

Long Range Transmission Planning

MARIBELL TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Project Purpose and Need

About the Project

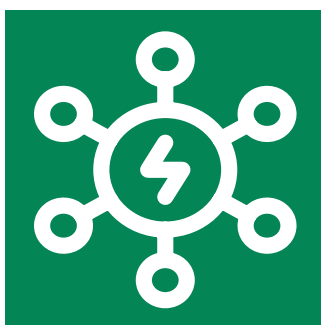
An approximately 140-mile transmission line would be built between Marion, Minn., and Bell Center, Wis. The proposed project includes a 765/161 kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line built in an existing corridor. The new transmission line would:



Enhance the reliability of the electric grid



Help meet surging energy demand



Unlock access to more energy resources



Support the region's growing economy

Estimated Project Schedule



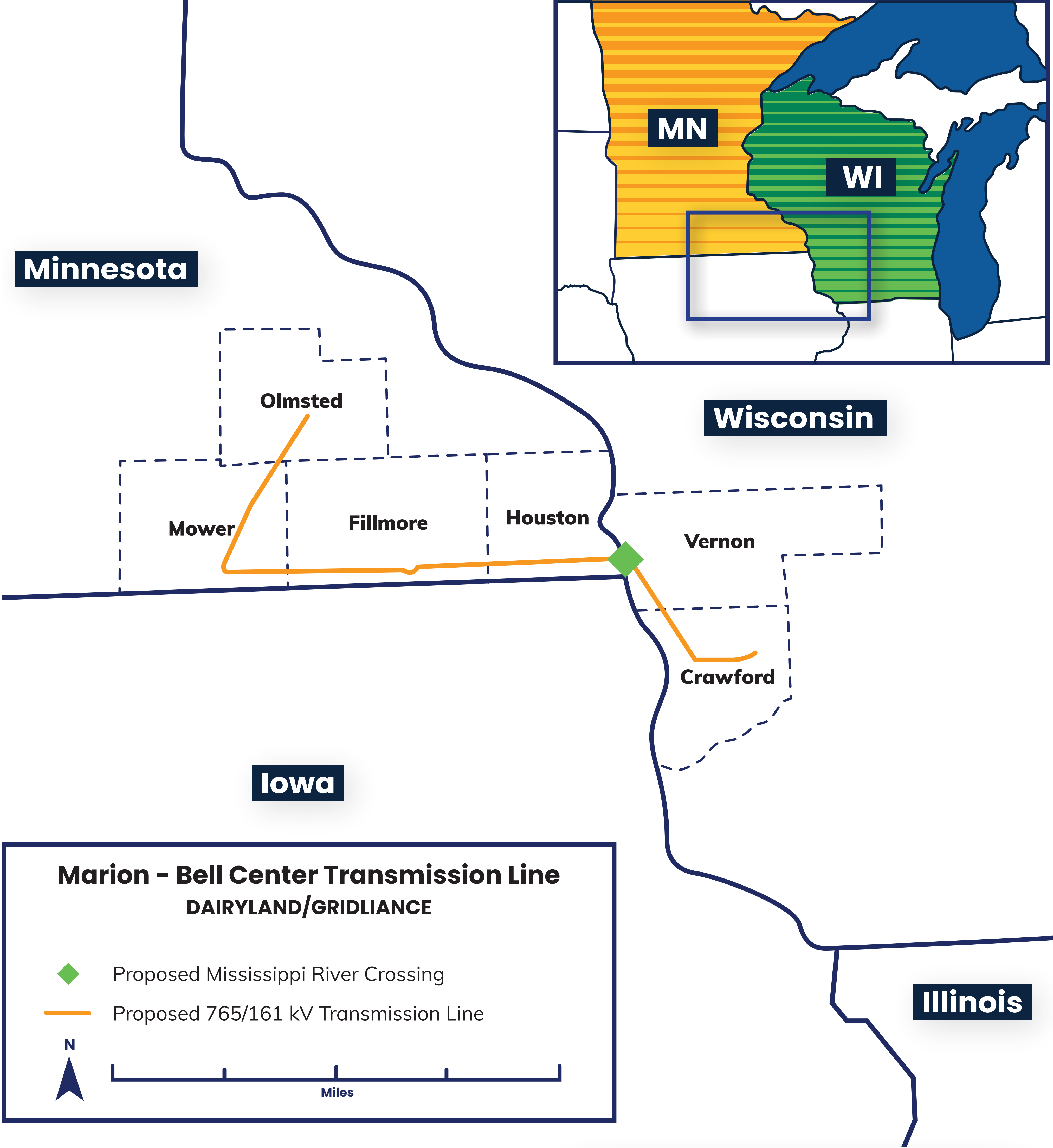
Project schedule is subject to change.



