

Official Public Notice
MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION
CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER, WISCONSIN
Agenda
Wednesday, August 12, 2026 5:30 PM,
COUNCIL ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 450 S. MAIN ST., RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581 & VIRTUALLY
MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AND VIA WEBEX.

TEAMS: bit.ly/RCUtilityCommission

1. **Roll Call** *Roll Call for the meeting, determine whether a quorum is present; determine whether the meeting has been properly noticed.*
2. **Approval of Minutes** *Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the last meeting(s) in lieu of printed copies and approve the same.*
[A.](#) Meeting minutes
3. **Treasurer's Report/Investment of Utility Funds**
[A.](#) Treasurer's Report
4. **Monthly Bills**
 - A. Water
 - B. Sewer
 - C. Electric
5. **Safety**
[A.](#) MEUW Field Visit
6. **MEUW Live Lines**
[A.](#) Live Lines
7. **APPA Update**
[A.](#) APPA Update
8. **BECI 765-KV Transmission Project**
[A.](#) BECI 765 KV Project
9. **Water Superintendent Report**
10. **WWTP Superintendent Report**
11. **Electric Superintendent/Utility Manager Report**
 - A. Notes
12. **Correspondence**
13. **Public Comments** *Members of the public are welcome to express their opinion on item(s) not appearing on this agenda.*
14. Commissioners or audience request, etc.
15. Adjourn

Posted this 10th day of August on or before 4:00 P.M.
Copy to the Richland Observer (official newspaper)

Please Note: That upon reasonable notice, a minimum of 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service contact Ashley Oliphant, Mayor at 450 S Main St., Richland Center, WI 53581 or call 608-647-6428. City Utilities of Richland Center is an equal opportunity employer/provider.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 5:30p.m.,

Council Room, Municipal Building, 450 S Main St, Richland Center WI 53581

This Meeting was held in person and via Teams

Members present: Sawle, Collins, Walters, and Hoffman

Members absent: Jones, Coppernoll, and Wallace

Others present: Edwards, Gald, Fischer and Rod Perry

President Sawle called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m. The meeting had been properly posted.

Motion by Hoffman, second by Walters to approve the minutes of the May and June meetings as printed. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was received and filed.

Motion by Collins, second by Sawle to approve the Electric Bills for July totaling \$852,063.61. Also acknowledges the balance for June, thus totaling \$953,786.37. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Walters, second by Collins to approve the Water Bills for July totaling \$60,893.00. Also acknowledges the balance for June, thus totaling \$143,583.13. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Walters, second by Sawle to approve the Sewer Bills for July totaling \$149,873.57. Also acknowledges the balance for June, thus totaling \$235,935.32. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

For safety Gald reported that our seasonal summer help went to load the lawn mower on Monday, he thought the trailer was secure. He went to drive up; the trailer came up and put a dent in the tailgate of the truck. Scott wrote a report. Steve Ellers sent out a note to employees about working in extreme heat.

Scott included information from WPPI regarding the contract extension. He is taking some of the commissioners and councilmembers to WPPI to tour the facility and learn more about the services that are offered. There will be a joint meeting of the Richland Center Common Council and The Utility Commission on July 15th. Mike Peters (WPPI) will be here for a presentation and answer any questions. Collins would like to see investments be more common sense driven and not politically driven. Sawle feels that WPPI is thoroughly investigating every avenue of workable energy. He also really

appreciated that Mayor Teply attended the dinner with WPPI back in May. She is also going to WPPI on Friday.

Water Superintendent report: Greetings from Hong Kong, I will be back at work on Monday July 13th. Major bill items include the budgeted mini-split air conditioner units for Wells 6 and 7 that were ordered in late 2025 but installed in the first part of June. Also included are the bills for the replacement mixer at the Southeast Reservoir, and the 5-year ROV inspection of the same. 1) Up to 1140 AMI meter changes. Down to 1 day per week dedicated plus fill in time for summer. Will ramp back up this fall. 2) Devin has done some painting of the floor at Well 7. 3) Lead and copper results were received back from the lab June 23rd. We have passed this round and next sampling should be in 3 years. This will be a challenge to again find new sites as all Utility side lead will hopefully be gone by then. Will have to move to customer galvanized that formally had lead or customer copper with lead solder in their houses. Customers have been notified of results and reporting to DNR completed. 4) Will be starting Utility side lead replacements upon return from vacation. 5) Annual Consumer Confidence Report has been certified with DNR. 6) Have more to watch on the Hwy 14 project now that work is in the East bound lanes and the water main is on that side of the road with multiple valve boxes on the South edge of the shoulder. 7) G-Pro estimating early to mid-July as a start date for the Valley View Drive project. Preconstruction meeting for staff scheduled for July 15th and public meeting for residents in the project zone on site for July 22nd. If weather allows, we will be holding this meeting in the neighborhood so we can look at specific property questions at the house instead of on paper. 8) Continue to research direction for the woodpecker damaged antenna pole at the East Reservoir. Potential of a light-weight tower, fiberglass pole or moving to fiber cable. Scott and I had a call with Genuine-Telecom about fiber. I have also reached out to LW Allen about what changes need to be made in control cabinets for a move away from radio to fiber. Last SCADA upgrade system wide was in 2009 with the Well 8 project, 20 year component life. In conversation with LW Allen our alarm dialer is also on borrowed time as copper phone lines disappear, and fiberglass antennas are recommended to be replaced at 10 years along with the antenna cables due to uv light damage. Ours are from 2009, another reason to convert to fiber if possible. 9) The May 11th cybersecurity meeting attended by Scott and myself has led to a 2 hour evaluation conducted by EPA rescheduled from July to August 18th with a report for the Utilities benefit. 10) Staff has been working on the 2026 valve exercising list with good progress being made, about ½ way through this years list. 11) I have developed a list of 30 questions/scenarios for staff development for our discussion and training to challenge them about what if's and I am gone. Have had good discussion on the few we have talked about so far. Keeping a log of this training and a recommended additional review of the topics based on feedback of staff and if we have delt with the particular issue in real time. 12) Early discussions with City staff on 2027 street project ideas. 13) WI Dot form has been filled out

acknowledging receipt of plans for Hwy 80 North project in 2028 starting in the city. Conflicts due back to DOT in mid- August. 14) A letter dated June 12, 2026, from WI DNR is requiring new testing for us based off of an event in Williams Bay that occurred late last summer. They have launched a Statewide Nitrification Investigation Initiative, conducting ammonia source water testing at municipal drinking water systems. The project aims to understand ammonia occurrence, identify high-risk systems, and help facilities optimize chlorine management and treatment to prevent distribution system issues. We will have to be testing for Ammonia this fall along with most all water systems in the state. Too much ammonia can lead to increased nitrate levels. Letter states more information to follow late this summer on the testing. 15) Water service lateral installation is completed in Stori Field by the developer's contractor.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported everything is executed with the contractor to purchase for the Richland Square lift station. We are hoping for this October but if not then this spring. Todd is moving forward to get the videos attached to the mapping. Currently there are videos on CDs from when we had our camera van. So if a plumber calls and says he is looking for the lateral at a certain address, Todd must get the CD and load it into a disk drive. He is going forward with a way to get the videos added to mapping so then all that is needed to do is click on the address and the video will show. Todd is hoping to get everything set up so Maggey can upload the videos. Todd has an employee that was off last week for vacation, he came back and worked Monday and is off for the next 2 weeks for surgery. Todd will be on vacation starting next Thursday; he will be on an Alaskan Cruise.

Electric Superintendent/Utility Manager Gald reported that there were a couple blinks. Scott has been working with Forester and the PSC to get construction authorization for the Olson Sub and new transformer. We will need to order the transformer because there is 3-to-4-year lead time and we will have to put 30% down. A new transformer can be 1.8 million dollars. Scott has been working with Elhers. Also, he has been working with them for the Valley View Street project for the city portion that they are borrowing. We did get fiber installed at the Brewer Sub. We will be launching our Outage Management System with Open Point. The utility new website will be up and running in the next couple weeks and oms will be on there. Customers will be able to see where outages are in real time with AMI meters. Steve is working on a hydrant to donate for the Walk with GRACE auction. This week Scott, Ashley and Mayor Karin visited Allied Machinery. Next week they are meeting with Schriebers. At Stori Field, water and wastewater is live but for electric there is We Energies anode field and they want electric to stay away from it. Rp3 Application is due in September, and he has started working on that. Scott appreciates everyone that is going to WPPI on Friday and the joint meeting of the commission and common council to get everyone's questions answered. Scott was in Boston last week for the APPA National Conference.

For correspondence we received 2 thank you cards. One from G & A Tire and Auto for allowing their business to repair a tire for the water utility. The other one was from Arizona Bailey for the scholarship she received.

Former Commission President Rod Perry was in attendance as a member of the public to express how important it is for the commission to extend the contract with WPPI. Perry was the president of the commission when the contract was signed in the teens. He said they researched and decided there were many benefits to sign.

Hoffman noticed that WPPI seemed to be the least expensive and they are diversifying their power.

Motion by Collins, second by Walters to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 6:08p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by:

Angie Edwards

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER					
Utility Report - Month July 31, 2026					
FUNDS	TREASURER BAL BEG OF MONTH	RECEIPTS	TOTAL	DISBURSEMENTS	TREASURER BAL END OF MONTH
GARBAGE		25,319.85			
PUBLIC BENEFIT		3,595.22			
ELECTRIC UTILITY	507,033.68	951,272.01	1,487,220.76	1,011,072.11	\$ 476,148.65
WATER UTILITY	567,539.95	159,041.97	726,581.92	117,531.51	\$ 609,050.41
SEWER UTILITY	671,600.03	249,846.16	921,446.19	242,735.95	\$ 678,710.24
	.				
Fund	Total	Location	% Interest		
Electric Project Savings	406,448.34	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Electric Replacement Fund	1,055,206.97	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Electric Bond Fund "2027"	218,557.99	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Electric Project Savings	252,376.44	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Electric - AMI	443,954.69	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Total Electric	2,376,544.43				
Water Project Savings	1,208,625.34	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Water Replacement Fund	533,021.57	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Water - Clean Wa Loan#8-2028	41,377.75	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Water - Reservoir Loan#5-2039	51,718.94	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Water - AMI	213,011.04	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
Water DNR Loan	10.00	Richland Co Bank			
Total Water	2,047,764.64				
WWTP Replacement Fund	1,289,376.54	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
WWTP Project Savings	725,205.78	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
WWTP Bond Fund "2035"	84,715.72	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
USDA Reserve Acct	625,000.00	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
WWTP -RATE STABILIZATION	1,028,336.85	State/LGIP	Variable 3.67		
USDA 2015 Bond Fund "2045"	409,084.94	Peoples Bank			
Total WWTP	4,161,719.83				
	8,586,028.90				
Unrestricted					
Electric	\$ 507,033.68				
Water	567,539.95				
WWTP	671,600.03				
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,746,173.66				
Restricted - Restricted Funds are for Projects, Bond Payments and Equipment Replacement					
Electric	2,376,544.43				
Water	2,047,764.64				
WWTP	4,161,719.83				
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	8,586,028.90				

MEUW Field Observations Form

Community: Richland Center (Water Department)

Date: 28 July 2026

Job Location – Downtown on W Court St. across from Pine River Smoke

Crew Members Present - Steve/Derrick/Terry

Type of work Performed - Excavation entry to replace curb stop in sidewalk.

JOB BRIEFING PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK: **YES** NO UNKNOWN

Comments: It was evident that a lot of planning went into this project. From posting temporary “NO PARKING” signs on both sides of the street to ensure a large enough space for both a work zone AND still allow traffic to safely navigate along Court Street to placing physical barriers on the sidewalk to prevent pedestrian traffic from entering the work zone, to proper and efficient staging of equipment and tools, thoughtful planning was key in this project being executed safely and efficiently.

WORK ZONE SET-UP: **YES** NO N/A

Work zone set-up appeared to be adequate for conditions: **YES** NO

Comments: The crew utilized traffic cones to demarcate their work zone along W Court St. They also utilized a traffic cones and a traffic cone bar to create a physical barrier along the sidewalk to prevent pedestrian traffic from being exposed to the hazards of the work zone.

