

GREEN LAKE COUNTY

571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI 54941

The following documents are included in the packet for the *Green Lake County Board of Adjustment* business meeting that is scheduled for <u>Friday, December 19, 2025</u>. The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. The Public Hearing is not to begin before 9:30 a.m.

Packet Pages:

2	Agenda
3-4	Draft Meeting Minutes from April 25, 2025
5	2026 BOA Calendar
6	Current BOA Member Terms
7	Public Hearing Notice
8-23	Variance Application Materials
24-26	LUP&Z Committee Staff Report

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Land Use Planning & Zoning Department at (920) 294-4156.



GREEN LAKE COUNTY Board of Adjustment 571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI 54941

Office: (920) 294-4156 FAX: (920) 294-4198

Email: <u>zoning@greenlakecountywi.gov</u>

Board of Adjustment Meeting Notice

Date: December 19, 2025, Time: 9:00 AM

Green Lake County Government Center, Room #0902 571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI 54941

AGENDA

Board of Adjustment Members:

Ron Triemstra, Chair

Rick Dornfeld, Vice-Chair

Peter Wallace, Member

Brian Zimmerman, First Alternate

Vacant-TBD, Second alternate

Karissa Rohde, BOA Secretary

Virtual attendance at meetings is optional. If technical difficulties arise, there may be instances when remote access may be compromised. If there is a quorum attending in person, the meeting will proceed as scheduled.

This agenda gives notice of a meeting of the Board of Adjustment. It is possible that individual members of other governing bodies of Green Lake County government may attend this meeting for informative purposes. Members of the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors or its committees may be present for informative purposes but will not take any formal action. A majority or a negative quorum of the members of the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors and/or any of its committees may be present at this meeting. See State ex rel. Badke v. Vill. Bd. of Vill. of Greendale, 173 Wis.2d 553, 578, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993).

- 1. Call to order
- 2. Roll call
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance
- 4. Certification of open meeting law
- 5. Approval of Minutes: 4/25/2025
- 6. 2026 BOA Calendar
- 7. Current BOA Member terms and discussion
- 8. Recess for field inspection
- 9. Public Hearing (not to begin before 9:30am)

Item #1: Owner/Applicant: Brooks Farm Properties LLC, Agent: WE Energies – Madelyn Koerner, Location: N2705 County Road A, Parcel: 006-00672-0000, General Legal Description: Located in the SE ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 34, T15N, R13E, Town of Green Lake, Request: Variance from Section 350-43.1 of the County Zoning Ordinance to build a security fence that is 7 feet in height within the street right-of-way line.

- a. Public Hearing
- b. Board Discussion & Deliberation
- c. Board Decision

10. Adjourn

This meeting will be conducted through in person attendance or audio/visual communication. Remote access can be obtained through the following link:

Topic: Board of Adjustment Meeting

Time: December 19, 2025, 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 251 020 992 945 16

Passcode: ny7V3SC7 **Dial in by phone**

+1 920-515-0745,,262359018# United States,

Appleton

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: 262 359 018#

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-

in PIN

Please accept at your earliest convenience.

Thank you!

Org help | Privacy and security

Green Lake County BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

April 25, 2025

The meeting of the Green Lake County Board of Adjustment was called to order by Chair Ron Triemstra on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 9:00am in the Green Lake County Board Room, Green Lake County Government Center, 571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI. The meeting was held both in person and via remote access. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ron Triemstra, Chair **Absent:**

Rick Dornfeld Peter Wallace

Other County employees present:

Karissa Block, Deputy County Clerk, Matt Kirkman, P&Z Director; Ryan Schinke, Land Use Coordinator/Technician

MINUTES

Motion/second (Wallace/Dornfeld) to approve the minutes of the 11/15/2024 meeting. Motion carried with no negative vote.

CLOSED SESSION

• to confer with legal counsel for the BOA who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the BOA with respect to litigation in which it is or likely to become involved., re: Green Lake County Case No. 2024CV000038

Motion/second (Triemstra/Dornfeld) to move into Closed Session. Motion carried with no negative vote. Motion/second (Dornfeld/Triemstra) to allow Planning & Zoning staff Matt Kirkman and Ryan Schinke to be present during Closed Session. Motion carried with no negative vote.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION FOR THE BOA TO TAKE ACTION ON ANY DECISIONS MADE IN CLOSED SESSION

Motion/second (Dornfeld/Wallace) to move into Open Session. Motion carried with no negative vote. *Motion/second (Triemstra/Dornfeld)* to join in an appeal with Little Green Lodge in case No. 2024CV000038. Motion carried with no negative vote.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- a. Next meeting date NA
- b. Future agenda items for action & discussion

ADJOURN

Chair Triemstra adjourned the meeting at 9:47am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Block Deputy County Clerk



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Meeting Dates:
January 16
February 20
March 20
April 17
May 15
June 19
July 17
August 21
September 18
October 16
November 20
December 18

Board of Adjustment

2026

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BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT CURRENT MEMBER STATUS

