunakee Utilities, like all other electric and gas utilities, applies for rate increases through the Public Service Commission (PSC).

The utility applied for this increase to its annual revenue in May 2025 to the tune of $863,990, after which the PSC approved the rate increase for a lower amount of $578,676 earlier this July.

The PSC held a public hearing on the request on Tuesday, April 21.

The PSC's approved rates for utilities are designed to keep their rate of return in line with their cost of operations. Oftentimes, rate increases are pursued when operating costs begin to outpace revenues, or substantial capital investments are needed.

Waunakee Utilities General Manager Caitlin Stene said that when the organization applied for the increase in 2025, it was to keep pace with the rising cost of service and pay debt related to recent and ongoing substation improvements.

The increase is structured in two steps, with the following portion coming at the end of 2026. Stene added that this is so customers only begin paying for the substation upgrades once they are complete.

Otherwise, Waunakee customers will see their sewer and water rates remain the same come Aug. 1, however.

Monthly sewer rates, last changed in 2024, currently sit at a monthly service charge of $16.07 for a ⅝ meter, and a volume charge $6.90 per 1,000 gallons per month.

Monthly water rates, last changed in April of this year, are a $8 monthly service charge and $3.32 per 1,000 gallons for the first 13,000 gallons, a figure that decreases as consumption goes on.

The PSC also oversees water rate cases, in addition to electric ones. Sewer rates are managed locally by the Waunakee Utilities Commission, a seven-member body made up of two village trustees and residents appointed by the village president.

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WISCONSIN NEWS TRACKER

Aug 14 2026 Page A07 Clip resized 54%

'It feels like coming home,' Caitlin Stene returns to Waunakee as Utility GM

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ETHAN FERRELL

Former Waunakee Utilities GM Tim Herlitzka (left) received a proclamation recognizing his contributions throughout his long career from the Waunakee Village Board, and Village President Kristin Runge (right) on Monday, July 20.

New Waunakee Utilities General Manager Caitlin Stene may have a familiar face and name for longtime residents.

That's because Stene steps into the role as her third stint working for the community. From 2013-2016, she served as the village's first assistant administrator and HR manager.

When Stene came to Waunakee at that time, she was six months removed from earning her master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas. Looking back now, Stene, working under Village Administrator Todd Schmidt, had her hand in a lot of the village's current HR practices.

"HR, prior to that position being created, was kind of splintered among departments and different people. We were really able to bring it into one central place," Stene said in an interview on Thursday, July 23.

From there, she went on to become the village administrator in Cross Plains, Wisconsin, from 2016-2019. There, she met her now-husband, Tim, and the pair now have a 6-year-old daughter named Josephine.

Stene moved back to work for the Village of Waunakee in 2019, this time as the village clerk, deputy administrator and HR manager. She held this position until 2021, when she left to join the City of Sun Prairie as its director of administrative services.

"When that job opened up, it was one of those where I couldn't not apply. I was fortunate enough to get that position," she said.

Stene said she learned a lot and gained experience during this time. She was later promoted to become Sun Prairie's assistant city administrator, and thereafter oversaw eight departments.

"I like to say that each time I've come back (to Waunakee), I come back a little bit more grown, a little bit more deep in my knowledge," she said. "And I really think I came back this time, to the utility, with deep financial knowledge, skills and capabilities from overseeing a finance department that was without a finance director for a little bit of time."

She added that during her time in Sun Prairie, she was also in charge of developing long-term financial planning, like the city's debt, its Capital Improvement and five-year management plans.

For those unfamiliar with the responsibilities of municipal utility's general manager, Stene said someone in her role oversees part of day-to-day operations of the utility and supports its staff.

Her return to the village has lined up with several large projects, so Stene's first few months have been busy ones.

"We're constructing a new well out at Kilkenny Farms West. We're in the process of constructing the new water tower, and then we're doing some upgrades to some of our electric substations," Stene said.

Even with her experience and background, Stene is keeping an open line of communication with former Utility General Manager Tim Herlitzka for his thoughts and guidance during this time.

"I have a deep respect for Tim and the things he was able to do here for 21 years… Tim is a great resource. I reached out to him when I was thinking about applying, and he encouraged me to apply," she said. "He's a great resource and someone that I still tap into every once in a while… He obviously wants to see continued success for the utility and isn't just going to 'peace out.'"

Herlitzka has been able to help Stene when it comes to locating specific files and helping acquaint herself with how the organization has historically operated.

Ensuring that this knowledge is passed on during this period is key to ensuring uninterrupted operations and continued success. Even though Stene and Waunakee Utilities may have their hands quite full at the moment, they are still looking ahead.

She added that the organization is anticipating several retirements in the near future, and keeping pay and benefits competitive for employees are on her mind going forward.