PPE OBSERVED:

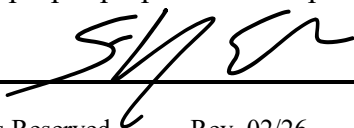
- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Hard Helmet | - Safety Glasses | - Hearing Protection |
| - Protective Footwear | - Work Gloves | - HiVis Apparel |
| - FR Clothing | - Face Protection | - Chaps |
| - Class 0 Gloves | - Class 2 Gloves | - Rubber Sleeves |
| - Fall Protection | - Other: | |

PPE observed appeared to be adequate for hazards present: **YES** NO

Comments:

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS: This project involved entry into an excavation. To help mitigate the hazards associated with excavation enter the crew employed the use of their inflatable trench box. Proper use of the trench box was crucial in creating a workspace that allowed for safe entry and execution in the excavation, while proper preparation and planning limited employee duration/exposure in the excavation.

Observed By:



Date: 30 July 2026

Additional Comments and Photos:

Above: The crew uses orange traffic cones to identify work zone, and temporarily eliminate parking near the work zone. Eliminating parking along W Court St. allowed the street to remain open and for traffic to safely navigate the work zone in both directions.

Left: Advanced warning signs placed on both ends of the block on W Court St helped to inform the traveling public of the crew's presence ahead. It was noted that this also helped decrease the crew's exposure to traffic as many vehicles were observed choosing alternative routes rather than traveling through the work zone.



Left: The crew utilized traffic cone bars on the sidewalks to create a physical barrier between the work zone and pedestrian traffic on W. Court St.

Also, while not pictured here, at least one crew member was always tasked with maintaining the integrity of the work zone, and displayed an increase in awareness as it related to both pedestrian and vehicle traffic approaching the work one.

Right: A key component in the safe use of the inflatable trench box (or any trench box) is backfilling against the trench box on both sides with soil or other material to help secure the box in place, minimizing any shifting of the box should additional material fall against it.





Left: Once properly installed, Terry is able to safely and efficiently work to complete the curb stop installation within the safe confines of the inflatable trench box.

LIVELines

Volume 75, Issue 8 • August 2026

EF-3 tornado devastates Menasha, prompts mutual aid

A mile-wide path of destruction tore through Menasha on Monday, July 27, when an EF-3 tornado traveled down a central part of the community, tearing down homes, businesses, and power lines along the way. This was the most powerful tornado to hit the Fox Valley area in more than four decades. Packing a punch with winds of up to 140 mph, it hit Menasha particularly hard, causing significant and widespread damage.

Many homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed, and large swaths of trees were knocked down. More than 120 utility poles were impacted, including those supporting

two of ATC's transmission lines. More than two-thirds of the 9,500 electric customers served by Menasha Utilities (MU) lost power.

MU's own Water Filtration Treatment Plant took a direct hit from the tornado, while employees inside took shelter and could see the tornado damage unfold via security system cameras.

MEUW immediately worked with Menasha Utilities and coordinated a Mutual Aid response, reaching out to nearby municipal utilities to seek crews and trucks. Mutual aid is a core value among MEUW's member utilities. When one community is impacted by disaster, others step up to help restore power and sup-



Milwaukee Journal Sentinel photo

port recovery efforts. At least 80 linemen from 25 Wisconsin municipal utilities contributed their skills at various points, with many other utilities offering to help.

Restoration efforts were hampered by the sheer volume of debris, with many roads unpassable and with access to poles and wires limited. Broken poles, tree limbs, downed

wires, and materials from damaged homes and buildings, among other things, needed to be cleared before crews could even begin to assess and restore the system. Additional challenges were caused by the amount of vehicle and foot traffic in the area, with people either seeking assistance or simply viewing the damage.

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Top photo: Drone footage shows the widespread and significant damage to homes and businesses near Plank Road in Menasha after a mid-day tornado impacted the community. **Bottom photo:** Dozens of linemen and other utility personnel posed for a photo as the sun rose for another full day of clearing debris, rebuilding power lines, and restoring electric service to the community.

Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin's mission is to **strengthen and unify community-owned utilities**. Since 1928, MEUW has been the trade association for Wisconsin's 81 public power communities and is affiliated with the American Public Power Association (APPA) — www.publicpower.org

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"I've never seen anything like this," said MEUW Director of Safety Services and Operations Mike Czupryny. "I've been part of several storm and hurricane Mutual Aid events, but I've never seen this much damage before. The crews had a lot of obstacles in front of them, but they all worked together so well and made it happen."

Thanks to the efforts of MU employees and Mutual Aid crews, power had been restored to 90% of the area and to 80% of customers within a week of the devastating storm. Many of the remaining customers incurred damage that will need to be addressed before reconnection can occur. Crews will remain as long as needed, as the community shifts from emergency response to long-term recovery.

Menasha Utilities' General Manager Melanie Krause said, "Please extend a huge thank you to all those that have responded to Mutual Aid and continue to support us." ●



Crews from 25 municipal utilities provided mutual aid support to Menasha Utilities

Cedarburg
Clintonville
Columbus
Gresham
Hartford
Juneau
Kaukauna
Kiel
Lake Mills
Manitowoc
Marshfield
Medford
New Holstein
New London
Oconomowoc
Oconto Falls
Plymouth
Shawano
Sheboygan Falls
Sturgeon Bay
Sun Prairie
Two Rivers
Waunakee
Waupun
Wisconsin Rapids

Associate members rush to contribute supplies for restoration, recovery effort

Having strong connections to vital supply lines is essential for municipal utility operations. True to form, many MEUW Associate Members immediately jumped in to help during storm recovery in Menasha. Phone calls and offers started coming in almost immediately, and they've brought equipment, tools, trucks, chainsaws, food and drink to support the crews working on restoration. Among those contributing:

- Milwaukee Tool delivered a truck filled with chainsaws and tools;
- Altec, Inc. provided extra bucket trucks for utility crews to use; and
- Irby coordinated with Bell Pole & Lumber to bring in 40 much-needed poles.

MEUW Associate Members are suppliers and service providers who have paid membership dues in support of those connections. In the July edition of *LIVE LINES*, we featured the names of these Associate Members in appreciation of their participation. MEUW truly values these partnerships and appreciates the support they routinely provide for our public power utilities.



This map shows the scope of the damage and the scale of power outages that affected the City of Menasha in the aftermath of the July 27 tornado. GPS mapping was replaced with old-fashioned paper maps and markers to plan repair work.

Timeline of events in Menasha tornado response

Monday July 27

Severe weather with strong winds moves through the Fox Valley region, spawning a mid-day tornado that affected large portions of the City of Menasha.

The tornado takes out poles and transmission lines serving the Menasha Utilities (MU) substation; the entire Menasha community loses power.

MEUW begins mobilizing crews to provide mutual aid in Menasha.

By late Monday, crews from 11 MEUW member utilities are onsite helping assess the damage and clear extensive debris.

ATC crews replace poles and lines, restoring the feed to the Menasha substation.

Tuesday July 28

Many roadways in and around Menasha are blocked by fallen trees and debris; crews focus on clean up and setting poles.

Gov. Tony Evers declares a State of Emergency.

Wednesday July 29

Power began to be restored to Menasha residents able to accept electric service.

MEUW calls for additional mutual aid crews to plan for a weekend of storm recovery.

Thursday July 30

Gov. Evers tours the damaged sites in Menasha and activates the National Guard to assist with debris removal, traffic and safety support.

Clean-up is expected to take weeks, with recovery lasting months and years.

On July 28, the National Weather Service confirmed an EF-3 tornado, with wind speeds up to 140 mph that traveled 12.1 miles, reached a maximum width of 1,500 yards, and was on the ground for 26 minutes. The powerful storm is believed to be the strongest to impact the Fox Valley in more than 40 years.

Educating lawmakers about public power priorities is essential

By Tyler Vorpapel

While we're still in the middle of summer, with primary elections right around the corner and the general election approaching in November, now is the perfect time to start planning for our 2027 advocacy activities. That includes the annual American Public Power Association (APPA) Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C., and MEUW Day at the Capitol in Madison next spring.

This November's elections will determine control of the House and Senate, both of which are currently held by slim Republican majorities. Here in Wisconsin, we'll also have a new governor and new legislative leadership, regardless of which party holds the majority.

Wisconsin has always had outstanding representation at APPA's Legislative Rally, and your advocacy continues to make a difference. Last year's message to Congress

about protecting tax-exempt municipal bonds as a financing tool for utility infrastructure clearly resonated. When the

APPA Policy Makers Council (PMC) met with members of Congress in Washington, D.C., in July, lawmakers immediately recognized the issue and reaffirmed the importance of preserving these bonds for our utilities.

Another key topic was the critical role the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plays in

helping utilities request and provide mutual aid. Given the storms we've experienced in recent months, there is no shortage of real-world examples to share about why that support matters.

Wisconsin has maintained a strong voice on the PMC, with three members currently serving on the 40-person national council. Kaukauna Utilities Commissioner Lee Meyerhofer recently served as chair, and Cedarburg Light &

Water Utility Commission President Andy Moss was just elected second vice chair, putting him in line to lead the

committee. (He edged out Marshfield's Mike Eberl in what I'm told came down to a coin flip.) The PMC — made up of local government leaders from municipal utilities across the country — meets each summer in the nation's capital to reinforce the same priorities raised during the Legislative Rally: maintaining affordability, protecting municipal bonds, ensuring electric reliability, advancing energy permitting reform, and supporting FEMA. These follow-up meetings help keep public power's issues front and center with Congress throughout the year.

Your participation in these advocacy opportunities truly makes a difference. I encourage you to join us at the APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C., Mar. 1–3, 2027, and consider bringing your mayor, council members, commissioners, or key utility employees to help tell our story. And if you know someone in your local government or on your commission who would be a good fit for the PMC, please let me know. The more voices we have at the table, the stronger and more united our message becomes.



Tyler Vorpapel is MEUW's Director of Legislative and Regulatory Relations. He can be reached at tvorpapel@meuw.org



Wisconsin was well represented when APPA's Policy Makers Council gathered in D.C. in July. Joining the meetings with lawmakers were (from left) Lee Meyerhofer (Kaukauna), MEUW's Tyler Vorpapel, WPPI Energy's Joseph Owen, Mike Eberl (Marshfield), and Andy Moss (Cedarburg)

**Friends of
PUBLIC
POWER**

MEUW is built on the foundation that municipal electric utilities deserve a voice in happenings at the Capitol in Madison. For 95 years, our association has championed policies and advocated to preserve the public power model. Increasingly, money is a channel for political participation. Through Friends of Public Power, the political action committee and conduit managed by MEUW, the association directs financial resources to support in-state legislative candidates who have signaled their support for public power and the electric-utility industry. Many of these same politicians have shown a willingness to listen to and learn about the issues that matter to MEUW and its member communities. Like other trade associations, we recognize the importance of political giving and developing good relationships with key lawmakers. Dollars raised are directed to both Republican and Democrat candidates in races for the Wisconsin Assembly and State Senate.

To learn more about MEUW's political giving, please visit www.meuw.org/fpp. ●

What municipal utilities need to know about bankruptcy practices



By Nicholas Bratsos
Boardman and Clark

As utility revenues come under pressure from delayed and missed customer payments, municipal utilities in Wisconsin are increasingly attentive to broader economic and financial trends that can affect customer solvency. Bankruptcy filings nationwide have been trending upward in recent reporting periods, with total filings increasing by more than 13% year-over-year through March 31, 2025.¹ Nationally, there were 542,529 total bankruptcy cases in the year ending June 30, 2025, with Chapter 7 filings accounting for over 330,000 of those cases and more than 8,400 Chapter 11 filings.² These figures reflect sustained financial pressure on both residential and commercial utility customers.

Within Wisconsin specifically, bankruptcy data from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin shows continued activity across both individual and business cases, including regular monthly Chapter 7 and occasional Chapter 11 filings throughout 2025,³ underscoring the very real potential for municipal utilities to encounter insolvent customers entering bankruptcy.