Member	Reappointment Date	Term Ends
Ron Triemstra-chair	May 21, 2024	June 30, 2027
Peter Wallace	May 20, 2025	June 30, 2028
Rick Dornfeld	December 19, 2023	June 30, 2026
Brian Zimmerman-1 st alternate	May 21, 2024	June 30, 2027
Vacant-2 nd alternate	TBD	June 30, 2028

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Green Lake County Board of Adjustment will hold a Public Hearing in County Board Room #0902 of the Green Lake County Government Center, 571 County Road A, Green Lake, Wisconsin, on <u>Friday</u>, <u>December 19</u>, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will recess for site inspection of the following item:

Item #1: Owner/Applicant: Brooks Farm Properties LLC, Agent: WE Energies – Madelyn Koerner, Location: N2705 County Road A, Parcel: 006-00672-0000, General Legal Description: Located in the SE ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 34, T15N, R13E, Town of Green Lake, Request: Variance from Section 350-43.1 of the County Zoning Ordinance to build a security fence that is 7 feet in height within the street right-of-way line.

The Board of Adjustment will reconvene at approximately 9:30 a.m. to consider the item above.

All interested persons wishing to be heard at the public hearing are invited to attend. Please note that *it is not uncommon for an owner/applicant to withdraw a request at the last minute.* For further detailed information concerning this notice contact **Land Use Planning and Zoning** at (920) 294-4156.

Publish: December 4, 2025

VARIANCE APPLICATION – GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Provide the following information and any other detailed information related to the variance.

Date Received: 10/29/25			Fee Received: _	11/4/25 \$37	5		
Brooks Farm Prop	erties LLC		Wisconsin Gas LLC, doing business as We Energies				
Owner Name			Applicant Name				
D.5-	llutt	10/21/2025	contr	~	10/21/2025		
Owner Signatur	e	Date	Applicant Signat	ure	Date		
W774 Center Road	d		231 W Michigan St				
Mailing Addres	s		Mailing Address				
Markesan	WI	53946	Milwaukee	WI '	53203		
City	State	Zip	City	State	Zip		
	507-9	723-0554		414-2	21-2197		
Home Phone	Worl	k/Cell Phone	Home Phone	Work	Cell Phone		
paul.schar	H@gmail.co.	m	madelyn.koerner@\	wecenergygroup.c	om		
Email address			Email address				
	Site Address	N2705 County Road A					
	Tax Parcel ID	#	00672 - 0000				
s	SE ½, NW	1/4, Section34	, T 15]	N, R <u>13</u>	E		
Lot	Block	Subdivision	on/Plat				
Lot	CSM #	To	own of Green Lake				

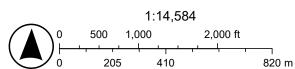
A variance is <u>not</u> a convenience to the property owner and should not be granted routinely. For the Board of Adjustment to grant a variance, the owner/applicant must clearly demonstrate that there is an unnecessary hardship present when strictly applying an ordinance standard; that the hardship is due to unique site limitations; and in granting a variance the public interest is being protected. <u>The burden of proof rests upon the property owner to show all 3 criteria are being met.</u>

Attach additional sheets, if necessary, to provide the information requested.
1. Explain your proposed plans and how they vary from the required dimensional standards:
Wisconsin Gas LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company, doing business as We Energies will be putting at gas regulator
station on the parcel detailed above, owned by Brooks Farm Properties LLC. For safety concerns to prevent tampering of
gas facilities, We Energies wants to place a 6-foot tall fence with an additional foot of barbed wire for a total height of 7 feet.
The fence would go around the gas regulator station easement area (a 75' by 75' easement area) that is against the edge of
road Right of Way. Local zoning codes restrict the height of fencing to a certain height when it is within 40 feet from the road
Right of Way that would be breached by We Energies proposed 7-foot high fence.
2. Explain the hardship imposed by the Ordinance:
Having a lower fence could jeopardize the gas facilities within the easement in area. The fence is to deter unauthorized access
into the easement area to prevent tampering with the gas facilities. With a lower fence, unauthorized access is more likely and
could put not only the gas facilities at risk but also the surrounding area and environment.
3. Describe unique property feature(s) that create the hardship:
We Energies did not want to impact the existing structures on the property nor use the agricultural land. Therefore, We Energies
proposed to work at this section of land despite its proximity to the road ROW to avoid impacting the landowners' assets.
It is We Energies protocol to have a 7-foot high barbed fence for safety concerns, regardless of location.
4. Explain why the proposed variance will not harm the public interest:
The variance to allow the fence to be at the proposed height will protect the public interest by deterring unauthorized access.
If unauthorized access occurs and the gas facilities are tampered with, the public would be at risk. Therefore, taking this
additional precaution would protect the public interest.

