

# MariBell Transmission Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Revised Oct. 2025*

### What is the MariBell Transmission Project?

The MariBell Transmission Project is an approximately 140-mile, 765/161-kV proposed double-circuit transmission line that would be built between Marion, Minn., and Bell Center, Wis. The proposed transmission line would span portions of Olmsted, Mower, Fillmore and Houston counties in Minnesota and Vernon and Crawford counties in Wisconsin.

The segment is part of a larger North Rochester – Columbia transmission project that was approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) in December 2024. As part of the larger project, the MariBell Transmission Project will enhance the reliability and resilience of the regional electric grid, help meet surging energy demand and support the region's growing economy.

### Why is this project needed?

In December 2024, MISO identified and approved a portfolio of transmission projects in its Long Range Transmission Plan that are needed to enable the grid of the future -- boosting reliability, providing access to low-cost energy resources and meeting growing energy demand. The MariBell segment is among the projects included in the plan.

MISO is the regional grid operator responsible for ensuring power flows reliably across 15 states in the central United States and the Canadian province of Manitoba.

Overall, the proposed transmission project would strengthen the ability to transfer power between Minnesota and Wisconsin, unlock access to more energy resources and enable a reliable grid for the future.

### What is your role in this project?

MISO selected Dairyland Power Cooperative to build, operate and maintain the MariBell Transmission Project. Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland, LLC will jointly develop and construct the transmission line.

### Who will receive the power?

The MariBell Transmission Project will reinforce the electric grid in the Upper Midwest and enable access to low-cost energy to communities throughout the region.

### How will my community benefit from the project?

The project is expected to provide numerous benefits to communities throughout the Upper Midwest, including enhancing the reliability of the regional grid and unlocking access to more energy resources. In addition, the project would help support the region's growing economy and spur economic investment in the community during construction. The project is expected to generate approximately \$400 million in local and state tax revenue in Minnesota and \$30 million in state tax revenue in Wisconsin over the life of the project that could support community services and public infrastructure.

### Have you considered the environmental impact of the new transmission line?

Yes, Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland are cooperating with relevant federal, state and local regulatory agencies to ensure the project is designed, constructed and operated in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and management policies.

We are committed to environmental protection and stewardship. We conduct rigorous environmental analyses to ensure we appropriately locate transmission



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lines and implement best practices to limit our impact on wildlife, sensitive habitats and other natural resources as well as Tribal, cultural and historic resources. We incorporate siting and design features to minimize impacts to sensitive viewsheds to the greatest extent practicable.

### What plans do you have to mitigate impacts on local communities?

Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland intend to use existing rights-of-way where transmission assets are currently located as much as possible and expand the existing rights-of-way, as required to meet state or federal standards. We plan to work closely with communities and landowners to gather their input to limit impacts on farmland and other properties.

### How can I provide feedback on the route?

We are studying potential routes to identify a preferred route. The public will have an opportunity to provide feedback through the project website, at open houses and through the permitting processes of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

### What is the expected schedule?

The MariBell Transmission Project is anticipated to be in service by 2034 following the regulatory review process and thorough stakeholder and community engagement. The project schedule is subject to change.

### What government approvals are required?

Federal and state permits and approvals, including environmental permits, will be required to support construction of the line.

### When will the final route be selected?

We anticipate filing permit applications that include a proposed route with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and preferred and alternative routes with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in 2026. After independent analyses and public input, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and Public Service Commission of Wisconsin will issue the final decision on the transmission line route.

### What will the transmission line look like?

The full project parameters are still being developed. We expect a right-of-way width of up to 250 feet and steel lattice structures that are between 150 and 200 feet tall.

### Will this transmission project increase the rates that customers pay for electricity?

Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland do not set rates but understand customers' concerns regarding their electric bills. The costs will have a regional cost allocation with all costs being spread across the benefitting communities in MISO's Midwest subregion. The purpose of the MariBell Transmission Project is to enable access to low-cost energy and address soaring energy demand. The completed MariBell line would provide greater reliability, leading to fewer power outages and disruptions.



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Revised Nov. 2025

## Project Overview

The MariBell Transmission Project is a proposed transmission line under development by Dairyland Power Cooperative and GridLiance Heartland, LLC, that would span parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The new transmission line would enhance the reliability of the regional electric grid in the Upper Midwest, help meet surging energy demand and support the region's growing economy.