Rules for Commercial and Nonresidential Deposits

Wisconsin's regulatory framework provides municipal utilities with tools to manage risk and secure payment for utility service. Under the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) rules, utilities may require deposits from commercial accounts as a condition of providing service:

- Electric utilities may impose commercial and farm deposits pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code, § PSC 113.0403, authorizing deposits based on factors like credit history and risk of nonpayment.
- Water utilities serving non-residential accounts likewise may require security deposits under § PSC 185.361, allowing utilities to obtain financial assurances ahead of service initiation or continuation.

These deposit authorities enable municipal utilities to obtain security in advance that can mitigate the impact of subsequent customer defaults — a particularly salient point for larger nonresidential customers whose financial instability may precede or presage potential bankruptcy filings.

Forms of Guarantee and the Intersection with the Bankruptcy Code

Section 366 of the Bankruptcy Code is meant to balance utility providers' general right to refuse to do business with a debtor post-petition and a debtor's need for utility ser-

vice. Congress attempted to strike this balance by protecting debtors from utility shutoffs for the first few weeks after filing, but also giving utility providers a special right to "adequate assurance" of future payment while a bankruptcy case is pending.

Historically, prior to enactment of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (BACPA) in 2005, bankruptcy courts frequently considered a debtor's pre-petition history of timely utility payments in assessing what constituted adequate assurance of payment. For example:

- In *In re Best Products Co.*, 203 B.R. 51 (Bankr. E.D. Va. 1996), a bankruptcy court accepted a deposit equating to one-half of an average monthly bill as adequate assurance where the debtor had regularly paid utility charges and had no pre-petition default.
- In *In re 499 W. Warren Street Associates Ltd. Partnership*, 138 B.R. 363 (Bankr. N.D.N.Y. 1991), a court approved a deposit equal to one month's average billing based on the debtor's solvency and expected ability to meet post-petition obligations.
- In *In re Spencer*, 218 B.R. 290 (Bankr. W.D.N.Y. 1998), where prepetition defaults were part of the record, a two-month average billing deposit was upheld as adequate assurance.

These pre-BACPA decisions reflected a flexible judicial inquiry into a debtor's payment history and prospects for future payment.

The landscape shifted significantly post-BACPA with the adoption of 11 U.S.C. § 366(c). In Chapter 11 cases, under Section 366(c)(3)(B)(ii), bankruptcy courts are prohibited from considering *pre-petition* timely payment history in determining whether a utility's requested adequate assurance of payment is reasonable. This statutory bar means that even customers with historically reliable payment patterns cannot rely on that history to forestall additional security requirements post-petition.

Post-BACPA cases emphasize that if a Chapter 11 debtor fails to provide adequate assurance within 30 days of filing, the utility may alter, refuse, or discontinue service. 11 U.S.C. § 366(c)(2). While courts can, upon notice and hearing, modify a utility's demand for assurance, they may not weigh pre-petition security absence, prior timely payments, or the availability of an administrative expense priority in determining what constitutes adequate assurance. In Chapter 11 cases, utilities may also use security deposits provided before the petition date to satisfy delinquencies without separate notice or court order.

Adequate assurance is not the same as an absolute guarantee of payment. But utility providers are empowered to demand what they believe is adequate

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^[1] <https://www.uscourts.gov/data-news/data-tables/2025/06/30/bankruptcy-filings/f>

^[2] <https://www.uscourts.gov/data-news/data-tables/2025/06/30/bankruptcy-filings/f>

^[3] <https://www.wieba.uscourts.gov/bankruptcystatistics/2filing>

FERC orders new reliability standards for AI data centers, other large loads

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has directed the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) to develop mandatory reliability standards for large computational loads, including AI data centers, cryptocurrency mining operations, and other high-density computing facilities.

Issued on July 16, the order requires NERC to file new or revised Reliability Standards by Dec. 31, 2026, along with proposed registry criteria identifying which computational-load entities will be subject to mandatory compliance. NERC must also submit a Phase II work plan for additional standards by March 1, 2027.

The action reflects growing concern over the rapid expansion of large electricity users whose power demand can change almost instantaneously, creating voltage and frequency disturbances that threaten grid reliability.

“Certain large loads like data centers and crypto mining operations ... have the potential to change their demand almost in-

stantly,” FERC Chairman Laura Swett said. “This rapid fluctuation causes voltage stability issues that threaten grid reliability.”

FERC's order formalizes work NERC had already begun through its Large Loads Working Group, which has spent the past two years studying the reliability risks associated with emerging computational loads. Earlier this year, NERC issued its highest-level Essential Action Alert requiring utilities and other registered entities to take immediate steps to improve modeling, protection, and operational practices related to these facilities.

While FERC did not prescribe the specific technical requirements, the new standards will include proposed registry criteria identifying which computational-load entities should become subject to NERC's mandatory reliability framework.

Utilities, grid operators, and developers should expect increased regulatory oversight and new reliability requirements aimed at ensuring rapidly growing loads from AI can be integrated without compromising the stability of the Bulk-Power System. ●

Bankruptcy practices

Continued from page 4

assurance where a debtor is at risk of defaulting on its payment obligations.

Moreover, provision of adequate assurance does not prevent a utility from terminating service to the debtor or the estate if post-petition payments for utility services are not made after the statutory waiting period. Such a termination must follow the procedure prescribed under non-bankruptcy law for the disconnection of utility service.

For municipal utilities, this statutory framework underscores that adequate

assurance is evaluated independently of past payment practices, focusing instead on the security necessary to protect the utility from the ongoing service risk.

Offsets, Letters of Credit, and Security Instruments

Municipal utilities commonly obtain letters of credit, cash deposits, surety bonds, or similar guarantees. Under Section 366(c) (4) a utility may recover or set off against a security deposit provided prepetition without notice or court order. This provision can be particularly valuable to municipal utilities in addressing post-petition delinquencies while retaining rights to adequate assurance going forward.

In sum, the bankruptcy code provides mechanisms to protect municipal electric and water utilities for post-petition payments. Before a petition is filed, municipal utilities with commercial customers with payment issues should obtain deposits or guarantees consistent with PSCW rules. These protections remain intact even if the customer subsequently files a bankruptcy petition. ●

Nicholas Bratsos is an attorney with Boardman and Clark law firm in Madison. He joined the firm in March 2026, and his practice includes municipal and construction litigation, dealership law, and commercial disputes.



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LIVELines

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This e-newsletter is distributed to more than 1,200 utility professionals and leaders throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest on the first Tuesday of every month.

LIVE LINES has been published continuously for many decades and provides useful information, news on emerging utility issues and legislation, updates on events, training programs and member services, as well as engaging feature stories spotlighting utilities, communities and leaders.

Reader comments and suggestions are welcome — send by email to news@meuw.org

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An archive of past issues of *Live Lines* is available at www.issuu.com/meuw

APPA signs White House Ratepayer Protection Pledge

American Public Power Association (APPA) President and CEO Scott Corwin on July 23 participated in a White House event to reaffirm public power utilities' commitment to ensuring customers are not burdened with costs caused by infrastructure investment to meet growing data center demand.

"We are pleased to be a signatory to the Ratepayer Protection Pledge on behalf of public power, which aligns with our position that other utility customers should not bear the brunt of the costs of serving data centers," said Corwin. "It reinforces our long-standing focus on energy affordability and reliability for public power utility customers."

Public power utilities are already acting to protect their customers. Many have adopted, or are developing, rates, terms, and conditions for new large-load customers.

APPA said it appreciates the Administration's recognition of the importance of protecting electric customers from the costs of serving large data centers.

In early March, the White House hosted an event with seven major hyperscaler AI companies where they signed the Ratepayer Protection Pledge containing specific actions to help protect other electric ratepayers. To learn more about the pledge, see this [White House fact sheet](#).

To learn more about what APPA is doing to advance affordability, review the [Public Power Affordability Agenda fact sheet](#). ●

September event will focus on energy affordability

The Customers First Coalition (CFC) will host its annual Power Breakfast on Tuesday, Sept. 15, in Madison. The forum will bring together policymakers, energy leaders, and stakeholders to discuss energy affordability and to explore the key factors driving rising energy costs in Wisconsin.

Presenters are expected to discuss how global fuel markets, infrastructure investment, and customer usage influence energy bills, and how effective utility regulation helps manage these pressures. The event will be held at the Premier Park Hotel in downtown Madison. Learn more [here](#).



MEUW is a founding member of CFC, which was originally formed more than 25 years ago, and has helped to shape energy policy that promotes consensus among Wisconsin's energy stakeholders and produces sensible solutions to today's energy challenges. MEUW President and CEO Tim Heinrich is currently serving as Chair of the CFC Board of Directors. To learn more about CFC, visit customersfirst.org. ●



Public power utilities across the U.S., including the 81 operating in Wisconsin, celebrate **Public Power Week** the first full week of October every year to help customers and stakeholders understand how they can better engage with their community-owned utility and benefit from all its offerings. MEUW member utilities have access to sample resources and templates to spread the word and help celebrate in their hometowns. Details are available [here](#), along with a link to additional resources available from APPA. This year's events will happen Oct. 5–9.

Recent storms are reminder to refresh your mutual aid plan

Every MEUW utility has access to a customized guidebook to help prepare for and manage a mutual aid event when it's needed. The Mutual Aid Community Resource Guide is available [here](#) (member login is required).

The Resource Guide was developed based on lessons learned and feedback from past mutual aid events and includes various tools necessary for a well-coordinated mutual aid response, including roles and responsibilities, key contacts, and pre-planning details for critical facilities, lodging, and meals. The guidebook is a Microsoft Excel document with multiple tabs, which allows for everything to be kept in a single location and makes it easy to update. The guidebook's comprehensive Table of Contents is linked to each form for quick access, and each tab is formatted for simplified printing. ●

Submit ideas for topics and presenters at 2027 Electric Operations Conference & Expo

The annual gathering of municipal utility and electric cooperative employees from across Wisconsin is set for Jan. 13–14, 2027, and event organizers are working to identify topics and presenters to make the event informative and worthwhile for all who attend. The focus of the 2027 event is resilience and reliability — hallmarks of energy service. Utilities, suppliers, and consultants are invited to submit ideas they can present to conference attendees during a large-group general session (30 minutes or less). This will be an opportunity to showcase a project or share important insights by presenting information about a compelling and relevant topic of interest to leaders in utility operations. The "Call for Presenters" form is available [here](#). The deadline to submit an idea is Friday, Sept. 11.

In case you missed it ...

DNR alerts utilities to be vigilant amidst ongoing cybersecurity threat

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently contacted public water and wastewater utilities to take immediate steps to protect programmable logic controllers (PLCs) from an ongoing cyber threat targeting internet-connected devices. The advisory follows reports of successful attacks in neighboring states that disrupted system operations.

Utilities are encouraged to review the affected PLC manufacturers, ensure devices are not directly accessible from the internet, verify current security updates, and report any suspected incidents to the Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center (WSIC).

For more information and recommended actions, review the advisory on the federal government's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's [website](#).

Members' NEWS

Fisher Kotnick recently joined New Holstein Utilities as an Apprentice Lineman.

Send us your news! Tell MEUW about new hires, promotions, retirements, honors, and awards, so those tidbits can be shared in MEUW member communications. Simply send an email to news@meuw.org to share your news.



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MEUW NEWS Monitor

Wolf promoted to new role to support strategy, execution



MEUW has promoted Sharon Wolf to a new role as Director of Communications and Member Engagement. She first joined MEUW in March 2023 as Manager

of Communications and Events, bringing with her extensive experience in the utility industry. The promotion recognizes Sharon's efforts to support MEUW's strategic priorities and the Board of Directors' efforts, including enhancing member communication and engagement. She continues to report directly to President and CEO Tim Heinrich.