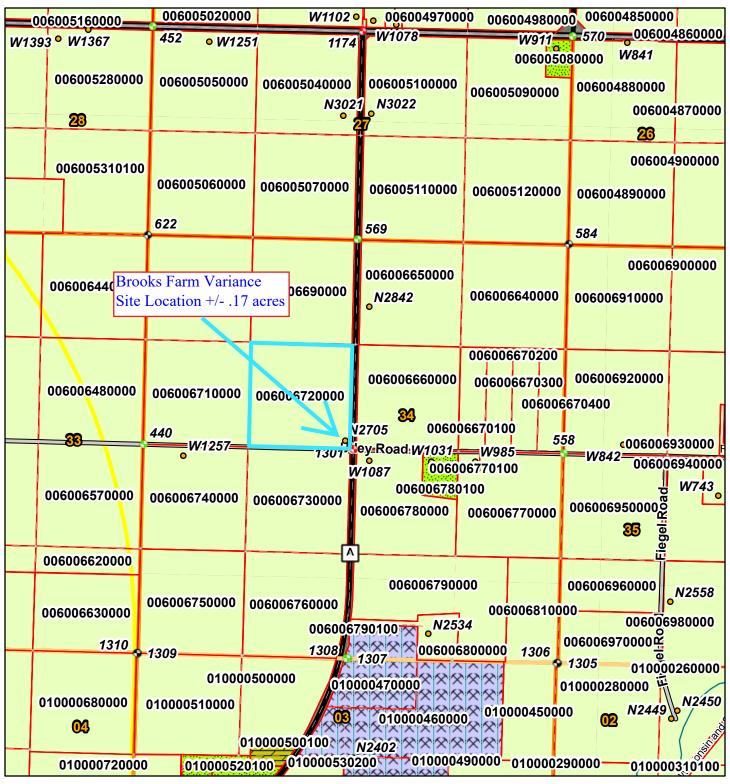
Brooks Farm Variance Aerial Map



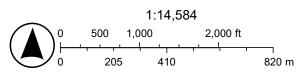
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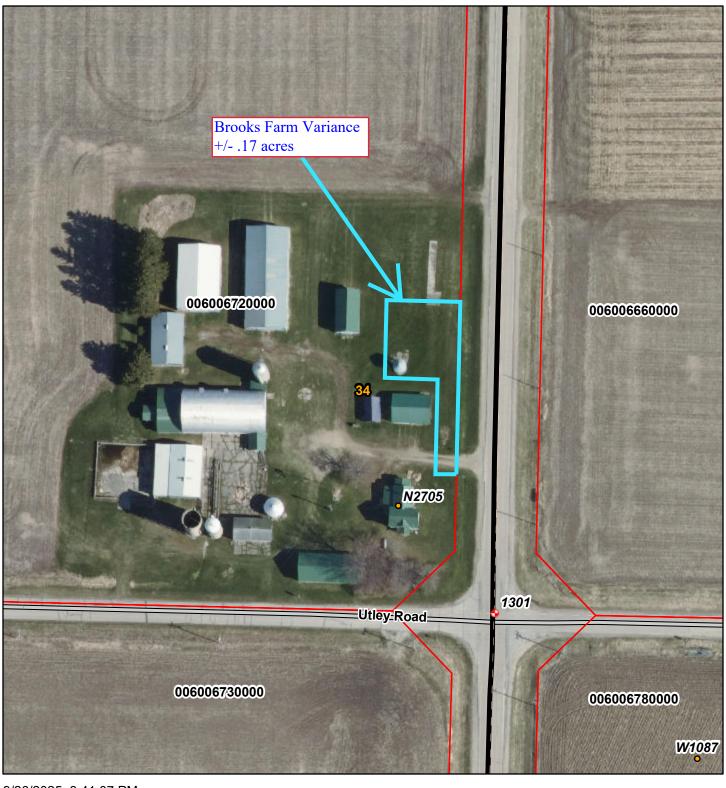
Brooks Farm Variance Zoning Map



