The 765 kV proposals, in checkable numbers.

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2 projects · ~330 mi

MariBell (139 mi, Marion MN → Bell Center WI) and BECI (~190 mi, Crawford Co. → the IL line): separate developers, routes, and filing dates; both in MISO's Tranche 2.1 plan.

Source · MariBell and BECI project descriptions; MISO LRTP Tranche 2.1 (approved Dec. 2024)

150–200 ft

Proposed steel tower heights. New 765 kV rights-of-way can reach 250 feet wide; the existing easements they may follow are roughly 70 feet.

Source · MariBell and BECI project descriptions; VernonReporter, Dec. 9, 2025

−2.9%

Wisconsin's total retail electricity sales were lower in 2024 than in 2005 — flat-to-declining demand across two decades of federal data.

Source · EIA Form EIA-861, 2005–2024

<40¢ vs. $1.80–$3.50

"Benefit" = the customer savings that justify charging ratepayers. MISO's planning case claims $1.80–$3.50 back per dollar; MISO's own Independent Market Monitor estimates under forty cents.

Source · MISO LRTP benefit metrics; Dr. David Patton, Potomac Economics (MISO Independent Market Monitor)

$1.2 billion

The announced BECI investment alone — allocated to Wisconsin ratepayers and others across the MISO Midwest region; the developers earn a regulated return.

Source · MISO BECI Selection Report, Jan. 6, 2026; MISO LRTP Tranche 2.1 cost allocation

~7 months

The BECI public window: open houses began August 2026, comments close September 7, and the developer plans to file in February 2027. Prior Wisconsin proposals allowed two years or more.

Source · MGS public-input announcement, Aug. 5, 2026; MGS statement to Richland Co. officials, July 9, 2026 (SWNews4U, Aug. 5, 2026)

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Driftless-area local governments on record by mid-July 2026 — information-request resolutions and resolutions of opposition, signed copies posted publicly.

Source · Municipal Resolution Tracker — no765line.org/take-action/resolution-tracker

"Cannot yet be answered."

The developer's own words on routes, structures, siting impacts, and localized effects — Transource Energy, April 24, 2026.

Source · Transource Energy letter, Apr. 24, 2026

What we are — and aren't — saying. These are publicly planned MISO projects, not private or "merchant" ventures, and we don't claim the grid never needs investment. Our claim is narrower and checkable: on the numbers as filed, the case for routing these lines through the Driftless does not hold up — and private companies (Transource/AEP-Evergy, BHE Transmission, GridLiance/NextEra), alongside the member-owned Dairyland Power Cooperative, would earn a regulated return on a build Wisconsin ratepayers help pay for, whose benefit MISO's own monitor disputes.