Basics of Utility Rate Setting course to be offered Sept. 22

Join your peers for this new one-day workshop on the basics of utility rate setting, including cost-of-service and rate design. Members have consistently expressed interest in a foundational session on electric rate setting, and this training is designed to meet that need. The full-day workshop will provide practical insights for municipal employees, as well as help local utility commissioners and governing body members gain a clearer understanding of the rate-making process. The training is planned for Tuesday, Sept. 22, in Mauston. Information about registration is available [here](#).

Accounting & Customer Service Seminar is Sept. 23

You won't want to miss MEUW's annual one-day seminar that brings together municipal electric utility staff with a focus on accounting and customer service topics. Attendees receive updates on regulatory and legislation that affect their utilities and compare best practices to improve their operations. MEUW's Accounting and Customer Service

Committee assists MEUW staff in putting together the day's program to address industry topics. This year's seminar is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 23, in Mauston. Additional information and registration are available [here](#).

Utility Planning and Risk Management class set for Oct. 7

As part of MEUW's professional development programming, we're launching a new one-day course to focus on utility planning and risk management. Taught by experienced engineer, Dave Krause, this training will explain the basics of strategic and operational planning, why planning matters, and how well-thought-out plans and careful assessments of risks can contribute to long-term success. The class will be held in Mauston on Wednesday, Oct. 7. Registration and details about the class and instructor can be found [here](#).

Associate Member renewal time is almost here!

Having strong connections to vital supply lines is essential for municipal utility operations. MEUW Associate Members are suppliers and service providers who have paid membership dues in support of those connections. The Associate Member year runs from Oct. 1–Sept. 30 each year. Current Associate Members can expect to receive renewal information in the coming weeks. Full details about the Associate Member program and the benefits available are [here](#).

Member Roundtable sessions kickoff late next month

MEUW will once again host Member Roundtables around the state in September and October, providing local utility leaders an opportunity to connect and network on topics of interest to public power. Members are encouraged to attend one of the five scheduled sessions, along with their utility commissioners or elected officials, to receive updates and participate in roundtable discussions. Planned locations and dates are:

- Tuesday, Sept. 29: Bloomer
- Wednesday, Sept. 30: Juneau
- Thursday, Oct. 1: Hartford
- Thursday, Oct. 8: Clintonville
- Thursday, Oct. 15: Richland Center

While there is no cost, advance registration is required. Each session will begin at 9 a.m. and wrap up by 1 p.m. Registration is available [here](#).

Tuesday, Aug. 11
is primary election day
in Wisconsin



A fast-moving, severe thunderstorm impacted the community of Eagle River on the morning of July 27, bringing a lot of lightning strikes and quarter-sized hail. The 45-mph winds toppled trees and took down six poles, impacting more than 300 customers. MEUW activated a mutual aid event, and crews from five municipal utilities answered the call. With the help from crews from Clintonville, Marshfield, Medford, New London, and Wisconsin Rapids, service to nearly all Eagle River Light & Water customers was restored by 1 a.m. July 28 with service fully restored to the remaining customers by 2 p.m.

MEUW Employee Spotlight: Brian Johnson reflects on five years

This is the first in a series of articles (thanks to a suggestion from MEUW's recent communications review) to help members learn more about the MEUW team. In this article, MEUW Regional Safety Manager Brian Johnson offers reflections on his first five years providing support for MEUW members.

In July, I celebrated five years of service with MEUW. While this milestone is certainly meaningful, it has also provided an opportunity for reflection. I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside such outstanding people not only within my region, but across the entire state.

As I look back on my time in this position, I realize how much I have grown professionally and personally. That growth has not come primarily from advanced safety courses or additional certifications. Instead, it has come from learning that effective leadership requires not only being a teacher, but also being a student. I have learned the value of listening to and learning from our membership. The diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives of our members represent an incredible source of knowledge that has expanded and strengthened my own understanding. For a long time, I failed to recognize the depth of that resource. Once I did, I began to appreciate the tremendous opportunity to learn from those I serve.

Reflections from Five Years in Safety Leadership

Leadership involvement strengthens safety culture. Conducting field audits alongside leaders is far more effective than conducting them independently. I have learned that when leadership actively participates in the audit process, it not only reinforces the organization's safety culture but also elevates accountability among employees. More importantly, it sends a clear message that working safely is an expectation that is fully supported by leadership.

Approach matters as much as the message. The individuals I work with are professionals and experts in their respective fields. When difficult conversations are necessary, I have learned that how I communicate is just as important as what I communicate. Presenting information with respect and professionalism can determine whether the message is accepted or rejected. Respect is essential for building trust, maintaining credibility, and fostering long-term relationships.

Presence has value. Being present may seem like a basic part of the job, but I have learned that it carries significant value. I do not always have to speak about safety when spending time with crews in the field. Simply being there as a Safety Manager demonstrates commitment and support. In many cases, meaningful safety discussions arise naturally, even when safety is not the initial topic of conversation.

Follow through on your commitments. When someone asks a question that cannot be answered immediately, it is important to follow up and provide an answer as promised, even if it is not the answer they hoped to hear. Consistently doing what you say you will do builds credibility and strengthens relationships.

Reliability and accountability are foundational to effective leadership.

Be willing to admit mistakes and apologize. One of the most important lessons I have learned is the value of humility. I recall conducting an audit where I discussed several observations with a crew on-site. Later, in my written report, I included additional concerns that

had not been discussed during our conversation. The crew was understandably frustrated. Looking back, I could not blame them. I immediately returned to speak with them, apologized, and assured them I would handle situations differently moving forward. That experience reinforced a critical lesson: trust is the foundation of everything we do as safety professionals. Without trust, safety programs, conversations, and initiatives lose their effectiveness. Trust is not just important in this role, it is everything.

As I begin my sixth year with MEUW, I am grateful for the lessons learned, the

relationships built, and the opportunities to continue growing. The greatest realization from these past five years is that the most valuable knowledge often comes from the people around us. When we remain humble enough to listen and learn, we become better leaders, better partners, and better safety professionals. ●



Brian Johnson joined MEUW on July 1, 2021, bringing more than 20 years' experience in operations, manufacturing, quality, safety, and training. A native of Eau Claire, he also worked as a business development manager for Safe-Fast, where he worked with customers and trained them on the latest OSHA safety rules. He also previously held roles with TTM Technologies, Great Northern Corporation, and Hutchinson Technology. Brian earned an associate's degree in supervisory management from Chippewa Valley Technical College. He lives in Altoona with his wife, Jamie, and has three adult children and two grandchildren.

Fun Facts about Brian:

I'd eat that ... "raw oysters"
Best new thing ... "weed flame thrower"
Bring back ... "the mullet"
Favorite game ... "golf"
Book I'd recommend ... "The OZ Principle"
Hidden talent ... "I'm a mean dancer!"

Wisconsin UTILITY NEWS Digest

Coal plant extension orders draw long-term cost concerns

Gov. Tony Evers is urging the Trump administration to stop using emergency orders to keep aging coal plants operating beyond their planned retirement dates, arguing the policy could cost Wisconsin ratepayers an estimated \$117 million over the next several years. The administration says the extensions help maintain grid reliability and reduce the risk of blackouts, while consumer advocates and environmental groups contend the plants are expensive, unnecessary, and increase electricity costs.

The Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin has joined legal challenges to the federal orders affecting coal plants in Michigan and Indiana, arguing that costs are being unfairly passed on to utility customers across the Midwest, including parts of Wisconsin. Consumer advocates say long-term utility planning is a better approach than relying on repeated 90-day emergency orders and warn the policy could further increase electric bills that are already rising faster than inflation.

Nieto appointed Chair of NARUC Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) Commissioner Kristy Nieto was recently appointed to serve as Chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Consumers and Public Interest. NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The NARUC

State appellate court upholds constitutionality of Act 10

A Wisconsin Court of Appeals has upheld the constitutionality of Act 10, overturning a 2024 Dane County Circuit Court ruling that found the law unconstitutional. The appeals court determined the legal issues had already been addressed in previous state and federal decisions that upheld the law.

The lawsuit argues that Act 10's distinction between public safety employees — who retained collective bargaining rights — and other public employees violates the Wisconsin Constitution's equal protection clause. The unions challenging the law are expected to appeal, sending the case to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, where a liberal majority is expected to hear the case and issue the final ruling.

Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest brings together commissioners from across the nation to focus on the evolving role state commissions play in protecting consumers and upholding the public interest. The Committee fosters dialogue exploring ways to ensure fair and affordable utility service to support informed regulatory decisions, public participation, and improved consumer education and communication.

Lightning suspected in death of tree-trimming contractor

An out-of-state employee working as a subcontractor for We Energies died on July 27 following a suspected lightning strike. The 31-year-old from West Virgin-

ia was performing tree-trimming work in Whitewater. Emergency responders found him suspended approximately 60 feet above the ground; he was pronounced dead at the scene. Investigators found no evidence of contact with energized power lines and noted that storms were moving through the area.

State regulators deny request to reconsider finance requirement for data-center rates

The three-person PSC has declined to reconsider financial-guarantee requirements for certain hyperscale data center customers, effectively ending a June 10 petition from We Energies and developers. The approved rules require customers with credit ratings below A-, including Oracle, to provide cash or lines of credit to protect utility ratepayers. No commissioner moved to reopen the case by the July 9 deadline.

Milwaukee-based We Energies, the state's largest investor-owned utility, said the requirements add cost and reduce flexibility, potentially discouraging investment and job growth in Wisconsin. Oracle, which is challenging the rate structure in court and estimates the change could increase the annual cost by about \$100 million, said it remains committed to paying its full energy share and providing protections against ratepayer risk.

Consumer and environmental advocates welcomed the decision. The Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin and Clean Wisconsin argued that Oracle's credit profile, debt, and exposure to a possible AI-sector downturn justify strong safeguards. They said weakening collateral requirements could shift unnecessary financial risk to We Energies customers. ●



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Municipal utility customers are maximizing energy savings

Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities had a strong year with Focus on Energy in 2025. Participation data for the year, verified against the independent 2025 evaluation report released in May, shows that public power customers generated more energy savings per project and squeezed more value out of every incentive dollar than the statewide average.

Higher Savings per Project

Residential municipal electric utility customers who completed a Focus on Energy project achieved an average of 7,628 kWh in lifecycle savings per project, the total energy the upgrade or technology saves over its full useful life, compared to 7,417 kWh statewide. Both figures come close to covering a full year of a typical Wisconsin home's electricity use, but the public power number edges ahead, about 11.6 months of coverage versus 11.3 months statewide. The pattern holds up once non-residential programs are folded in as public power customer projects saved an averaged 36,505 lifecycle kWh, enough to cover roughly four and a half years of a typical home's electricity use, compared to 36,089 kWh statewide. Demand savings followed suit, with these projects trimming 0.35 kW on average, more than 7% ahead of the 0.33 kW statewide figure.

Generated savings in 2025 tells a similar story. Across the full portfolio, public power customers' 2025 projects saved enough electricity to power roughly 6,170 homes for the year, compared to about 56,960 homes statewide.

More Energy Saved Per Dollar

The sharpest contrast shows up in the energy saved per dollar spent. Across the full portfolio, every incentive dollar paid to municipal electric utility customers returned roughly 110 kWh of lifecycle savings, compared to about 100 kWh statewide, nearly 10% more value per dollar spent. Residential

programs widen the gap: incentive dollars spent on public power customers returned 69 lifecycle kWh apiece, versus 57 kWh statewide, a 22% difference. The same incentive budget simply went further for these customers than it did for the state as a whole.

Program popularity: similar tastes, different emphasis

The same three offerings topped the participation list both statewide and among municipal electric utility customers: free energy saving product packs, heating and cooling equipment discounts, and smart thermostats. Free packs were a clear favorite, but played an even bigger role for

public power customers, making up about 83% of residential participants in municipal utility territory compared to 77% statewide. Easy, no-cost participation clearly resonates with this group.

Beyond Pack participation, the two groups diverge a bit. Municipal electric utility customers made proportionally less use of the HVAC discount offering, about 10% of residential participants versus 16% statewide. Trade Ally Solutions offerings like heating-and-cooling upgrades and insulation and air sealing, which drew roughly half the participation share in municipal utility territory

that they did statewide. On the flip side, public power customers showed up more often in Focus' new homes program. Residential New Construction participation was more than double the statewide share, and commercial and industrial participation among municipal electric utility customers landed at roughly 1.3 to 2 times the statewide share. This signals a relatively strong engagement given the size of this customer base.