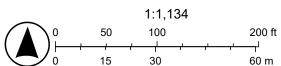
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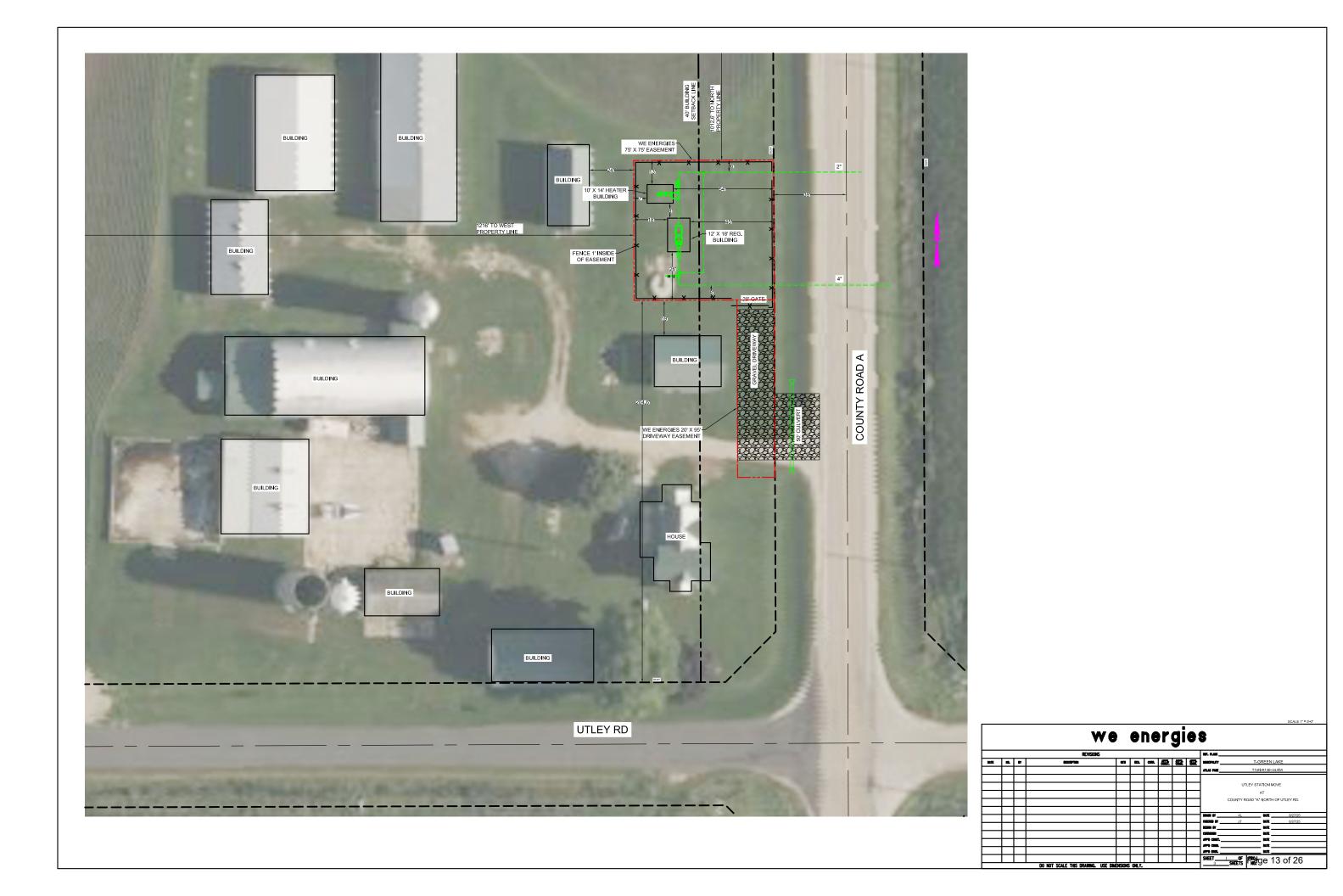


Brooks Farm Variance Aerial Map2



9/26/2025, 3:41:07 PM







621 Adams Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

715-457-5279

October 3, 2025

We energies

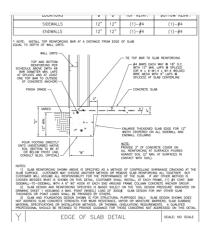
Markesan, WI

Quote#: 252-10340

Ryan,

Per your request regarding the 10x14 and 12x18 buildings in Markesan, WI, we are pleased to propose the following:

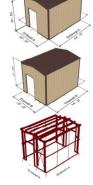
- Mobilize manpower and equipment
- Fuller Mechanical to provide all necessary safety equipment
- Project to be completed on weekday
- Form and pour (2) days
 - (1) 10'x14' slab, 6" thick with 12"x12" thickened edge
 - (1) 12'x18' slab, 6" thick with 12"x12" thickened edge
 - 8'x10' standalone slab



Erect building, building colors TBD

BULIDING DESCRIPTION: $10^{\circ} - 0^{\circ\prime} \text{ wide x } 14^{\circ} - 0^{\circ\prime} \text{ long x } 10^{\circ} - 0^{\circ\prime} \text{ high building with roof pitch of } 2:12$

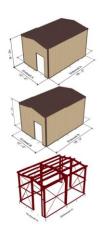
Stamped Engineering Plans
Slab foundation plans included
40 psf ground snow load, 40 psf min. roof snow load
110 mph wind speed, exposure 'C'
2021 IBC

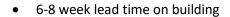


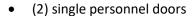
BULIDING DESCRIPTION: $12^{\circ} - 0^{\circ} \text{ wide x } 18^{\circ} - 0^{\circ} \text{ long x } 10^{\circ} - 6^{\circ} \text{ high building with roof pitch of } 2:12$

BUILDING OPTIONS:
(2) Personnel door openings
Roof finish: 26G PBR Panel 26G COFBRWN
Wall finish: 26G PBR Panel 26G SAD-TAN
Framing finish: Red Oxide

