



July 27, 2026

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative
206 County Road K
Lancaster, WI 53813

Attn: Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Membership

Dear Members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the following information regarding the MariBell Transmission Project. The MariBell team has met with stakeholders over the past 10 months to share information and gather input on the MariBell Transmission Project, including open houses held in Vernon and Crawford Counties in November 2025 and March 2026. We remain committed to ongoing open dialogue with Scenic Rivers Energy members and all stakeholders, including our member-owner distribution cooperatives, landowners, regulators and local communities.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the regional electric grid operator for 15 U.S. states, as well as the Canadian province of Manitoba, approved in Dec. 2024 the second tranche of “Long-Range Transmission Plan” projects (known as Tranche 2.1).¹ Consisting of a \$21.8 billion investment for 24 projects across the MISO Midwest region, Tranche 2.1 develops a 3,631-mile 765 kV and 345 kV backbone designed to modernize transmission infrastructure, maintain grid reliability, enable access to new energy resources and meet current and future energy demand. The MariBell Transmission Project is one segment in the larger Tranche 2.1 portfolio – a new 765 kV system connecting the Upper Midwest with the existing 765 kV network running from Illinois to upstate New York – that will support utilities’ ability to continue delivering reliable power to families, farms and businesses across the region.

The resolution adopted by Scenic Rivers at its Annual Meeting on April 11, 2026, sought additional information on a number of topics related to the MariBell Transmission Project. Please see below for responses and the requested information.

A high-resolution, to-scale map in digital format of the preferred and alternative routes for considered 765 kV transmission line siting in Vernon and Crawford Counties. Indicate all sections where facility locations would deviate from existing transmission lines.

The proposed MariBell transmission line would span portions of Olmsted, Mower, Fillmore and Houston counties in Minnesota; and Vernon and Crawford counties in Wisconsin. A map of

¹ <https://www.misoenergy.org/planning/long-range-transmission-planning/>

potential routes in Vernon and Crawford counties is available at <https://www.maribelltransmission.com/map>.

Sample detailed maps and elevation renderings of existing infrastructure/easement conditions and proposed 765 kV related changes that have already been delivered to directly-impacted landowners in Vernon and Crawford Counties.

Representatives from Doyle Land Services have been reaching out to landowners since September 2025 and welcome the opportunity to further discuss questions and concerns they may have about the project in person.

A map of potential routes in Vernon and Crawford counties, including satellite and terrain features, is available at <https://www.maribelltransmission.com/map>.

Images of all possible tower designs for use with the 765 kV transmission line in Crawford County if siting along and in combination, or with another transmission line.

Attachment #1 provides information on the type of tower that may be used for the MariBell Transmission Project.

For each possible tower design above, please include minimum and maximum height in feet that the towers could be – also specifying all potential below-ground configurations and the estimated total weight of each tower configuration, including the total weight of each above-ground configuration with the weight of each below-ground foundation.

The project is still in the design phase; however, we expect steel lattice structures with a height between 150 and 200 feet. The weight of individual tower configurations is not presently available and is contingent upon geotechnical and engineering analyses. Additionally, weight will not be uniform across all tower configurations, with location-dependent variations based on numerous factors (soil type, grading, groundwater levels, subsurface conditions, etc.).

To-scale documentation portraying the minimum and maximum widths, in feet, of required corridors for all possible tower designs and configurations of the 765 kV facility, including guide wires and all other possible protuberances.

Attachment #1 includes information on the type of tower that may be used for the MariBell Transmission Project.

Documentation accounting for MISO consideration and decision-making concerning the alternative use of HVDC transmission such as the SOO Green HVDC Link instead of above-ground 765 kV transmission including the HVDC routes considered.

According to the 2024 MISO Transmission Expansion Plan (Attachment #2) report, “MISO reviewed impacts of transmission technology concepts with stakeholders at the Planning Advisory Committee in 2023, discussing 345 kV, 765 kV, High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) and Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs). This presentation focused on high-level approaches with technology considerations and the potential impact of thermal and absolute limits, given factors like MW per mile cost and loading limits. For many of the new transmission line needs identified in LRTP Tranche 2.1, the necessary line mileages and power transfer requirements suggested that a 765 kV backbone would be the optimal choice at this stage. Grid Enhancing Technologies tend to work best when they are used to solve local issues, and were considered and selected for certain underbuild projects.”²

Vegetation management documentation and sample contracts describing practices that have been utilized by Dairyland Power Cooperative and GridLiance Heartland parent company, NextEra Transmission, for previous 765 kV lines including techniques used to prevent soil erosion on steep grades, and other accommodations for organic farming and prairie restoration.

Vegetation management is a key priority for all long-range transmission projects and is required by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) to ensure safe construction and operation of transmission lines. A vegetation management plan will be submitted and reviewed by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) as part of the application process and prior to project approval.