Dairyland was selected by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to build, operate and maintain the line as part of MISO's Long Range Transmission Plan. The MariBell segment will strengthen the ability to transfer power between Minnesota and Wisconsin, unlock access to more energy resources and enable a reliable grid for the future.

## Project Details

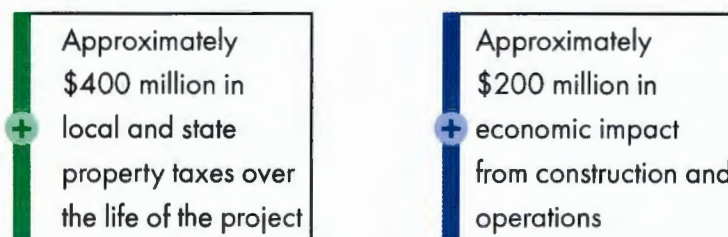
- **Total Length:** Approximately 140 miles (Marion, Minn., to Bell Center, Wis.)
  - **Minnesota Segment:** Located in southeastern Minnesota in Olmsted, Mower, Fillmore and Houston counties
  - **Wisconsin Segment:** Located in southwestern Wisconsin in Vernon and Crawford counties
- **Transmission Line:** 765 / 161-kilovolt\* (kV) double-circuit transmission line
  - \* Under this project, existing 161 kV will be moved to new 765 kV transmission structures.
- **MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning portfolio:** MariBell is part of MISO's newly proposed 765 kV backbone transmission system in the Midwest.

## Project Benefits

The project will provide several benefits for the Upper Midwest.



## Minnesota Economic Benefits



\*Economic Analysis of the MariBell Transmission Project by Strategic Economic Research, LLC



## Environment & Design

- Limiting impacts to landowners, farmland and sensitive resources by using existing transmission corridors where possible
- Designing engineered to minimize land use and visual impacts
- Anticipating a right-of-way width of up to 250 feet and structures between 150 and 200 feet tall
- Conducting detailed environmental analyses to protect sensitive wildlife, their habitats and aquatic resources as well as cultural, tribal and historic resources
- Cooperating with agencies and other stakeholders to comply with federal, state and local laws, regulations and management policies

## Estimated Schedule



Minnesota Certificate of Need Application: Feb. 2026

Route Permit Application: Sept. 2026

*\*The project schedule is subject to change.*

## Project Partners



### **Dairyland Power Cooperative**

Headquartered in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides the wholesale electrical requirements for 24 distribution cooperatives and 27 municipal utilities. These cooperatives and municipals, in turn, supply the energy needs of over 750,000 people in the four-state service area. Dairyland delivers electricity via 3,720 miles of transmission lines and 400 distribution substations located throughout the system's 44,500 square mile service area. Visit [www.DairylandPower.com](http://www.DairylandPower.com).