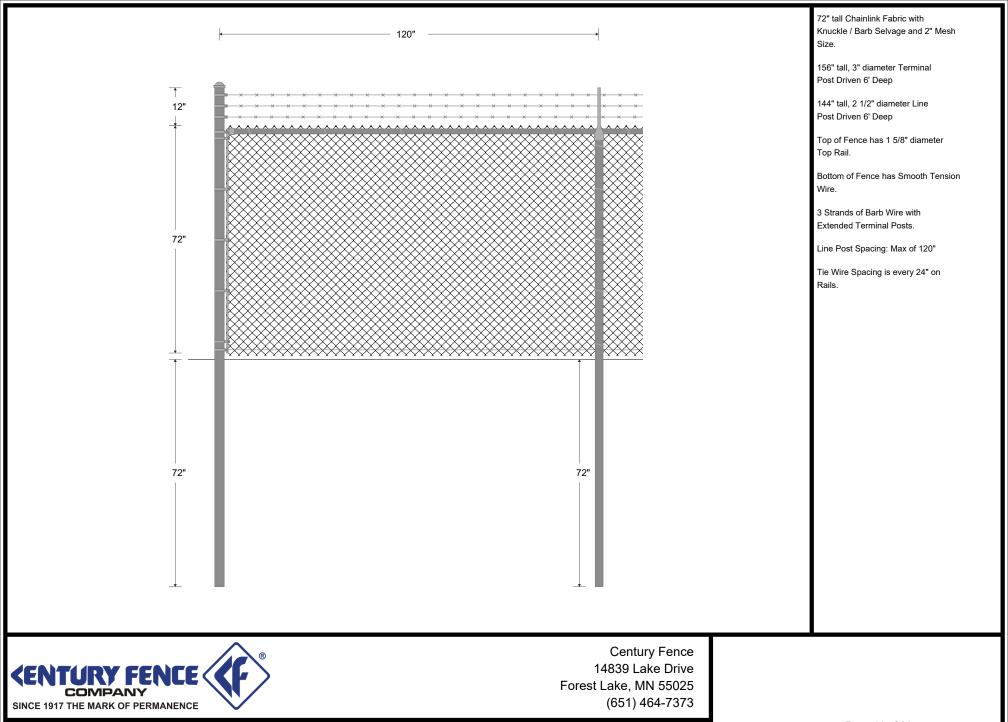
Stamped Engineering Plans
Slab foundation plans included
40 psf ground snow load, 40 psf min. roof snow load
110 mph wind speed, exposure 'C'
2021 IBC











CHAIN LINK FENCE DRAWING

Drawn: 10/16/2025 File: Page 16 of 26







Permit Application

Green Lake

Permit Type: Land Use Permit Issued: 11/11/2025 Permit No. 14104 Fee: \$150.00

Permit Expires: 11/10/2026 Value: \$61,738.00

Mailing Address BROOKS FARM PROPERTIES LLC

W774 CENTER RD. MARKESAN, WI 53946

Permit Detail:

Received By: Matt Kirkman

Muni	Parcel Number	Site Address	Legal Description
Town of Green Lake	006006720000	N2705 COUNTY ROAD A	SE1/4 OF THE NW1/4 SEC 34 (SUBJECT TO THE HWY R/W AS RECD IN V189 P585)

Application For

Туре	Subtype	Width(ft)	Length (ft)	Height (ft)	Diameter(ft)	Depth(ft)	Stories				
Accessory Structure	Natural Gas Regulating Station	75.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
	Description: Includes two buildings, gravel area and access drive.										

Minimum Setback Requirements:

0.0ft. from East Road Right-of-Way 204.0ft. from South Road Right-of-Way 1216.0ft. from West Lot line 1012.0ft. from North Lot line

Zoning Districts:

Land Use Permit Conditions

- * FINAL INSPECTION: Notify Code Enforcement Office within 10 days after completion of construction, alteration, repair or relocation of proposed structure.
- * WALL FORM INSPECTION: Contact Code Enforcement Office 24 hours prior, to schedule inspection for setback verification once wall forms are up, and prior to pouring concrete.
- * Green Lake County approval does not eliminate the need of the owner / developer to obtain all other necessary approval from other entities of jurisdiction.

Permit Application

- * This Land Use Permit must be posted so as to be visible from the road right-of-way.
- * Applications for renewal of this Land Use Permit shall be made to the Green Lake County Land Use Planning & Zoning Office.
- * Changed regulations will not impair the validity of this Land Use Permit.
- * This Land Use Permit is subject to the rules in force at the time of issuance.
- * This Land Use Permit is valid for one year from the date of issuance.
- * This Land Use Permit is only valid for commencement of the work described in the application for permit.
- * When plans for the proposed project(s) are updated and/or revised, a copy of the new plans with changes must be provided to the Land Use Planning & Zoning Department for review and approval in accordance with all applicable standards.

Signature:

The undersigned hereby agrees that all work shall be done in accordance with the requirements of all Green Lake Ordinances and all applicable laws and regulations of the State of Wisconsin. Dimensions and distances provided on this form and all attachments hereto are true and correct. Applicant authorizes Green Lake staff to inspect the premise for conformity to this permit.

