



May 21, 2026

Mr. Jerry Pedretti
County Clerk
Vernon County Wisconsin
400 Court House Square St., Ste 108
Viroqua, WI 54665

Dear Clerk Pedretti,

Thank you for engaging and taking the time to review the enclosed information regarding the MariBell Transmission Project. The project team has met with stakeholders over the last seven months to share information and gather input on the proposed MariBell transmission line, including hosting open houses in Vernon and Crawford Counties in November and March. We remain committed to ongoing open dialogue with Vernon County and all stakeholders, including our member-owner distribution cooperatives, landowners, regulators, and local communities.

For background, the Maribell Transmission Project was approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the regional electric grid operator for 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba, Figure 1. The Maribell Transmission Project is part of a portfolio of projects included in MISO's 2024 Long Range Transmission Plan (referred to as "Tranche 2.1").

Tranche 2.1 represents an estimated \$21.8 billion investment in 24 projects (consisting of 323 facilities) 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 portfolio that will support utilities' ability to continue delivering reliable power to families, farms and businesses across the region.

The resolution adopted by Vernon County on March 19, 2026, requested additional information be provided on a number of topics related to the MariBell Transmission Project. Dairyland appreciates the opportunity to provide the information below and looks forward to continued constructive engagement with the county.

1. A map of eligible, existing transmission line routes for the considered 765 kV transmission line project through Vernon, Crawford, Sauk, Richland and Columbia Counties.

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

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Wisconsin. The MariBell project does not extend into Sauk, Richland and Columbia counties. A map of potential routes in Vernon and Crawford counties is available at <https://www.maribelltransmission.com/project-details>. From there, scroll down to see the interactive map featuring the potential routes.

2. Explanation of the land owner notification process that will be utilized by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) including the specified distance from the center line of the proposed 765 kV transmission line that land owners will be notified during both the pre-application and post application phases of their proposal.

Representatives from Doyle Land Services have been reaching out to landowners located on the existing 161 kV corridor since September 2025 and welcome the opportunity to further discuss questions and concerns they may have about the project in person. Additional opportunities for public engagement with Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland will also be coordinated by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Details regarding these opportunities can be found on the PSCW website at <http://psc.wi.gov/SiteAssets/TransmissionLineReviewProcess.pdf>.

3. Images of all possible tower designs for use with the 765 kV transmission line in Vernon County if sited alone and in combination or with another transmission line.

Attached to this response is more information on the type of tower that may be used for the MariBell Transmission Project.

4. For each possible tower design, above, please include the minimum and maximum height, in feet, that the towers could be;

The project is still in the design phase; however, the project team expects steel lattice structures with a height between 150 and 200 feet.

5. 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 guy wires and all other potential protuberances.

Attached to this response is more information on the type of tower that may be used for the MariBell Transmission Project, including maximum typical width of corridors.

6. Documentation portraying the maximum width of a non-public, construction access road that DPC and NEET or their subcontractors have made when constructing a 765 kV line.

Project parameters are still being finalized at this time. Therefore, we do not have this information. The width of a construction access road depends on many factors, including topography.

7. The name(s) of the entity or entities that would be the owner(s) of the 765 kV transmission facility.

MISO selected Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) to build, operate and maintain the MariBell Transmission Project. DPC and GridLiance Heartland, LLC, a NextEra Energy Transmission subsidiary, will jointly develop and construct the transmission line from Marion, Minn. to Bell Center, Wis, which includes Vernon and Crawford Counties.

8. Estimated date that the Project application for the 765 kV transmission line is expected to be submitted to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

We anticipate submitting our application to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin later this fall.

9. Estimated total cost assumed by ratepayers at large for the Project over 40 years.

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. However, 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 usage per month in value. The greatest expense in [Future 2A](#), however, is the cost of generation, which is estimated at four to five times the cost of transmission. 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, Dairyland anticipates that its distribution cooperative members will pay less for transmission service than they otherwise would if Dairyland does not construct and own the project.

10. Estimated total cost of regional generation additions in the Electric Generation Expansion Analysis System (EGEAS) for MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1.

Calculations that were used as the basis for MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning can be found on MISO's Futures Report. That report can be found at [Series1A Futures Report630735.pdf](#)

11. Estimated, 40 year total cost of the "Maribell" project that would be assumed by member -owners of Richland Electric Cooperative and customers of Alliant and Xcel Energy based on an average use of 1000 kWh per month.