For municipal electric utility customers, the 2025 numbers point to a simple takeaway: Focus on Energy dollars go far in public power territory. Every project completed, and every incentive dollar spent, delivered more energy savings than the statewide average, savings that add up to real energy and cost savings flowing back into public power communities. ●



Public power customers generated more energy savings per project and squeezed more value out of every incentive dollar than the statewide average.

Your source for the most up-to-date information about MEUW news, training seminars and programs

MEUW.org

Mutual Aid Hotline

When you need help, call MEUW – 24 hours a day, seven days a week – for help coordinating mutual aid assistance

1-844-MEUW-911
(1-844-638-9911)

Calendar of Events

T Sept. 8	Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
T Sept. 22	Basics of Utility Rate Setting — <i>Mauston</i>
W Sept. 23	Annual Accounting & Customer Service Seminar — <i>Mauston</i>
T Sept. 29	Member Roundtable — <i>Bloomer</i>
W Sept. 30	Member Roundtable — <i>Juneau</i>
Th Oct. 1	Member Roundtable — <i>Hartford</i>
T Oct. 6	Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
W Oct. 7	Utility Planning & Risk Management — <i>Mauston</i>
Th Oct. 8	Member Roundtable — <i>Clintonville</i>
Th Oct. 15	Member Roundtable — <i>Richland Center</i>
T Nov. 3	Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
T Dec. 1	Monthly Safety Call — 7:15 a.m.
W Dec. 2	Leading Through Coaching — <i>Mauston</i>

Visit MEUW.org for full details



LIVELines Classifieds

MEUW is pleased to promote job openings with its member utilities across Wisconsin. New positions are regularly added to our website — check them out [here](#) or use your smartphone to scan the QR code below. Here are some current opportunities available:

New Lisbon Utilities — [Clerk / Treasurer](#)

New London Utilities — [Journeyman Line Mechanic](#)

City of Stoughton

[Director of Finance / Comptroller](#)

[Utility Automation SCADA Specialist](#)

Jefferson Utilities

[Customer Accounts Clerk](#)

[Billing Clerk](#)

When your utility is hiring, be sure to email the job posting to office@meuw.org.



Did you Know?

This year's summer season may seem a little longer than usual — at least on the calendar. With Memorial Day having marked the "unofficial" start of summer on May 25 and Labor Day landing

on its latest possible date, Sept. 7, the stretch between the two holidays in 2026 is the longest the calendar will allow. The date phenomenon gives us a total of 106 calendar days of traditional summer, compared to just 99 days in 2025. The result is a unique chance to enjoy an extended summer period.



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Washington Report

APPA, Members Sign White House Ratepayer Protection Pledge

American Public Power Association President & CEO Scott Corwin on July 23 participated in a White House event to reaffirm public power utilities' commitment to ensuring customers are not burdened with costs caused by infrastructure investment to meet growing data center demand. "We are pleased to be a signatory to the Ratepayer Protection Pledge on behalf of public power, which aligns with our position that other utility customers should not bear the brunt of the costs of serving data centers," said Corwin. Along with APPA, more than 15 APPA members signed [the pledge](#).

Members of APPA's PMC Gather to Advocate for Public Power Priorities

Public power leaders from across the U.S. gathered in July in Washington, D.C., for the APPA Policy Makers Council's annual fly-in. On July 14, PMC members convened in APPA's headquarters in Arlington, Va., where they discussed various legislative and regulatory priorities. Scott Corwin, President and CEO of APPA, participated in the meetings. PMC members headed to Capitol Hill on July 15 to advocate for [key policy priorities](#) in meetings with their House and Senate members.

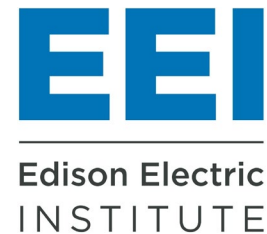
Senators Send Wildfire Risk Reduction Letter to Key Federal Agencies

Senator Tim Sheehy (R-MT), joined by fourteen of his Republican colleagues, on July 30 sent a letter to the secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior urging action to reduce wildfire risk. [The letter](#) encourages the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to use existing authorities under section 512 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act to improve right-of-way maintenance for electric infrastructure on public lands and forests.

Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act Introduced in the Senate

Senators Steve Daines (R-MT), Jim Risch (R-ID), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on July 21 introduced the Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act. The bill would amend sections 4(e) and 18 of the Federal Power Act to clarify that mandatory conditions for the licensing of non-federal hydropower projects must be limited to those that are necessary to reasonably mitigate the direct adverse effects of a project on federal reservations and fish populations, respectively. Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OR) introduced the companion bill ([H.R. 9337](#)) in the House, which APPA supports as outlined in a letter sent to leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. A [similar letter](#) was sent to leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

HOT TOPICS | [APPA Files Reply Comments with FCC](#) | [Bill Addresses Hydropower Maintenance](#)



July 23, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the American Public Power Association (APPA) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), we write to express our support for the Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act (S. 5048). Collectively, our members provide electric service to hundreds of millions of American customers across all regions of the country, including urban, suburban, and rural communities. Ensuring the continued affordability and reliability of electricity is central to our shared mission.

APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power approximately 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. APPA represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 55 million people that public power utilities serve across 49 states and five territories.

NRECA is the national trade association representing nearly 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives which are owned and operated by the people they serve. Electric cooperatives power the lives of approximately 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

EEI is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. EEI member companies provide electricity for nearly 250 million Americans and operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The electric power industry as a whole supports more than seven million jobs in communities across the United States. This year, EEI's member companies are projected to invest more than \$200 billion to help meet the nation's growing demands for reliable electricity, while also keeping customer bills as low as possible.

Hydropower remains a critical component of the nation's electric generation mix, providing reliable, dispatchable, and renewable energy. However, the federal hydropower licensing and relicensing process has become increasingly costly, complex, and time-consuming. These costs are not absorbed in isolation; rather, they are ultimately borne by the customers our members serve. Lengthy licensing timelines, expansive study requirements, and broadly scoped mandatory conditions can significantly

increase project costs, placing upward pressure on retail electricity rates for families, businesses, and public institutions.

The Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act takes a measured and targeted approach to addressing these challenges. Specifically, the legislation clarifies that mandatory conditions issued pursuant to Sections 4(e) and 18 of the Federal Power Act must be limited to those necessary to mitigate the direct adverse effects of a project on federal reservations and fish populations, respectively. By aligning these requirements more closely with actual project impacts, the bill would restore the appropriate scope of agency authority while preserving important environmental protections.

This clarification is expected to yield meaningful improvements in both cost and process efficiency. By ensuring that conditions are directly related to project effects, the legislation would reduce the likelihood of unnecessarily broad or duplicative requirements that drive up costs without commensurate benefits. In turn, this would lower overall project expenses and reduce the financial burden passed through to electricity customers. Additionally, narrowing the scope of mandatory conditions would help streamline the licensing process, reduce disputes, and shorten review timelines—providing greater regulatory certainty for utilities undertaking long-term infrastructure investments.

For the diverse utilities represented by our organizations, maintaining affordable electricity rates is a fundamental responsibility. Modernizing the hydropower licensing process to ensure that requirements are closely tied to project impacts represents a practical and balanced step toward achieving that goal, while continuing to support environmental stewardship.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and respectfully urge Congress to advance the Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act. We look forward to working with you to support policies that sustain hydropower as a reliable and cost-effective resource for the nation's electricity customers.

Sincerely,



Scott Corwin
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Public Power Association



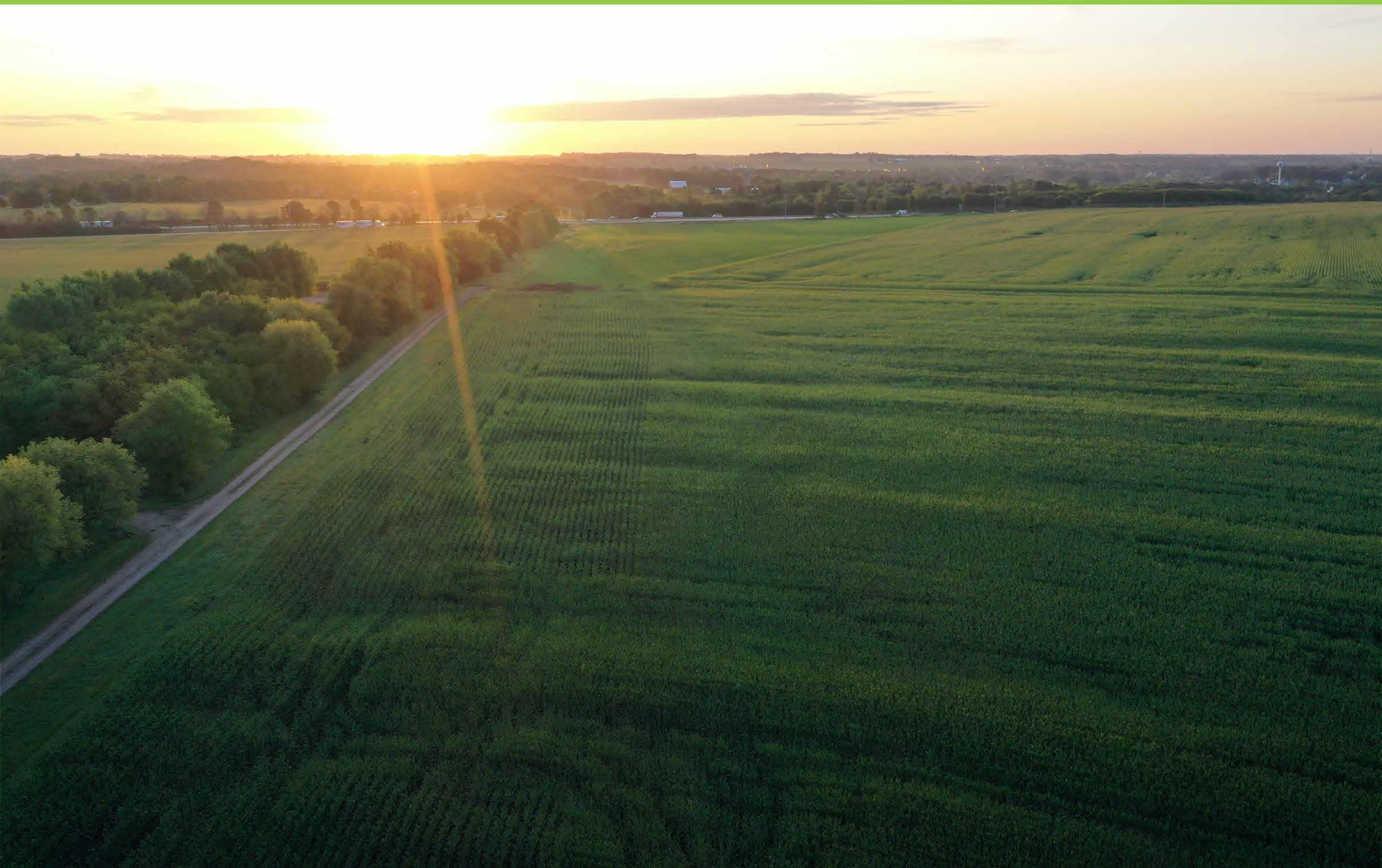
Jim Matheson
Chief Executive Officer
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Drew Maloney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Edison Electric Institute

CC: The Honorable Steve Daines
The Honorable Jim Risch
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

BECI 765-kV Transmission Line Project



Welcome



Thank you for attending our open house. Your participation helps us make the most informed decisions.

How it Works

- 1 Sign in at the registration table to receive your property ID (if applicable) and a comment form.
- 2 Talk with our team members to learn more about the BECI Project.
- 3 Share your input at the mapping table with our team members.
- 4 Provide input on your comment form and return it to us or take it with you and mail it back to us.