Application Name Printed: Maddy Koerner - WE Energies		Telephone #: 414-221-2197		
Application Signature:	Date:	Staff Signature:	Date:	
See LUP application	10-20-2025	Matt Kirkman	11-11-25	

page 1/2

GREEN LAKE COUNTY

LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

Land Use Planning & Zoning 571 County Road A Green Lake, WI 54941 Phone: (920) 294-4156

PARTI	COUNTY USE ONLY			
PA	Parcel/Tax ID# 006 - 006	<u> </u>	11-11-25	Permit # /4/04
k only)	Owner Brooks Farm Properties LLC Name W774 Center Road	Contractor (Applicant)	Wisconsin Gas LLC, do Name 231 W Michigan St	oing business as We Energies
(Black or blue ink only)	Address Markesan WI City State Home Phone Work/Ce	53946-8702 Zip	Address Milwaukee City	WI 53203 State Zip 414-221-2197 Work/Cell Phone
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	Township Town of Green Lake			, T ¹⁵ N, R ₁₃ E
RT II	Lot Block Subd			
PAR	Proposed Project(s) Gas regulator state			CSMI #
"	Proposed Project(s)	ion and access		
	Use of Project(s) ☐ Agricultural ☐ Ce			
	Type of Project #3 Grav Project Dimensions Are		f Project #	
	Principal Lth/Wth 75 × 75		ai Lth/Wth <u>~</u>	, ,
	☐ Accessory Area 5625.15 ft²	Front	ory Area 1900	ft ² Front —
	□ New Height atgraleft □ Addition Stories	Side0 New Side1216 ☐ Addition	Height of a	<u>£e_ft</u> Side <u>0</u> Side <u>1271</u>
	☐ Grade/Fill Bedrooms (new	w) Rear <u>_204.6</u>	Fill Bedrooms —	(new) Rear 109.6
	☐ Sign Bedrooms(tota			
Ш	Cost of Construction w/Labor* \$	clocked in =1 Cost of C	Construction w/Labor	*\$ Included in "
LY	COUNTY USE ONLY Yes No	Zoning District A+1	Data by Yes No	MEK Date 11-11-25
ONL	☐ ☑ Shoreland*	fes No ☐		Existing Nonconforming
TY USE	☐ ☑ Wetland ☐ ☑ Floodway	□		Equalized Assessed Value
7	☐ ☐ Flood Fringe	☐ P&Z <u>C∪P //- (</u>	675	Construction Cost w/Labor
불	☐ ☐ General Floodplain	□		\$
0	☐ ☑ Wall Insp. Req. ☑ ☐ Final Insp. Required	□ □ powts <u>{na</u>		% of assessed value
၁ =	☐ ☑ Other Insp. (see notes)	DWF <u>/</u>	D>	50% of Eq. Assessed Val.
ART III COUNT	NOTES		· · · · · ·	
PA	*Shoreland may have additional requirements	5.		
	The owner, or contractor acting on behalf of the	he owner, hereby certifies that the info	ormation submitted on and	with this application, is true and
<u> </u> ≥	correct to the best of their knowledge. The to inspect the above-described project(s) for the date of issuance. This permit may be	owner hereby grants Green Lake Cor r compliance with all applicable cond	unty Zoning staff permissi ditions and ordinances, 1	on to enter the subject property
ART	Permit Fee \$ 150 Owner	er/Contractor Signature		Date <u>/0/20/202</u> 5
P/	Check # <u>1714442</u> Zonii	ng Official Signature	/ / ·	Date //-//-25
	Receipt # All C	Checks Payable to "Green Lake	e County"	PZZ-001 (06/23)

GREEN LAKE COUNTY

LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

Land Use Planning & Zoning 571 County Road A Green Lake, WI 54941 Phone: (920) 294-4156