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Project Area



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MISO Overview

What is MISO?

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is the electric grid operator for the central United States. MISO works to keep electricity reliable across 15 states and the Canadian province of Manitoba.

MISO assigned Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland an approximately 140-mile segment (Marion, Minn., to Bell Center, Wis.) of the proposed 273-mile North Rochester—Columbia 765 kV transmission line.

This project is part of MISO's broader effort to build a 765 kV transmission backbone across the Midwest, enhancing the reliability of the electric grid, improving access to remote energy resources and delivering reliable power to homes, farms, and businesses throughout the region.

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Project Partners

The partnership between Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland brings together Dairyland’s local experience and community connections with GridLiance’s expertise in building and managing large energy projects to strengthen the region’s power reliability.



Dairyland Power Cooperative

Headquartered in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electrical requirements to 24 distribution cooperatives and 27 municipal utilities. These cooperatives and municipals, in turn, supply the energy needs of approximately 750,000 people in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois).

GridLiance Heartland, LLC

GridLiance Heartland, LLC is a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Transmission, a leading competitive transmission company that develops, finances, constructs, operates and maintains transmission assets across North America. The company’s subsidiaries have approximately 3,100 circuit miles of high-voltage transmission assets in operation and development in 18 states and Canada. GridLiance Heartland collaborates with rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities in America’s heartland to invest in electric infrastructure and improve the reliability of regional grids.




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Regulatory Process

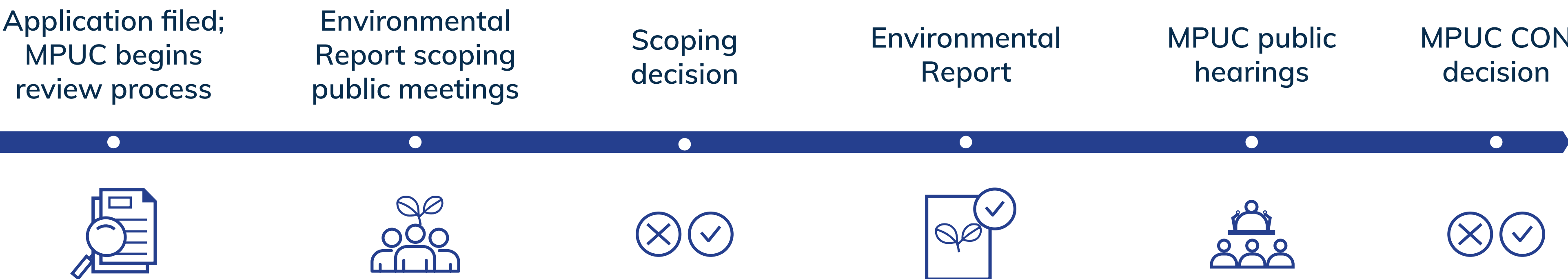
We are at the beginning of a multi-year process that requires routing studies and approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Minnesota