"We have some pretty long tenured employees that are planning to retire over the next couple of years. So, what does that look like? What's that knowledge transfer? What do we want to look like as those retirements (come about)?" Stene said.

Working with the Waunakee Utilities Commission, the locally-appointed governing body for the utility, to plan for succession and the organization's future staff is just as important as keeping up with the day-to-day.

On the topic of looking forward, Stene also mentioned that sustainability and renewable energy practices are on the utility's agenda as local efforts and attention make more headway in the village.



CONTRIBUTED

Waunakee Utilities General Manager Caitlin Stene.

Waunakee Utilities is a Wisconsin Public Power Inc. (WPPI) Energy partner for its electrical service. Stene said that a WPPI representative works out of the utility's office one day per week, and helps assist local customers to implement their own renewable energy initiatives, like solar panels or electric vehicle chargers.

"Through WPPI, that's always a conversation. How much we're investing in wind and solar, and our mix," Stene said. "It's definitely always on the forefront of our minds. We have not been tapped to be a part of that sustainability discussion (at the village level), but I wouldn't be surprised if we are. We're definitely supportive of it."

With a lot to focus on at the moment, and plenty to consider when looking at the future, Stene seems content to have returned to Waunakee once again and is excited to get to work.

"It feels like coming home. To be quite honest, I just love this organization, the village and the residents," she said. It's a nice thing to come back. I know the people, I know the employees, and my colleagues. It feels good to just be able to jump right into work."

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Viroqua, Vernon County Times

WISCONSIN NEWS TRACKER

Aug 05 2026 Page B04 Clip resized 64%

Westby's Sweet Rides fundraiser wins crucial support grant

Grant to fund the production of promotional video

WESTBY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Westby Area Historical Society has received a $2,000 economic development grant from WPPI Energy to support promotional efforts for its annual Sweet Rides & Sweet Pies fundraiser and highlight the city of Westby as a destination for visitors.

On Wednesday, July 29, Jim Schwingle, Senior Energy Services manager for WPPI Energy, joined Westby Utility Clerk Wendy Sutton and Westby Director of Public Works Ron Janzen in presenting the grant to Sweet Rides & Sweet Pies Chairman Garland McGarvey and WAHS Treasurer Kathy Anderson.

The grant will fund the production of a promotional video showcasing the positive economic impact of Sweet Rides & Sweet Pies on the Westby community. Each year, the one-day fundraiser attracts more than 1,500 visitors who enjoy the classic car show, homemade pie, shopping, dining, fuel stops and local attractions, providing a significant boost to area businesses.

WAHS has partnered with William Preising of Preising Productions, LLC, to produce the video. In addition to his professional services, Preising is donating a substantial amount of his time and expertise to ensure the project serves as a high-quality marketing tool for the city of Westby.

"The Westby Area Historical Society is grateful to WPPI Energy for investing in our community and recognizing the economic benefits of Sweet Rides & Sweet Pies," said McGarvey. "We are equally thankful to William Preising for his generosity and commitment to creating a video that will promote Westby for years to come."

WAHS extends its sincere appreciation to WPPI Energy, the city of Westby, and William Preising for making this project possible and helping showcase everything Westby has to offer.



WILLIAM PREISING, PREISING PRODUCTIONS, LLC, CONTRIBUTED

The Westby Area Historical Society has received a $2,000 economic development grant from WPPI Energy to support promotional efforts for its annual Sweet Rides & Sweet Pies fundraiser. Pictured are (from left) Jim Schwingle, Wendy Sutton, Kathy Anderson, Ron Janzen, and Garland McGarvey

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Aug 26
2026
Page A003
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City denies ordinance limiting term limits; moves to referendum on November ballot

New dog park, vets memorial idea introduced

BY MICHELLE DREW
EDITOR

The citizen petition to create an ordinance that would limit term lengths for members of the Eagle River City Council and mayor was denied during the Aug. 18 meeting so it can be added to the ballot in November.

The topic was not opened up to the public for discussion. Clerk Becky Bolte noted that the petition followed all the necessary rules to be considered,

Alderman Dan Dumas said the voters should decide.

"They (the petition organizers) did a lot of work here and I think we let this go to the ballot," he said.

The council voted to deny it as opposed to taking no action in order to speed up the process and allow enough time for Bolte to get information to the county clerk's office to have it placed on the November ballot.

Dog park, veterans' memorial location

After last month's meeting where a motion to move forward on placing a dog park on the grounds by Gremban Park died for lack of a second, more locations were brought to the August meeting for consideration.

Denny Geiseman, president of the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) in Eagle River, was in attendance and brought up a very new idea that would involve purchasing the lot at 1100 N. Railroad St. (where the U-Haul storage facility was looking to be placed) and using the space for a veterans' memorial site and also a dog park.