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About MISO



Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is an independent, not-for-profit, member-based organization that ensures power flows reliably and efficiently across 15 states and Manitoba, Canada. MISO facilitates the buying and selling of electricity in its region and partners with its stakeholders to plan the grid of the future.

Long Range Transmission Planning

MISO is responsible for the Long Range Transmission Plan (LRTP), which develops regional system solutions for the grid so the transmission system is reliable, economic, and compliant for the next 20 years and beyond.

Want to learn more?

Scan the QR code or visit

misoenergy.org/planning/long-range-transmission-planning



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Economic Benefits



What MISO says the region gets back:



\$16.3 B

Avoided cost of building new power plants.



\$14.8 B

Reduced risk of reliability failures



\$18.1 B

Lower congestion and fuel costs



\$1.6 B

Energy saved from reduced line losses

\$1.80 to \$3.50
in benefits
for every
\$1
of cost

MISO's benefit-to-cost ratio for the Tranche 2.1 Portfolio

Figures are MISO's 20-year benefit estimates for the Tranche 2.1 portfolio.



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About Midcontinent Grid Solutions



MISO selected Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) to build and maintain the BECI Project.

MGS pulls together the expertise and experience of Transource Energy—a joint venture of American Electric Power and Evergy—and BHE Transmission. With more than 100 years of experience, these companies operate more than 84,000 miles of transmission lines across the country, delivering the infrastructure that keeps power flowing safely and reliably to customers.



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Visit TransourceEnergy.com and BrkEnergy.com to learn more about how these companies power America.



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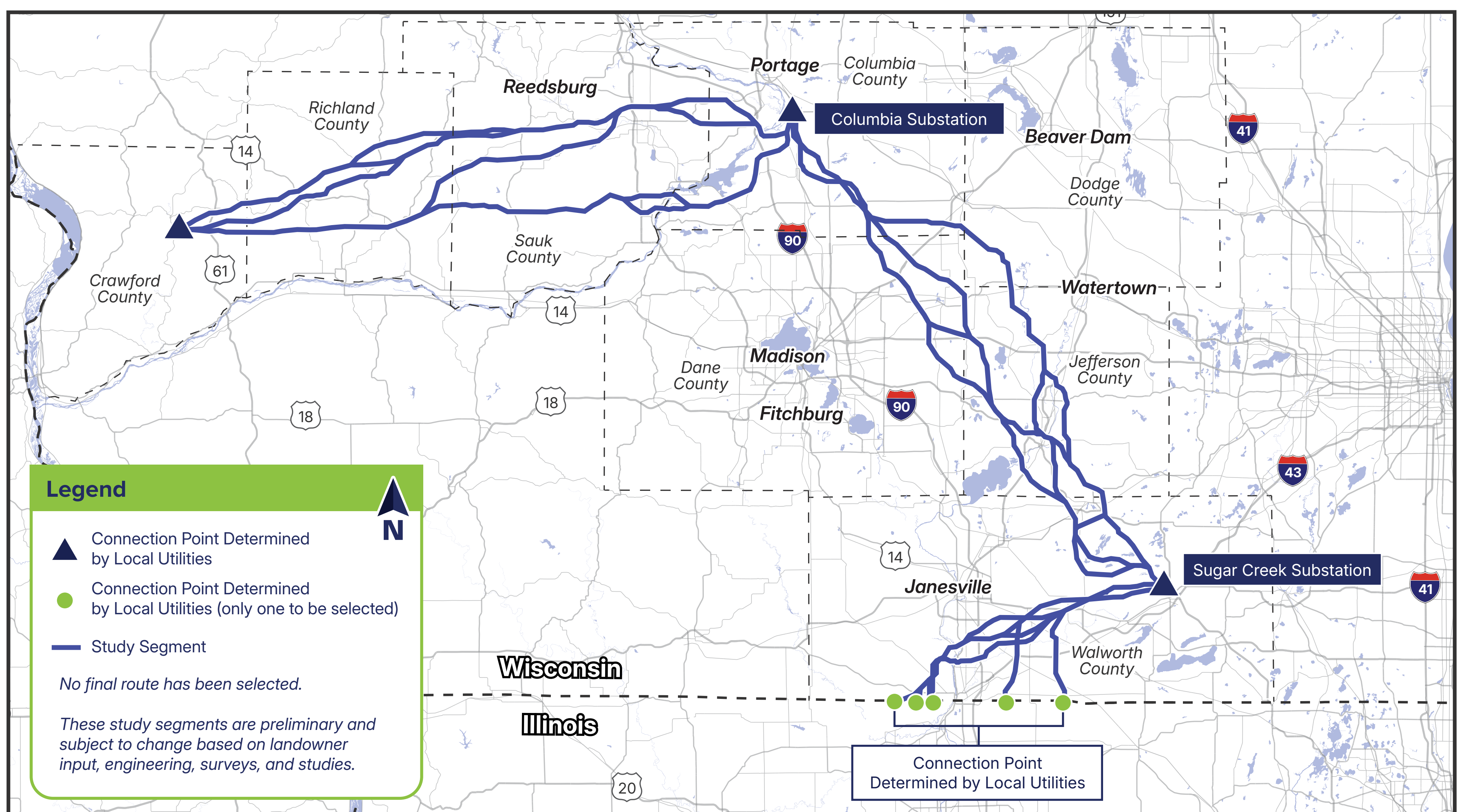


Project Overview



The BECI Project is an approximately 190-mile, 765-kV project in Wisconsin connecting electric facilities in Crawford County with facilities in Walworth County before continuing to the state line.

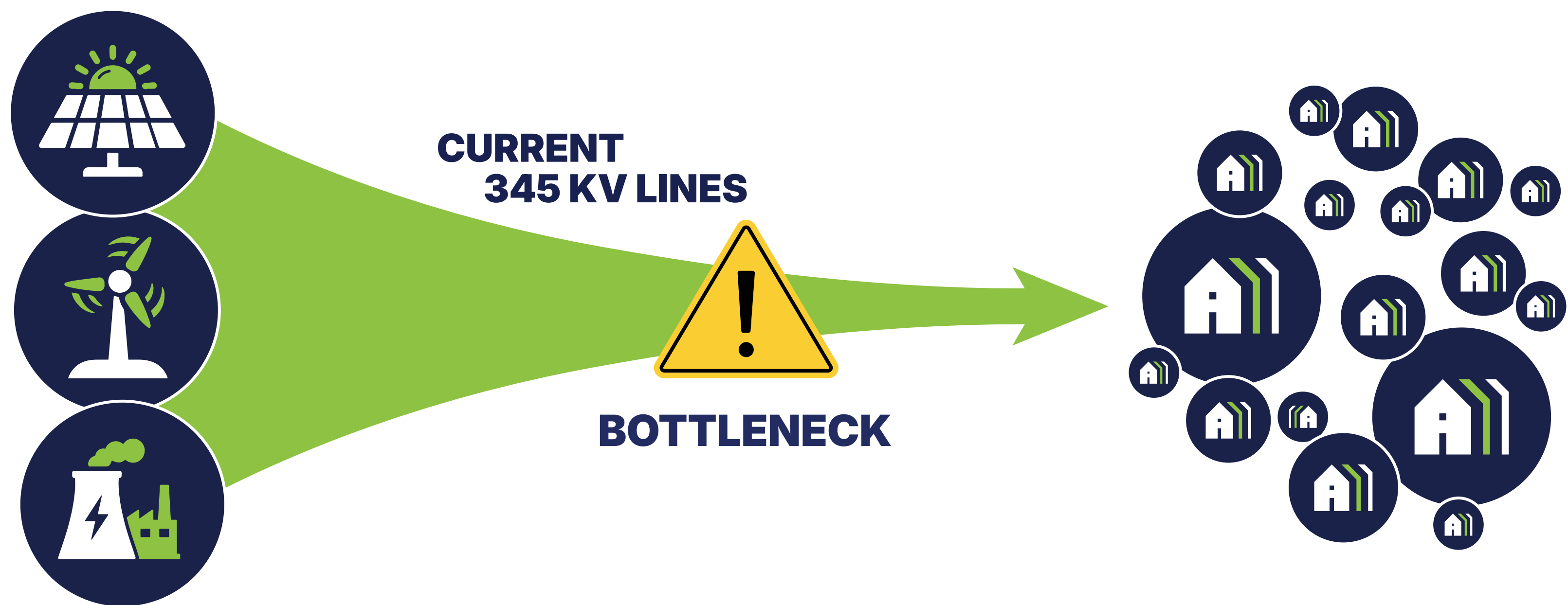
The project is designed to strengthen the power grid, improve reliability and enable the flow of low-cost energy to customers in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest. It is part of a broader regional plan developed and approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to ensure the grid is reliable and efficient.



Project Need



Electricity demand across Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest is growing rapidly. At the same time, more power is being generated from a diverse mix of energy sources across the region. Today's transmission system was not built to move the amount of electricity needed in the future, creating bottlenecks and increasing strain on the grid.



The BECI Project will help strengthen the regional transmission network, improve reliability, maintain access to low-cost power, and ensure electricity can reach homes, farms, and businesses when and where it's needed.

The Project:



**Supports Economic
Activity**



**Invests in Local
Communities**



**Maintains Access
to Low-Cost Power**



**Ensures Reliable
Power**



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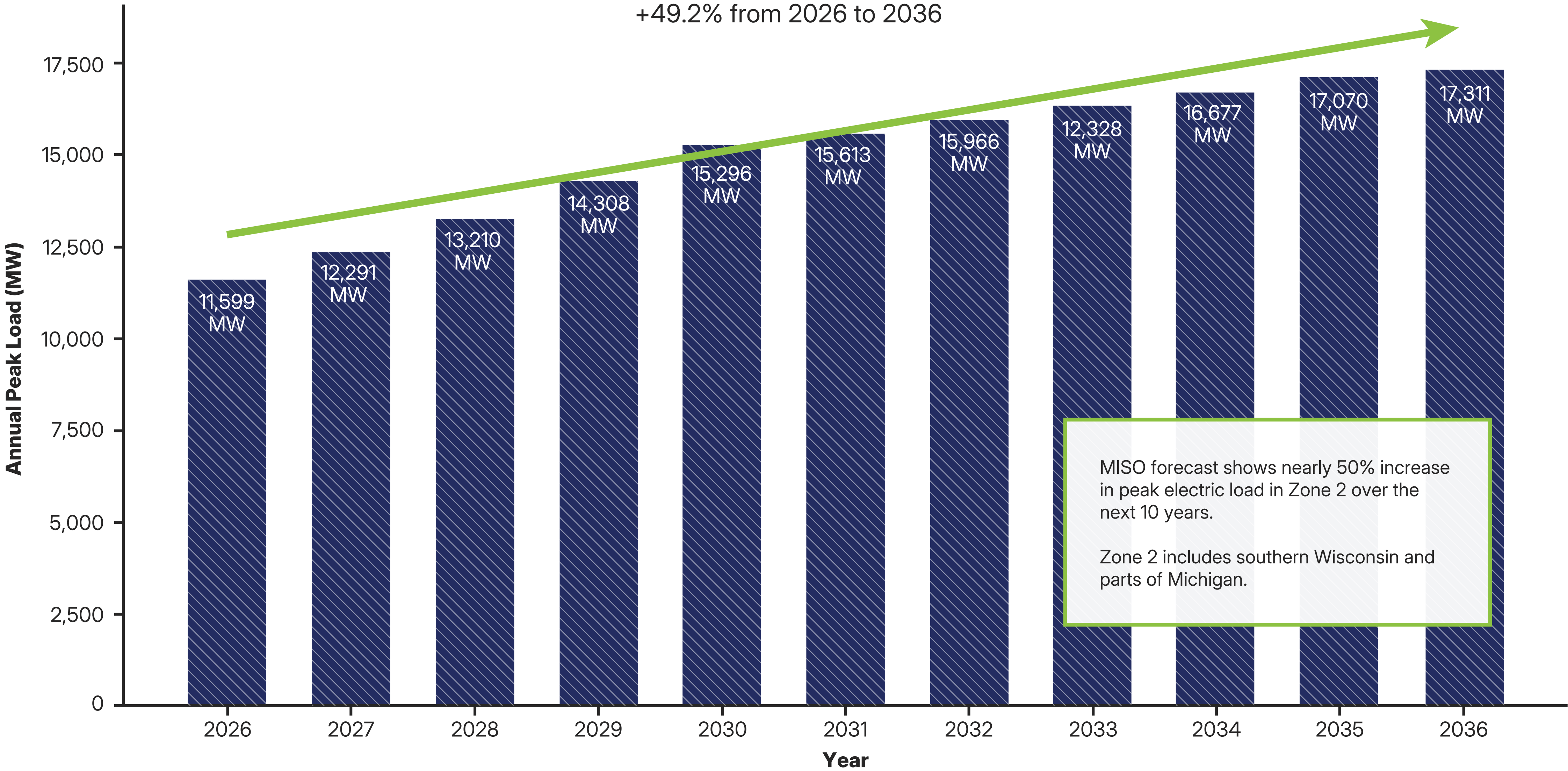