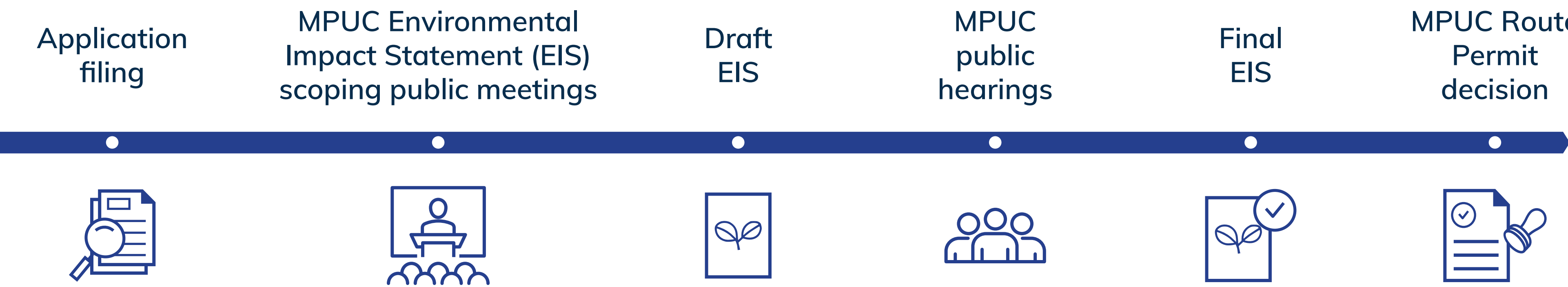
There will be public engagement opportunities during the regulatory process. 

Two key approvals must be obtained from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) before a high-voltage transmission line can be built:

- A **Certificate of Need (CON)** to determine whether the project is necessary and appropriately sized.



- **Route Permit** to identify where the lines should be located and what conditions, if any, should be included in the permit



Written comments can be submitted to the MPUC during the regulatory process. We anticipate filing permit applications with the MPUC in 2026. After independent analysis and public input, the MPUC will issue the final decision on the transmission line route.

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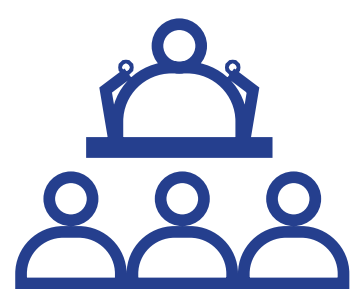
Regulatory Process

We are at the beginning of a multi-year process that requires routing studies and approval by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin

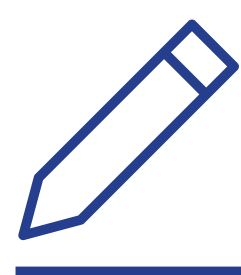
A **Certificate or Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)** must be obtained from the **Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW)** before a high-voltage transmission line can be built.

- In the CPCN proceeding, the PSCW determines whether the proposed facilities are necessary and appropriately routed.



The PSCW will hold public meetings during which the public can comment on the proposed facilities.

During the PSCW permitting process, the public can submit comments by attending and speaking at public hearings, submitting written comments via email or postal mail or by using the PSCW’s Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) system.



We anticipate filing the CPCN application with the PSCW in 2026, with a final decision from the PSCW approximately 12 months after the filing of the application.

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Working with Landowners

Our team is reaching out to landowners in potential routing areas to discuss right-of-way needs and hear your feedback. We're committed to keeping you informed every step of the way and are here to help with questions or concerns.

What is right-of-way (ROW)?

- Rights-of-way are the actual land areas acquired for a specific purpose such as a transmission line, roadway or other infrastructure.
- We anticipate an easement of up to 250 feet wide (125 feet on each side of the centerline) will be necessary for the new transmission line. Right of way is typically secured through negotiation and acquisition of an easement agreement.

Can I still use the area in the right-of-way?