Documentation of siting and other accommodations that Dairyland Power Cooperative and GridLiance Heartland parent company, NextEra Transmission, have made in prior construction to minimize noise and light pollution associated with corona discharge from a 765 kV transmission line under high humidity and high transmission load conditions.

We intend to use materials to minimize noise levels, following all applicable federal guidelines and local noise ordinances. On average, and depending on weather conditions, audible sound levels would be in the 20-decibel range, equivalent to the light rustling of leaves, which is generally considered quiet and well below levels that would cause disturbance or hearing concerns. Additionally, the line will comply with the National Electric Safety Code and IEEE for corona discharge mitigation to manage corona effects within viewshed communities.

Documentation describing practices taken with prior 765 kV projects to accommodate persons, wildlife, livestock, homes and farms from the potential negative impacts of produced electromagnetic fields under high load conditions.

² 2024 MISO Transmission Expansion Plan, Chapter 2, Page 6

Dairyland Power Cooperative is cooperating with relevant federal and state 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 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.

Documentation providing the ages of the 161 kV line segments between Genoa-Seneca; Seneca-Bell Center and Bell Center-Hillsboro.

In-service dates are as follows: Genoa to Seneca segment, 1955; Seneca to Bell Center, 1973. The Bell Center to Hillsboro segment, which is not part of the MariBell Transmission Project, was brought into service in 1975.

Documentation providing the total, estimated cost to rebuild the single-circuit, 161 kV line segments between Genoa-Seneca; Seneca-Bell Center and Bell Center-Hillsboro using wooden poles and upgraded conductors. Subtract from these totals any funds that have been set aside for these expenses, or other credits that Dairyland Power Cooperative would be eligible to apply to, these expenses. Specify the total amount of any such funds subtracted from the total.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) regional transmission operator estimated a cost in 2026 dollars of \$2 million per mile of 161 kV line rebuild in Wisconsin.³ Their analysis is [publicly available](#) as part of the MISO Transmission Expansion Plan (MTEP) Cost Estimation on the MISO website.

Documentation providing the total, estimated cost of the MariBell Project that ratepayers would assume over 20 years utilizing the preferred route between Genoa-Bell Center.

MISO determined that the MariBell Transmission Project will provide net benefits (benefits exceeding the cost) to ratepayers of the transmission system. Benefits include increased access to lower cost generation resources, reduced spending on other transmission projects that would otherwise be required and an overall more reliable grid. Dairyland's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application will provide a cost/benefit analysis specific to Wisconsin. According to MISO, "Tranche 2.1 is estimated to cost MISO members approximately \$5 per 1,000 kWh of energy used while providing \$10 to \$18 of value over that same amount of

³ [MISO Transmission Cost Estimation Workbook for MTEP26](#). Table 4.1-3: Exploratory cost estimate – AC transmission - rebuild and reconductor transmission line \$/mile in 2026 dollars.

usage per month.”⁴ A variety of factors may impact the costs that retail electric service providers charge their members/customers, many of which Dairyland does not have influence or control over. However, with Dairyland constructing and owning the project – rather than an outside developer – our distribution cooperative members will pay less for transmission service than they otherwise would.

Documentation providing the total, estimated cost of the MariBell Project that ratepayers would assume over 20 years using the alternative route.

The answer to this question is the same as the previous question.

Your resolution also requested:

That Dairyland Power Cooperative and GridLiance Heartland make a presentation concerning the proposed 765 kV transmission line, allowing time for group questioning and answering with Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative members.

Support the opportunity provide in-person input to the Board of Dairyland Power Cooperative before the MariBell application is submitted to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

Support the study, and greater implementation of member-owned and sited power generation, load management and efficiency improvements to increase member self-sufficiencies, lower electricity service costs over time and to promote local job creation and resiliency.

The MariBell project team is always available to answer questions and address concerns. The team provided multiple opportunities for community members to learn more about the project at open houses in November, public meetings in March and presentations to county boards, township meetings and civic organizations. Additionally, up-to-date project information is readily available at www.maribelltransmission.com. Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland will continue to share information through these public channels as the project moves forward. Questions and requests for information are best directed to the project team at connect@maribelltransmission.com or by phone: (608) 895-0799. Further, the MariBell project team is more than willing to provide a presentation on the project to Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative membership, with adequate time allotted for member questions, and will begin identifying potential presentation dates and times.

Dairyland takes community concerns seriously. We appreciate the request in this resolution for members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative to present concerns directly to the Dairyland

⁴ <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/LRTP%20Tranche%202.1666573.pdf>

Power Cooperative Board of Directors regarding the project. While board meetings are traditionally not open to the public, we are exploring opportunities for the Dairyland board to hear directly from members of our distribution cooperatives, as well as the request to initiate a study on local power generation and implementation. We look forward to continuing this conversation in the weeks ahead.

We appreciate members sharing their views on local generation and economic impacts. Dairyland's planning process is designed to consider reliability, cost, sustainability and regional coordination, and we will continue to evaluate a range of options to best serve our members today and in the future.

Sincerely,

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[MariBell Transmission](#)