Wisconsin and Upper Midwest Load Growth



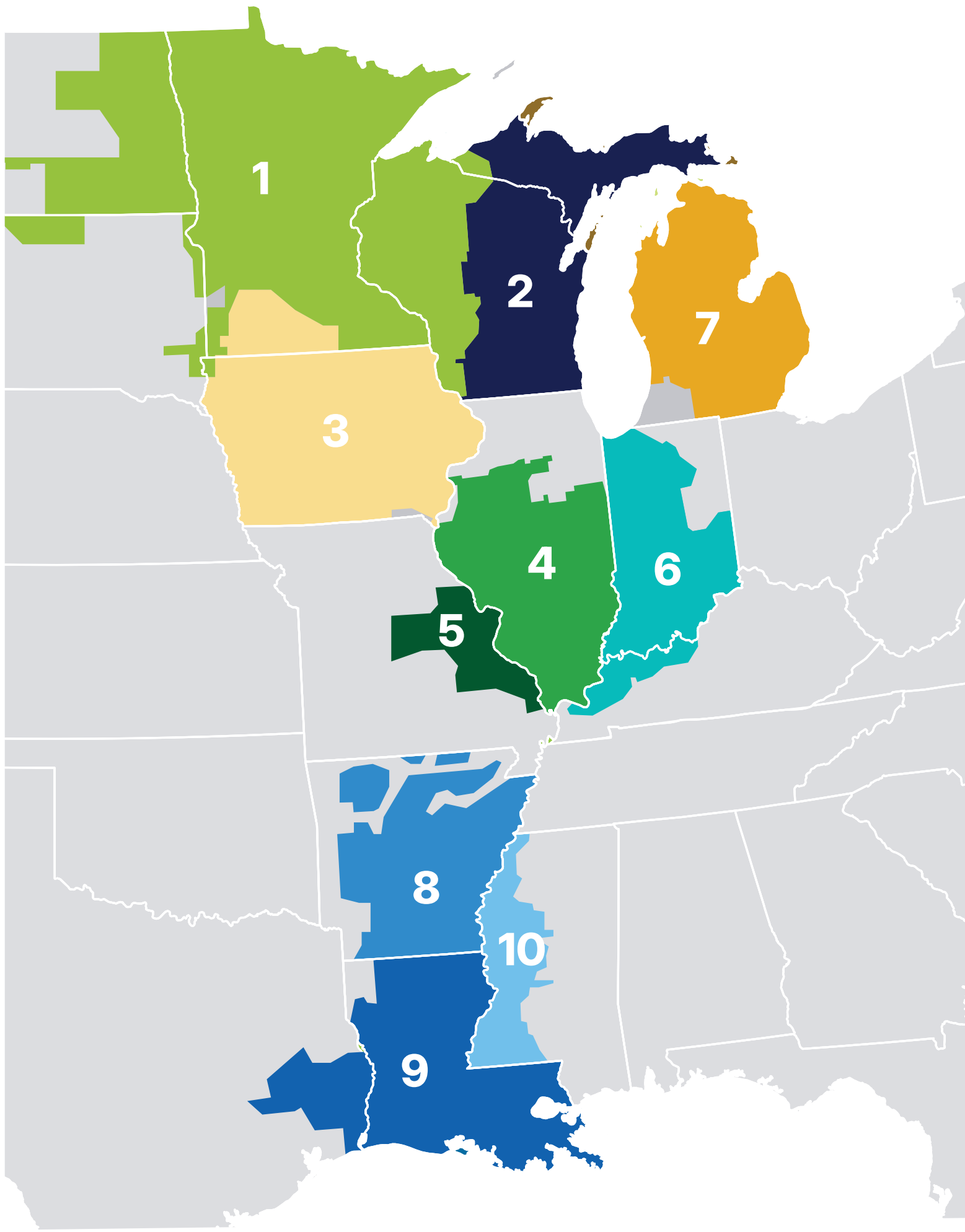
MISO Zone 2 Peak Load Forecast

+49.2% from 2026 to 2036



Source: MISO 2026 Long-Term Forecasting (LTLT) Results Summary Methodology Overview and Results, April 13, 2026

MISO Zones



North Region: Zones 1 and 3
Central Region: Zones 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7
South Region: Zones 8, 9 and 10



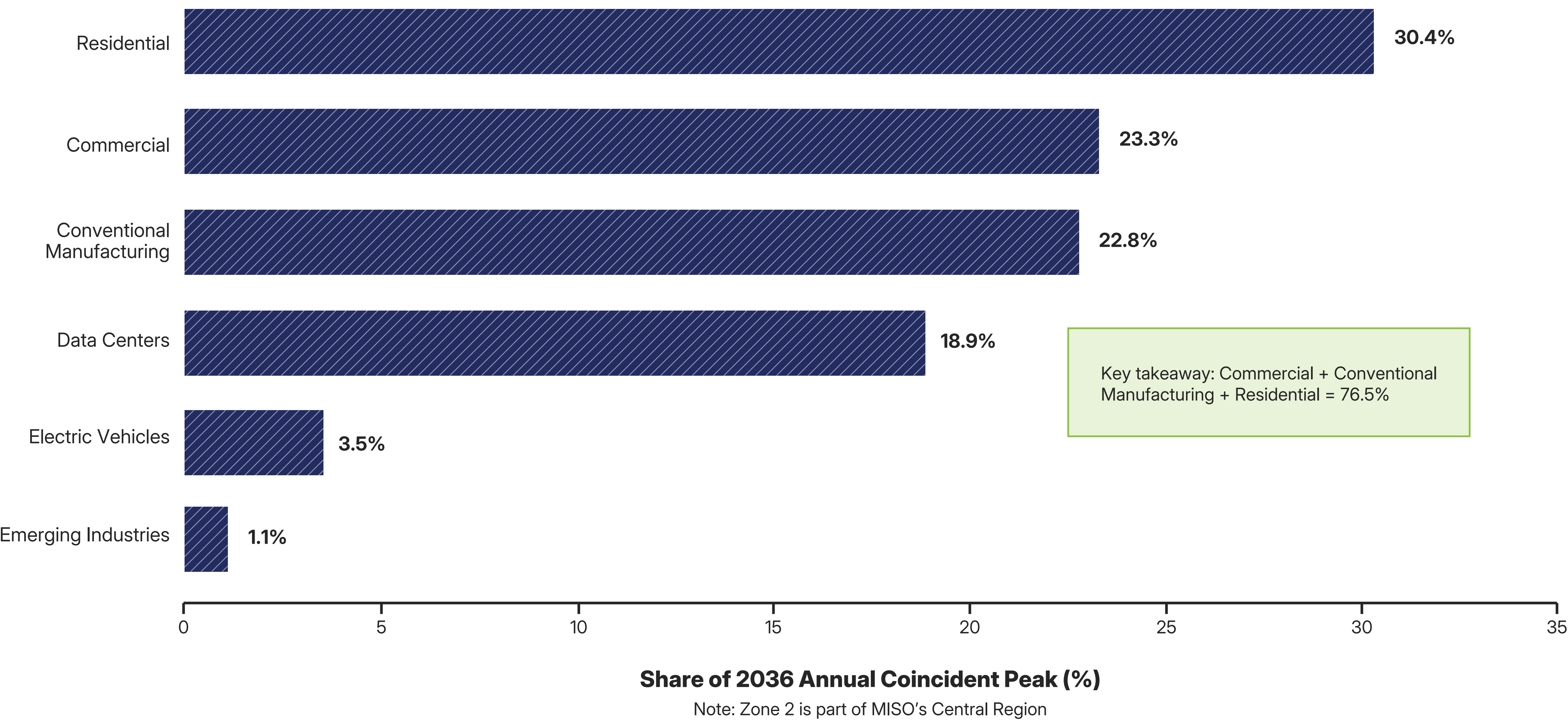
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Wisconsin and Upper Midwest Load Growth

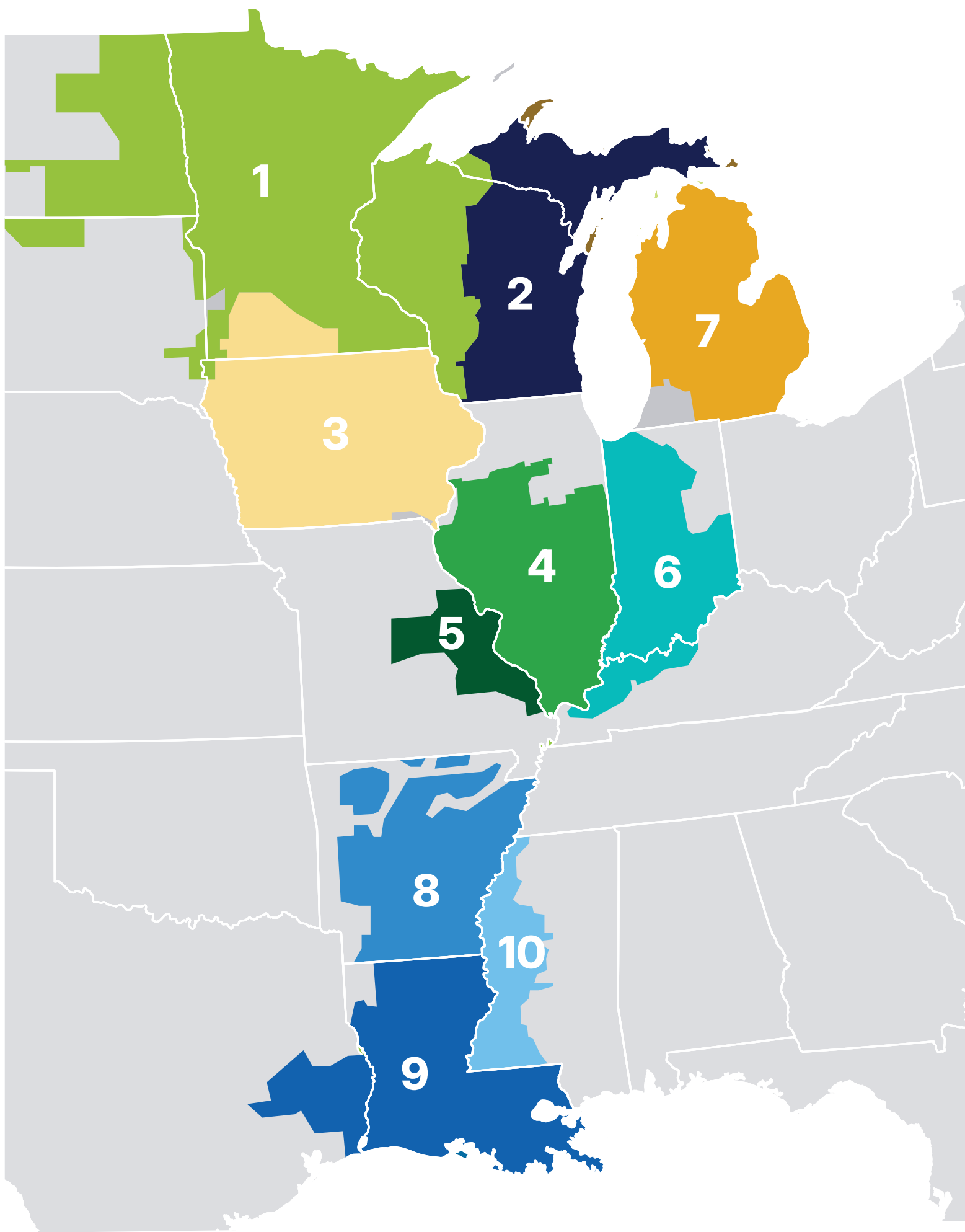


MISO's Central Region Peak Load Forecast

By 2036, Commercial, Conventional Manufacturing and Residential load account for 76.5% of forecasted peak load



MISO Zones



North Region: Zones 1 and 3
Central Region: Zones 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7
South Region: Zones 8, 9 and 10



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Project Benefits



Powering growth now and into the future

We're using more electricity than ever. A stronger grid helps make sure there's enough reliable power for homes and businesses, today and in the future. Investing in these higher capacity lines addresses current and long-term transmission needs.