ARTI	COUNT	TY USE ONLY						
₽ A	Parcel/Ta	ax ID # <u>ØXo</u>	-006	72-0008	Date Issued	1/1-11-2	Permit #_	14/04
Black or blue ink only)	Owner	Brooks Farm Proper			Contractor (Applicant)	Name	LLC, doing busines	ss as We Energies
ij		W774 Center Road				231 W Michigan Address	St	
<u>e</u>			WI	53946-87	02	Milwaukee	WI	53203
<u>후</u>		City	State	Zip		City	State	
×		Home Phone	Work/Cell Pl	none		Home Phone	Work/C	21-2197 ell Phone
Blac	Site Add	ress N2705 Count	y Road A		Parcel/Tax I	D# 006		
=	Townshi			_				N, R 13 E
ͳ	Lot	Block	Subd/PI	at			CSM#	
PA		d Project(s) Gas r						
	Topooc	<u> </u>						
	Use of P	roject(s) 🗌 Agricu	ıltural □ Com	mercial 🔲 Indu	ustrial ☐ Rec	reational Res	idential 🛛 Other	Utility
	Type of					f Pro		<u> </u>
	Project	t Dimen	sions	Lot Lines (f	t) Projec	t Dim	nensions	Lot Lines (ft)
		al Lth/Wth			<u>3.6</u> ☐ Princip	al Lth/Wth	10 × 14	
	May	ory Area <u> </u>	Alle ft	Front Side45	Access	ory Area Height	/4/() ft ²	Front Side 54
	☐ Additio	n Stories	<u>//-5</u>	Side43	4 □ Additio	n Stories		Side <u>54</u> Side 1223
		Fill Bedrooms	(new)	Rear 230.	6 Grade/		(new)	
	☐ Sign	Bedrooms	(total)	Shore			(total)	
	Cost of C	Construction w/La	bor* \$ <u>61,738</u>	3.00	Cost of 0	Construction w/	Labor* \$ includ	ed in Project 1 price
>	COUNT	Y USE ONLY	Zon	ing District _	A.1	Da	ta by ME6	Date //-//-25
ON	Yes No		Yes	No ,			s No	
SEC		Shoreland* Wetland		After the	e Fact		☑ Existing N	onconforming Assessed Value
US		Floodway		BOA	4 . 0 . 1	<u> </u>	\$	Assessed value
I⋝		Flood Fringe	回	P&Z ETZA	CUP 11	-6-25	· -	on Cost w/Labor
닐		General Floodplair	· H	POTW	$\overline{}$		\$.
COUNTY		Wall Insp. Require	,	POWTS	¿ra		% of asses	ssed value
C		Other Insp. (see no		DWF	2		□ >50% of Eq.	. Assessed Val.
								440
ART	NOTES	5						
	*Shoreland	l may have additional i	equirements.		_			
	The owner,	, or contractor acting o	n behalf of the o	wner, hereby certi	ifies that the info	rmation submitted	on and with this app	olication, is true and
	correct to 1	the best of their know the above-described	dedge. The own	er hereby grants	Green Lake Cor	unty Zoning staff pe	ermission to enter t	he subject property
≥	from the da	ate of issuance. This p	ermit may be re	newed prior to exp	piration and if so	will be subject to the	ne rules in force at t	he time of renewal.
ART	Permit Fe	ee \$_150	Owner/C	ontractor Signa	ature	to	D	ate <u>10/20/2025</u>
4	Chec	ck # <u>1714442</u>	Zoning (Official Signatur	re <i>[[18]</i>	+ CL		ate 11-11-25
	Recei	pt #	All Chec	ks Payable to	"Green Lake	County"		PZZ-001 (06/23)

2024 Property Record | Green Lake County, WI

Assessed values not finalized until after Board of Review Property information is valid as of 9/11/2025 9:13:09 AM

Owner Address

BROOKS FARM PROPERTIES LLC , W774 CENTER RD. MARKESAN, WI 53946

Property Information

Parcel ID: 006006720000

<u>Document #</u> 414990

Tax Districts:

MARKESAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tax Information	Print Tax Bill
Installment	<u>Amount</u>
First:	1,271.34
Second:	1,271.34
Third:	0.00
Total Tax Due:	2,542.68
Base Tax:	2,595.84
Special Assessment:	0.00
Lottery Credit:	0.00
First Dollar Credit:	53.16
Amount Paid: (View payment history info below)	2,542.68
Current Balance Due:	0.00
Interest:	0.00
Total Due:	0.00

Owner

BROOKS FARM PROPERTIES LLC

Property Description

For a complete legal description, see recorded document.

SE1/4 OF THE NW1/4 SEC 34 (SUBJECT TO THE HWY R/W AS RECD IN V189 P585)

Municipality: 006-TOWN OF GREEN LAKE

Property Address: N2705 COUNTY ROAD A

	Land Valuation							
<u>Acres</u>	<u>Land</u>	<u>Impr.</u>	<u>Total</u>					
35.00	\$7,000	\$0	\$7,000					
2.00	\$200	\$0	\$200					
3.00	\$20,000	\$105,500	\$125,500					
40.00	\$27,200	\$105,500	\$132,700					
Assessment Ratio: 0.5706379								
<u>Fair Market Value:</u> Not Applicable								
	35.00 2.00 3.00 40.00 nent Ratio:	35.00 \$7,000 2.00 \$200 3.00 \$20,000 40.00 \$27,200 nent Ratio:	35.00 \$7,000 \$0 2.00 \$200 \$0 3.00 \$20,000 \$105,500 40.00 \$27,200 \$105,500 nent Ratio: 0.5					

Payment History							
<u>Date</u>	Receipt	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Penalty</u>	<u>Total</u>		
12/30/2024	93888	2542.68	0.00	0.00	2542.68		

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

<u>Public Hearing</u> <u>December 19, 2025</u>

Item I: Variance

Owners: Applicant:

Brooks Farm Properties, LLC Wisconsin Gas LLC dba WE Energies

Request: The owners are requesting a variance to locate an open fence and gate within the street yard setback that is 7 feet in height, whereas Section 350-43.1 (B) states that open fences in the street yard setback shall not exceed 4 feet in height.

<u>Parcel Number/Location:</u> The request affects parcel 004-00845-0101 (±13.5 acres) located in the SE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 34, T15N, R13E, Town of Green Lake. The site address is N2705 County Road A.