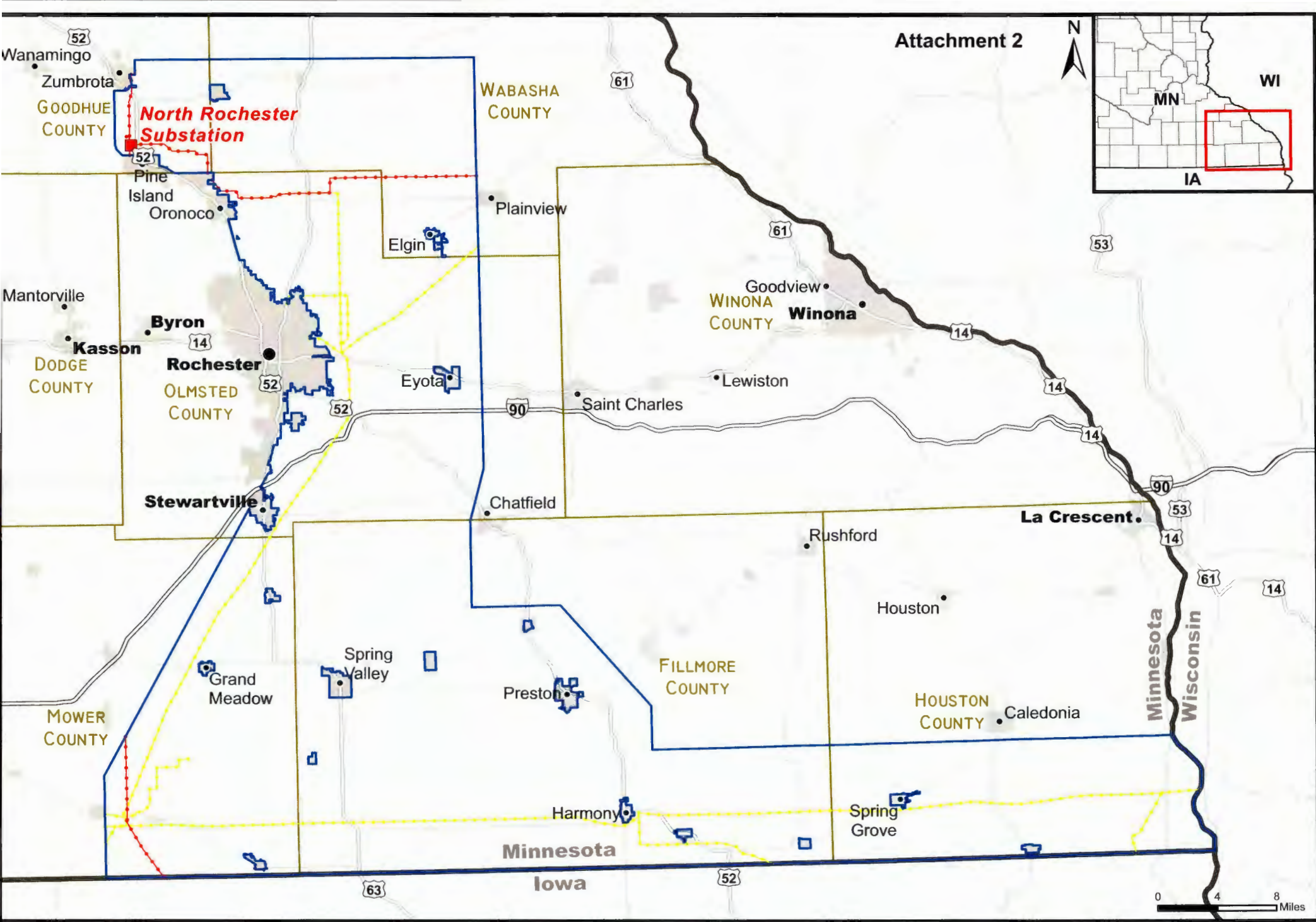
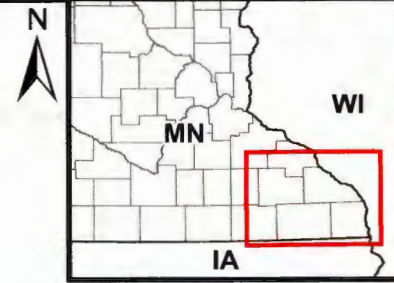


### **GridLiance Heartland, LLC**

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 17 states and Canada.

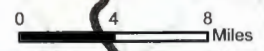
GridLiance Heartland collaborates with rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities in America's heartland to invest in electric infrastructure and improve the reliability of regional grids. The company's investments support the nation's energy independence by strengthening and modernizing the electric grid.





# **North Rochester – Columbia 765 kV Transmission Project LRTP 26 Proposed Notice Area**

- Proposed Notice Area
- County
- Municipality
- Existing Transmission
  - 161 kV
  - 345 kV



## MariBell Transmission Project

Open House Comment Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Business (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the owner of the property listed above? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comment:

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Would you like a response from our project team? If yes, please fill out the contact information.

☐ Yes ☐ No

**How to submit a comment:**

- Drop in the comment basket at the open house
- Mail comment form to our team:  
*Dairyland Power Cooperative*  
*P.O. Box 817*  
*La Crosse, WI 54602*
- Email to: [connect@maribelltransmission.com](mailto:connect@maribelltransmission.com)

Please fold, fasten, and mail - No envelope necessary

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Place  
postage  
here

Dairyland Power Cooperative  
P.O. Box 817  
La Crosse, WI 54602