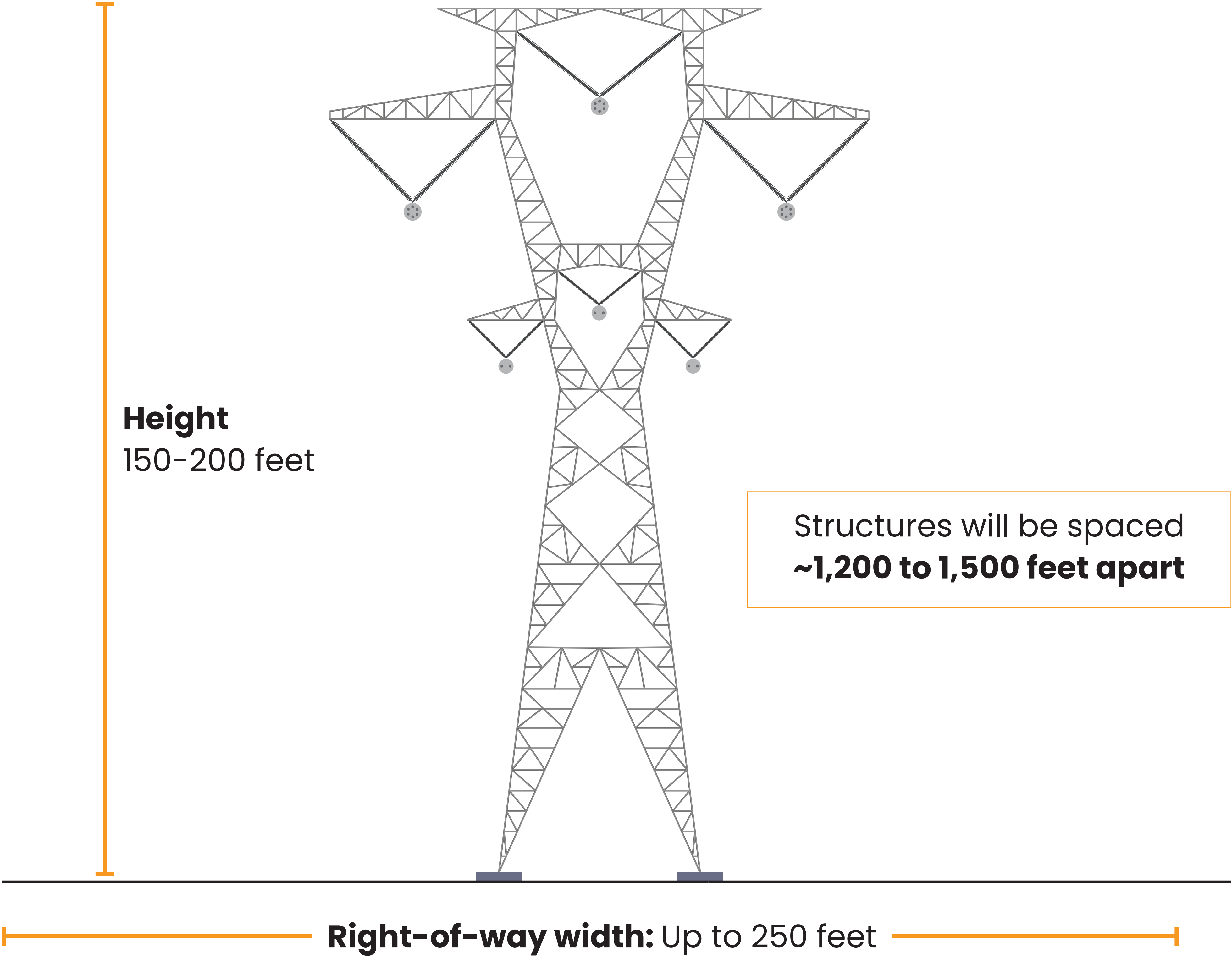
- Land within the ROW may be used for any purpose that does not interfere with the construction, operation or maintenance of the transmission line. In agricultural areas, the land may be used for crop production and pasture.

What is an easement agreement?

- An easement is a legal document that allows our team to construct, operate and maintain transmission structures and lines on your property while you maintain ownership and use of your land.

Transmission Line Design

Typical lattice tower structure



Preliminary design, not to be used for construction.