MISO projections on cost allocations for LRTP projects can be found in the indicative [Schedule 26-A](#).

12. A list, including name, location and cost information, for all existing transmission lines and substations where pending rebuilding and/or other improvements would be avoided or delayed if "Maribell" were to be constructed.

This information can be found on MISO's Avoided Transmission Investment benefit at [LRTP Tranche2.1 Detailed Business Case Analysis F1A final portfolio659411.xlsx](#)

13. A list, including name, location and cost information, of all other reliability related issues that "Maribell" would avoid, delay or eliminate.

This information is not available at this time. The information will be included in Dairyland's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application, which is expected to be filed with the PSCW this fall.

14. 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 MISO Transmissions Expansion Plan ([MTEP](#)) 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."

15. A list of the types with estimated monetary values of the "significant economic development benefits," that the Project would deliver to local economies in Vernon County.

This information is not available. The information will be provided in the CPCN application in the fall of 2026.

16. Documentation explaining MISO's calculation of a net monetary benefit for Wisconsin residential electric customers if the estimated cost of Tranche 2.1 transmission and power plant additions, per ratepayer, is around \$27.50 per month while, potentially, returning only \$10 to \$18, per ratepayer, in value per month.

We do not know the source of the stated hypothetical monthly costs posed in this request and cannot speak to the accuracy of the estimates. However, documentation on MISO's cost/benefit analysis of the projects can be found at

[LRTP Tranche 2 Business Case Metrics Methodology Whitepaper633738.pdf](https://www.misoenergy.org/LRTP-Tranche-2-Business-Case-Metrics-Methodology-Whitepaper633738.pdf)

17. Documentation from MISO Tranche 2.1 planning estimating the percentage of electrical power assumed to be provided from distributed solar and distributed battery storage resources in years 1, 10 and 20 under all planning futures.

MISO provides a number of resources explaining the MISO planning process. These resources and analysis can be found within the MISO Futures Series 1A Report for the forecasted distributed solar and storage resources.

https://cdn.misoenergy.org/Series1A_Futures_Report630735.pdf

18. A list with names and locations of 765 kV transmission projects that Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) have previously constructed outside of Wisconsin.

Dairyland Power Cooperative and GridLiance Heartland, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Transmission, have not previously placed a 765 kV transmission line into service. However, NextEra Energy Transmission is widely recognized for its extensive experience in the development, financing, construction, and operation of large-scale, high-voltage transmission infrastructure with more than 3,200 miles of transmission lines in operation and development in 19 states and Canada.

19. A list with names and locations of 765 kV transmission projects that Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Transmission (NEET) are currently proposing or constructing outside of Wisconsin.

Dairyland Power Cooperative and GridLiance Heartland, along with our project partners, were recently awarded the Woodford County – Illinois/Indiana State Line (WIIL) and Sub T – Iowa/Illinois State Line – Woodford County (STIW) 765-kV projects by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator.

NextEra Energy Transmission and Exelon Corporation were selected by the PJM Interconnection earlier this year to build an approximately 220-mile 765-kV transmission backbone in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

20. Upon completion and energizing of "Maribel" and "BECI," an estimate of the percentage of the electric power on an annual basis that would be consumed through the connection created at the Columbia substation for all futures in Tranche 2.1.

This information is not available at this time.

21. Vegetation management documentation and sample contracts describing practices that have been utilized by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) for previous 765 kV lines including techniques used to prevent soil erosion on steep grades.

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. DPC and GridLiance Heartland as part of the PSCW application will submit a vegetation management plan that will undergo PSCW review before the project can be approved.

22. If not specified in above documentation, documentation describing no-spray and other easement vegetation management accommodations that would be offered for organic farming and other conservation activities such as prairie and forest restoration.

DPC and GridLiance Heartland as part of the PSCW application will submit a vegetation management plan that will undergo PSCW review before the project can be approved. Trees and other forms of tall vegetation growing near power lines can be a safety hazard and are major contributors to power outages creating reliability issues.

Herbicides may be used to treat tree and brush stumps to prevent regrowth, and/or to control regulated invasive species, unless a landowner or land-managing agency has specified that no herbicides are to be used on their property. DPC and GridLiance Heartland encourage landowners to inform their land agents about these types of preferences.

