

Two 765 kV transmission lines are proposed through your constituents' land.

MariBell and BECI are two separate projects with separate developers, routes, and filing dates. Both are part of MISO's Long-Range Transmission Plan (Tranche 2.1, approved December 2024). Both would cross the Driftless region on steel towers 150–200 feet tall, and Wisconsin ratepayers would help pay for both.

	MARIBELL	BECI
ROUTE	Marion, MN → Bell Center, WI • 139 mi (765 kV / 161 kV double circuit)	Crawford Co. → Walworth Co. → IL state line • ~190 mi
DEVELOPERS	Dairyland Power Cooperative (member-owned) + GridLiance Heartland (a NextEra Energy Transmission subsidiary)	Midcontinent Grid Solutions — Transource Energy (AEP/Evergy) + BHE Transmission (Berkshire Hathaway)
PSC FILING	Expected fall 2026	Planned February 2027 (per MGS to Richland Co. officials, July 9, 2026)
IN SERVICE	2034	2033

Sources • project descriptions and developer statements (MariBell; MGS/BECI) • MISO L RTP Tranche 2.1 • SWNews4U, Aug. 5, 2026

WHAT YOUR BOARD SHOULD KNOW

- The permit decision rests with the **Public Service Commission of Wisconsin** in a CPCN proceeding. Local governments do not issue the permit — but resolutions put a community's questions and position on the public record.
- State policy directs that, to the greatest extent feasible, **existing utility corridors** be used first in siting new lines.
Source • Wis. Stat. § 1.12(6)
- New 765 kV corridors can require rights-of-way up to **250 feet wide**; existing local transmission easements are roughly 70 feet.
Source • MariBell project description as reported (VernonReporter, Dec. 9, 2025)
- BECI comments on study segments close **September 7, 2026**; with a February 2027 filing, the public phase is about seven months. Prior Wisconsin proposals allowed two years or more.
Source • MGS public-input announcement, Aug. 5, 2026; developer statements
- Meetings with developer representatives belong **on the record** — the open meetings law protects everyone's account of what was said.
Source • Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81–19.98

WHAT COMMUNITIES HAVE DONE

16 Driftless-area local governments — counties, towns, and villages — were on record by mid-July 2026, through information-request resolutions and resolutions of opposition. Signed copies are posted publicly.

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

An **editable model information-request resolution** — built on Richland County's adopted Resolution 26-7 — is available for boards to localize. It takes no position on the project; it asks the developer for specific, verifiable documentation.

Download • no765line.org/resources/officials

WHAT THE DEVELOPER SAYS

"Specific routes, structures, siting impacts, or localized effects cannot yet be answered."

— Transource Energy, letter of April 24, 2026