Existing Zoning and Uses of Adjacent Area: The subject site is currently zoned as A-1, Farmland Preservation District. Apart from a 6-acre wooded parcel southeast of the easement location, all the lands surrounding this parcel are agriculturally zoned and used agriculturally.

Additional Information/ Analysis: The subject (easement) site sits on a 40-acre parcel owned by Brooks Farm Properties, LLC. The easement site is only 75ft (east to west) and 75ft (north to south). This equates to about 5,625 sqft (0.012 acres). The underlying parcel has been used agriculturally for many years. The easement area had been used as corncrib as well as open lawn area. Since 2020, the corn crib has been removed.

On November 6th, 2025 the LUP & Z Committee approved a CUP for WE Energies to construct a gas regulator station within the easement area. The purpose of which is to take high pressure natural gas and reduce the pressure down for distribution to WE Energies customers. That project has been permitted and is under construction.

In order to secure these gas regulation valves, equipment, buildings, and other infrastructure, WE Energies would like to construct a security fence (and gate) that would be 7ft in height. Their (WE Energies) concern being that a zoning ordinance-allowed open fence height of 4ft would not have the same "securing" effect as would a 7ft tall fence. WE Energies uses a 7ft standard height for gas regulator stations without issue.

VARIANCE CRITERIA: To qualify for a variance, it must be demonstrated that the property meets the following 3 requirements: (Wisconsin Act 67 (2017) codified Case Law as applied to variance criteria, §59.694(7)(c)2., with No Harm To Public Interest already codified and now renumbered to §59.694(7)(c)3.)

- 1) Unnecessary Hardship
 - □ hardship may not be self-created (State ex rel. Markdale Corp. v. Board of Appeals)

- circumstances of the applicant, such as a growing family or the need for a larger garage, are not the sole factor in considering variances (Snyder)
- property, as a whole, must be considered, not just a portion (State v. Winnebago County)
- economic or financial hardship is not a sole justification (State v. Winnebago County)

2) Unique Property Limitations

- limitations such as steep slope, wetland, shape, or size that are not shared by other properties and prevent compliance with ordinance (State v. Kenosha BOA)
- limitations common to a number of properties are not a justification (Arndorfer v. Sauk County BOA)
- alternative designs / locations on the property have been investigated (State v. Winnebago County)

3) No Harm to Public Interest

- ordinance purpose and intent, variance may not harm public interest (State v. Winnebago County)
- short-term, long-term, and cumulative effects on public interest in neighborhood, community, and even the state (Ziervogel)
- only allow minimal relief for use of property, may include conditions (Robert M. Anderson, *American Law of Zoning*)

Staff Comments:

1) Unnecessary Hardship

- The hardship in this case emanates from the location and overall area of the easement. If the easement location were outside of the street yard setback or much larger in area the 7ft security fence would be permittable. The applicant (WE Energies) has no control over the location or size of the easement area. The underlying property owner (Brooks Farm Properties, LLC) controls what land they can part with for this use. The hardship imposed on the applicant is not self-created.
- Any responsible utility, operating a gas regulator station, would try to secure the station as best they can. Not only for their purposes but for the safety and security of the public.
- The easement area specifies where the gas regulator station can be located and therefore where the security fence would surround. Other locations on the parcel are not relevant.
- The applicants have not attempted to justify their variance request as an economic or financial hardship.

2) Unique Property Limitations

- The location of the easement area is necessary in order for WE Energies to tap into the high pressure gas line that runs along the county road right-ofway. The size of the easement area is a reflection of the limited area available on the Brooks Farm Properties, LLC's site.
- Once a location is selected for a gas regulator station there will be no neighboring properties that would also be selected. And there are very

- few properties in the County that maintain a gas regulator station. As a result limitations common to a number of properties is not possible.
- Due to the minimal depth (east to west) of the easement area, alternative designs that can securely contain the required equipment, buildings, and underground infrastructure are not possible at this location.

3) Harm to Public Interest

- Allowing the fence height increase out of a concern for public safety and interest, is not a conflict with the purpose and intent section of the zoning ordinance. Rather, the allowance furthers the public interest elements of the ordinance.
- In the short and long term, the BOA may have to consider this variance decision when it comes to other gas regulator proposals that have a reduced easement area. Due to the infrequency of such proposal, there is no negative public interest impact if this variance were to be granted.
- The request is for an industry standard 7ft open-style security fence and gate. There is no need to allow a lesser height and risk the security of the gas regulator station.

VARIANCE CONDITIONS: In order to grant the variance, the request must meet all three criteria listed above. If even one criterion cannot be met, the BOA must deny the variance. Staff's analysis indicates that this variance request stands up well to the three-step test. If the BOA sees this request meeting all three criteria the following conditions may be appropriate:

- 1). We Energies shall obtain a land use permit for the security fence (and gate) prior to the construction of the fence / gate.
- 2). The open-style security fence (and gate) shall remain open-style for as long as the gas regulator station is in service.
- 3). That a fire number be obtained for the gas regulator station prior to land use permit issuance for the security fence and gate.