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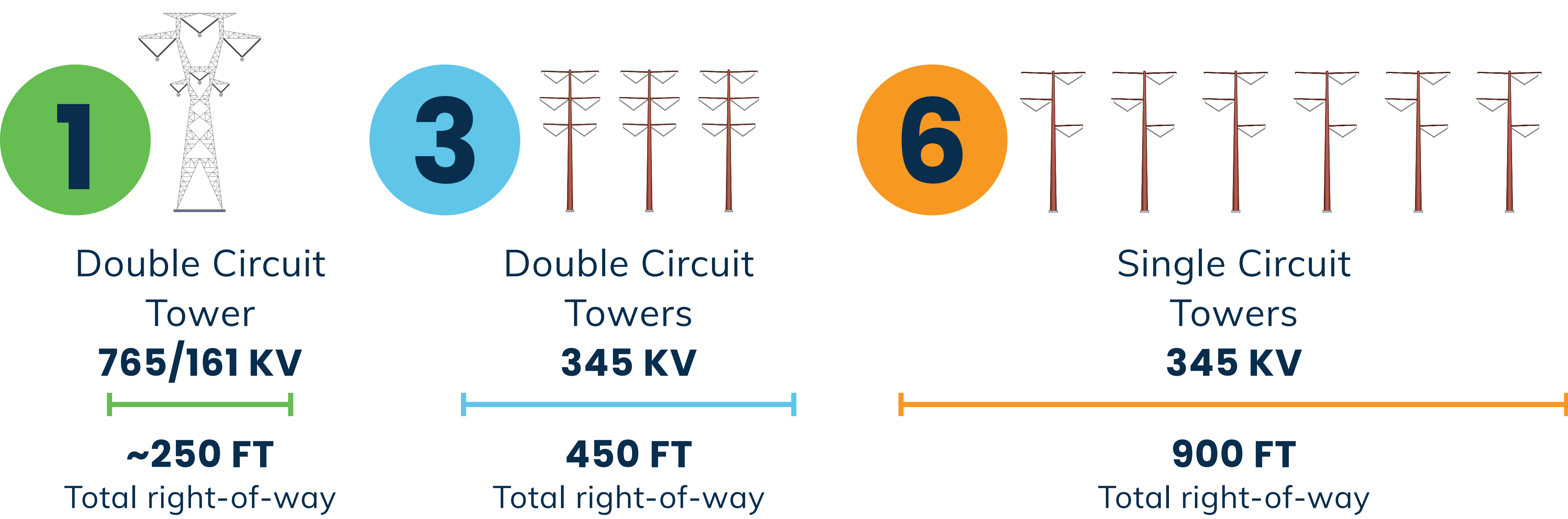
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765 Kilovolt (kV) Technology

765 kilovolt (kV) technology was identified in the MISO planning process as the preferred solution for the region, presenting several advantages:

- Efficiently carries power over long distances, keeping costs low and power flowing to where it needs to go.
- Fewer transmission lines needed to carry the same amount of power.
- Fewer structures reduce impact on land, communities and the environment.
- Provides additional capacity to power new manufacturing, homes, businesses and farms.

One 765 kV transmission line can carry as much power as six 345 kV single circuit lines—*minimizing the landed needed by as much as 70-80%.*



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Route Development Process

The route development process is a multi-step analysis that considers constraints, opportunities and alternatives that aim to minimize impacts to humans and the environment.

Route Development Process

1. Initial landowner and stakeholder conversations

WE ARE HERE!
2. Define Preliminary Route Options

Areas where possible routes could be located
3. Refine Route Options

A further narrowed area within the Preliminary Route Options
4. Proposed Route

Develop Proposed Route(s) to be submitted to the MPUC and PSCW
5. MPUC and PSCW issue a decision on a final route

Feedback from the community is a critical component of the route development process. We will be incorporating comments from the public as well as specific stakeholders, including:

- Landowners

→ Local government

→ Environmental agencies
- Tribal Nations

→ Federal and state agencies

ADDITIONAL FACTORS CONSIDERED IN ROUTE DEVELOPMENT

- Existing transmission and utility corridors

■ Alternative locations and routes

■ Roads, highways and railways

■ Property, field and section lines

■ Location of existing homes and businesses

■ Agricultural impacts

■ Airports
- Reliability

■ Cemeteries, religious facilities and cultural and historic resources

■ Rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands

■ Impacts on sensitive animal and plant species

■ Economics

■ Safety

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Connect with us



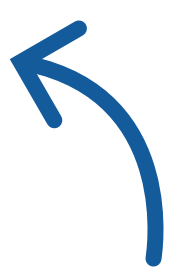
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*Scan here to visit the
official project website*