Herbicides will be applied by certified and licensed applicators, in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and all applicable federal and state regulations, with the appropriate permits prior to application.

23. Documentation describing practices that have been utilized by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) for previously constructed 765 kV lines to address the presence of karst topology.

Consistent with any structure installation regardless of voltage, we will conduct studies, including site-specific geotechnical investigations, to confirm an area is suitable for the construction of transmission structure foundations. The steel lattice transmission structures proposed for the project spread weight across four foundation points (one at each leg), reducing bearing pressure and allowing foundation design to be adapted to localized subsurface conditions, especially in the Driftless Region's variable terrain. Additionally, surface water will be managed through implementation of project specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs), including erosion and sediment controls, and best management practices in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Groundwater protection will be established through geotechnical evaluation, foundation selection, and construction practices intended to minimize subsurface disturbance and avoid groundwater pathway impacts.

24. Documentation describing construction practices that Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) or their subcontractors have used in prior 765 kV projects to minimize damage to wetland habitats.

GridLiance Heartland and DPC are committed to environmental protection and stewardship. We will be using existing transmission corridors to the greatest extent possible and conduct rigorous environmental analyses to ensure we appropriately locate transmission lines and implement best management practices to limit our impact on wildlife, sensitive habitats and other natural resources as well as Tribal, cultural and historic resources.

Additionally, surface water will be managed through implementation of project specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs), including erosion and sediment controls, and best management practices in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Groundwater protection will be established through geotechnical evaluation, foundation selection, and construction practices intended to minimize subsurface disturbance and avoid groundwater pathway impacts.

25. Documentation of siting and other accommodations that Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) have made in prior constructions to minimize noise and light pollution associated with corona discharge from a 765 kV transmission line under high humidity and high transmission load conditions;

Because neither GridLiance Heartland nor DPC have developed a 765 kV transmission line, we cannot provide the requested documentation. As with all projects, GridLiance Heartland and DPC will evaluate the potential of these effects and include design considerations to mitigate such occurrences.

26. Measurement documentation from an existing 765 kV transmission line that Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) or their assigned subcontractors have constructed accounting for average Sound Pressure Levels [Leq, dB(A)] at specified distances from the center line (feet), under specified humidity/precipitation conditions (relative humidity %) and at specified transmission loads (megawatts);

For the proposed line, we plan to use modern conductors and hardware designed to minimize audible noise and will comply with all applicable federal guidelines and local noise ordinances. Calculations for the proposed line indicate maximum levels below 50 decibels at the edge of the right-of-way, which is comparable to common household background sounds, such as a refrigerator.

27. Documentation from a proposed or existing 765 kV transmission line that Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) or their assigned subcontractors have made accounting for magnetic field strength readings (in mG) at specified distances from the center line (in feet) and at specified transmission loads (megawatts).

This information is not available at this time. This information will be provided in the CPCN application later this fall.

28. Documentation of all siting and other accommodations that Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) or their assigned subcontractors have made to reduce waterfowl, raptor, grassland bird and songbird collisions with a 765 kV transmission line.

We work with local and regional conservation groups, as well as state and federal agencies to minimize adverse impacts on wildlife. Transmission lines can be sited,

constructed and maintained in a way that effectively avoids, minimizes or mitigates adverse impacts on birds. As we analyze potential routes, schedule construction, tree clearing activities, facility maintenance, and vegetation management, we will work to understand local wildlife habitat use patterns as well as population distributions, movements and behaviors to predict and minimize impacts in high-risk areas and times of year. We may also use line marking devices on the transmission line to allow birds to readily detect obstacles to reduce collision risk. This will be part of our CPCN application later this fall.

29. Documentation of all siting and other accommodations that Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and NextEra Energy Transmission (NEET) or their assigned subcontractors have made to reduce risk of electric arching from a 765 kV transmission line igniting fires in grasslands and forests.

This information is not available at this time. This information will be provided in the CPCN application later this fall.

We look forward to continuing productive engagement on the Maribell Project. Dairyland is committed to an open, honest, and transparent community engagement process that fosters collaboration and meaningful dialogue. Please reach out to the project team with any questions or requests for information.

Sincerely,



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