The soil quality and drainage issues were top among the reasons constructing a storage facility there was nixed by the council, but this plan would not affect how the property currently drains since the vast majority would remain grass-covered as it is now.

Geiseman indicated he thought it was important to have a more visible veterans memorial in town. There is currently one located in front of the courthouse, but he said he fields questions often from veterans visiting town about where the memorial is located.

"The thought process is that we don't have to worry about drainage," Geiseman said. "It'd be nice if we had a memorial coming into town."

He called it the "perfect spot" for the VRC and the city to partner up. The property is 2.75 acres, which would allow approximately 2 acres for the dog park and the remaining used for the memorial.

Geiseman said he has a letter of intent drawn up for Aspirus, which currently owns the property, but wanted to see how the council felt about the plan before moving forward. The VRC would need time to get financing and do some fundraising to purchase the land.

City Administrator Robin Ginner also put together a list of seven possible properties that are city-owned and could be used for a dog park.

Referring to the list of properties, Alderman Vic Washelesky — who is in favor of placing the park at Gremban Park — visited each site and graded them on amenities that he found important to include such as being in a central location; having grass, some trees, and relatively level ground; potable water, restrooms and parking available; and the costs of grading and site preparation.

Riverside Park was one location that was favored by most of the council members, but the big hangup is that the park is county-owned and in flux about what will ultimately be done with the property. Washelesky indicated that the last he had heard, Vilas County board Chairman Jerry Burkett was still in favor of selling the park, making it a hard option to reliably move forward with. More information is being gathered from the Vilas County Fairgrounds and Riverside Park Complex

To LIMITS Pg. 4

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Aug 26
2026
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From A003

Limits

FROM PAGE 3

committees.

After visiting each site Washelesky still favored Gremban Park, but the snow removal costs still remain. Public Works Foreman Brad Adamovich put together some numbers on how snow removal costs could increase sharply if they had to dump in a new location, estimating it could cost the taxpayers an additional $16,000-$22,000 per year.

"Not many households in the city can absorb that kind of an increase," Ginner said.

Other properties located on Fern, Indiana and Minnesota streets were floated, but most had their own challenges. There was support for the veterans' memorial and dog park plan, but that could take time to put together and there were concerns about taking the property off the city tax roll.

After more discussion, a frustrated Mayor Deb Brown said, "We've got eight options here and we can't seem to come up with one that's gonna work. We've been screwing around with this for five, six, seven years. It's time we shit or get off the pot."

The topic was postponed again so more information can be collected.

Electric price hike

Mike Sanborn, director of Eagle River Light and Water utility, said that after the completion of a rate study, the Light and Water Commission has approved moving forward with submitting an electric rate increase to Public Service Commission (PSC). The last rate increase was three years ago.

"We're looking at a 1.75% overall increase," Sanborn said. "That equates to, for the average homeowner who uses 503 kilowatt hours, they'll see about a 93 cent increase on their monthly bill. For the average commercial customer using 1,370 kilowatt hours, they'll see about a $2.47 increase per month."

Sanborn said PSC has to review it, and there will be a public hearing on it but they are looking at implementation after Jan. 1, 2027.

Sanborn had some good news to share, saying the DNR has approved a field to spread wastewater sludge on. He has an application for another adjoining field to be approved, and hopes to start spreading this fall.

"It's a pretty good solution to a problem we were having," Sanborn said.

The council also voted to approve a resolution to amend the long-term power supply contract with Wisconsin Public Power Inc. (WPPI).

Other actions

The council approved a quote from IT Strategies for police department technology upgrade in the amount of $33,090 along with a rezoning and subsequent change to the city's Comprehensive Plan for a property on Elm Drive from Parks/Recreation to Office/Residential.

Golf Pro Tony Sable indicated that the golf course has had a good season, but had to close for two days following the July 27 storm in order to clean up downed trees and debris. He also noted to the council that the parking lot is going to be in need of new parking lines painted and ultimately, a resurfacing in the coming years.

A permit also was issued for an upcoming free rabies clinic set for Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at city hall. The service will be done in conjunction with Totally Pawsome, Northwoods Animal Hospital, and the newly formed Eagle River Professional Police Association.

Special meeting

In a separate special meeting on Aug. 19, the council accepted the resignation of Alderman Dan Dumas, who has moved into a new home that is located within a different district that is currently represented by Washelesky. His resignation was effective Aug. 22 for District 4, Ward 5.

Washelesky had previously indicated that he may not run for his seat on the city council when his term ends, which would allow Dumas to run again. The mayor has not chosen an appointment to fill the vacancy yet.

Also at the special meeting, a discussion occurred but no action was taken on a resolution from the Eagle River Area Fire Department to authorize a levy limit referendum for fire protection and emergency services.

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