Improves grid reliability

A backbone transmission line serves as a highway for electricity, delivering large amounts of power to local communities helping to maintain reliable service and support local growth.



Providing local benefits

The BECI Project connects local communities to a stronger, more resilient grid that can support growth while maintaining reliable service.

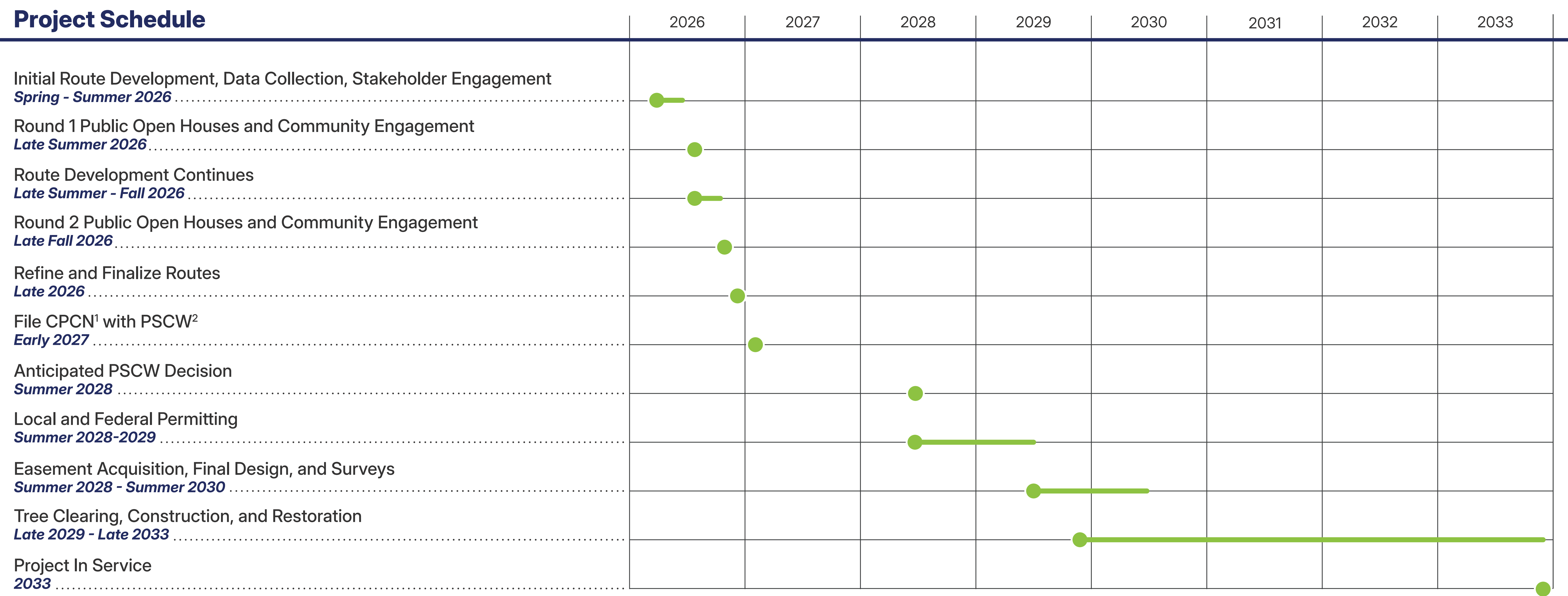


Promotes jobs and economic prosperity

Investing in critical energy infrastructure helps create local jobs, supports area businesses and strengthens the local economy.



Project Schedule



¹CPCN: Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity; ²PSCW: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
*Timeframes are approximate and subject to change.

How Power Gets to You



1. Generation Stations

A generation station produces power to be transported long distances through transmission lines.

2. EHV Transmission:

Extra-high voltage (EHV) electric transmission lines are generally 765-kilovolt (kV), 500-kV and 345-kV.

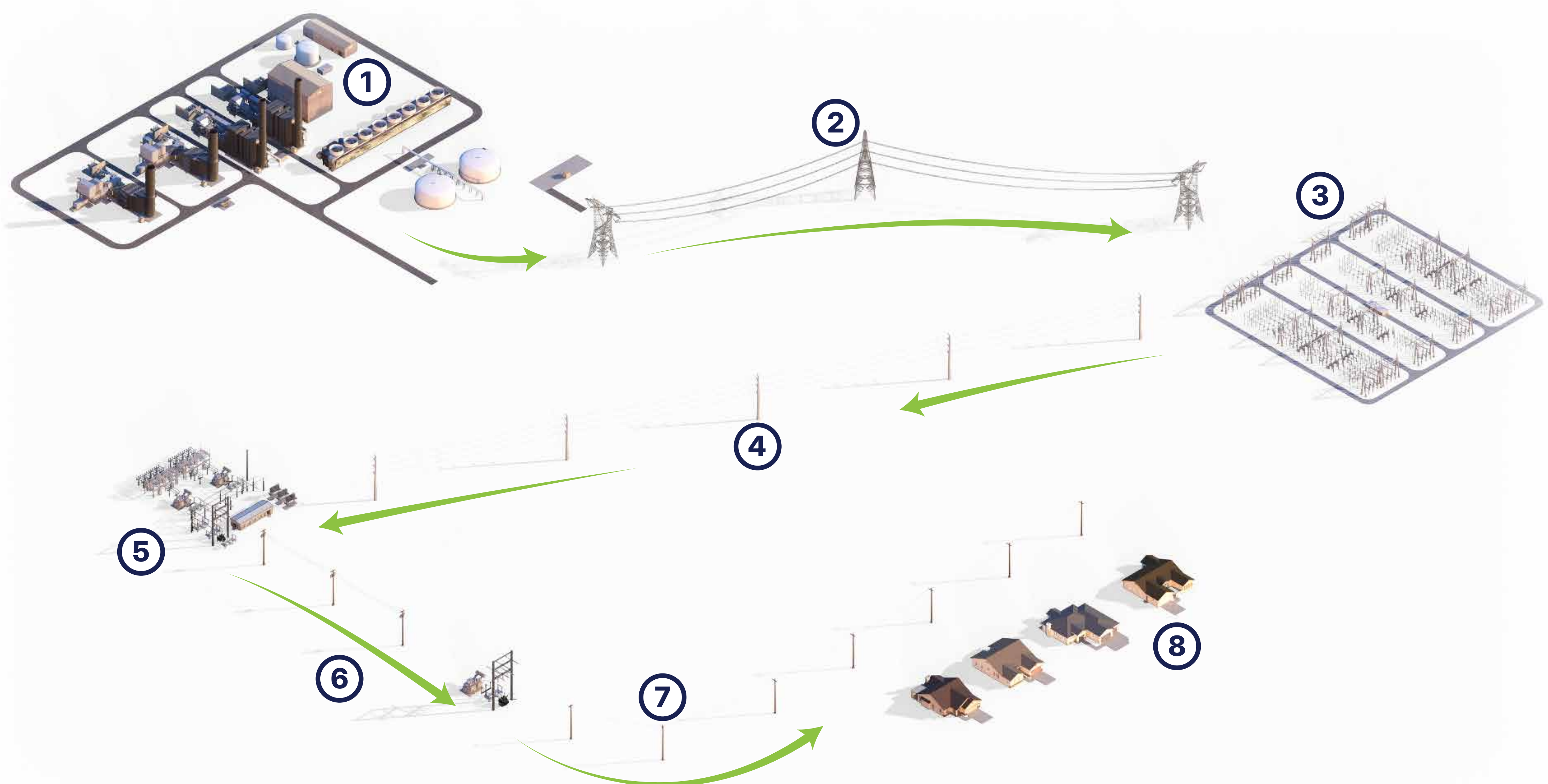
3. Transmission

Substations:

Substations direct the flow of electricity and either decrease or increase voltage levels for transport.

4. Local Transmission:

We typically use 69-kV and 138-kV transmission lines to move power shorter distances - for example, to different parts of a city or county.



5. Distribution Substations

Substations transform 69-kV and 138-kV electricity into lower distribution-level voltages such as 34.5-kV, 12-kV or 7.2-kV.

6. Primary Distribution:

These main lines (also called circuits) connect substations to large parts of the community.

7. Lateral Distribution:

These lower-capacity lines deliver electricity to neighborhoods and other smaller groups of customers.

8. Individual Service:

Smaller transformers step down voltage to levels customers can use. Individual homes typically use 120/240 volts.

To use an analogy, electric transmission is like our national road system. Three kinds of power lines exist between power plants, homes and businesses:

- EHV lines are like interstate highways.
- High-voltage local transmission lines are like four-lane roads.
- Distribution lines are like two-lane roads that eventually connect to a driveway.



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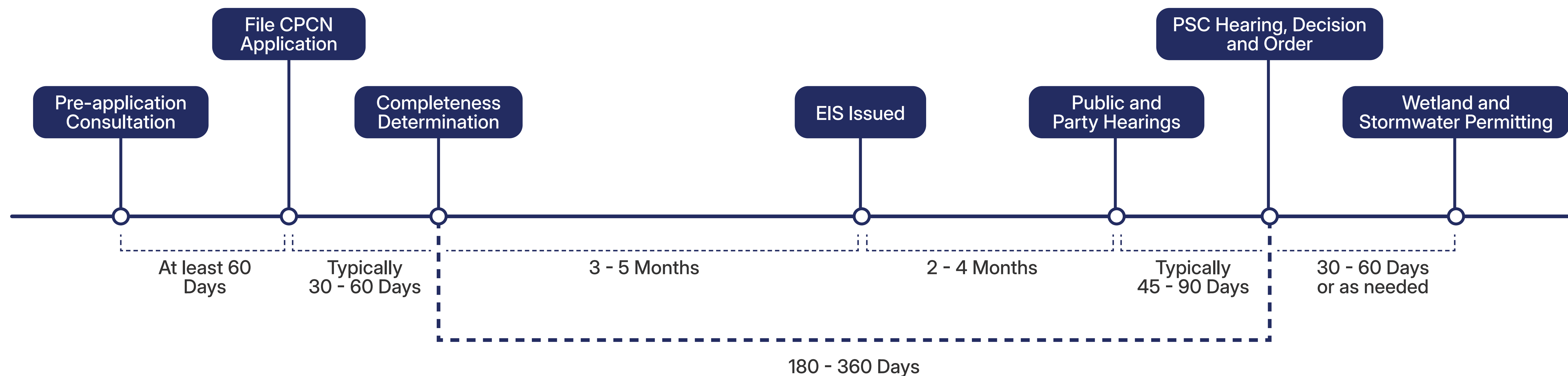
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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Role



The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) is the primary state agency responsible for regulating public utilities and reviewing major utility infrastructure projects. Our team anticipates filing a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application in early 2027, although timing may change as project development progresses. The PSCW review process is expected to take approximately 12 to 18 months, but actual timelines will be determined by the PSCW. Opportunities for public input are expected during the PSCW's review of the project.

CPCN Process



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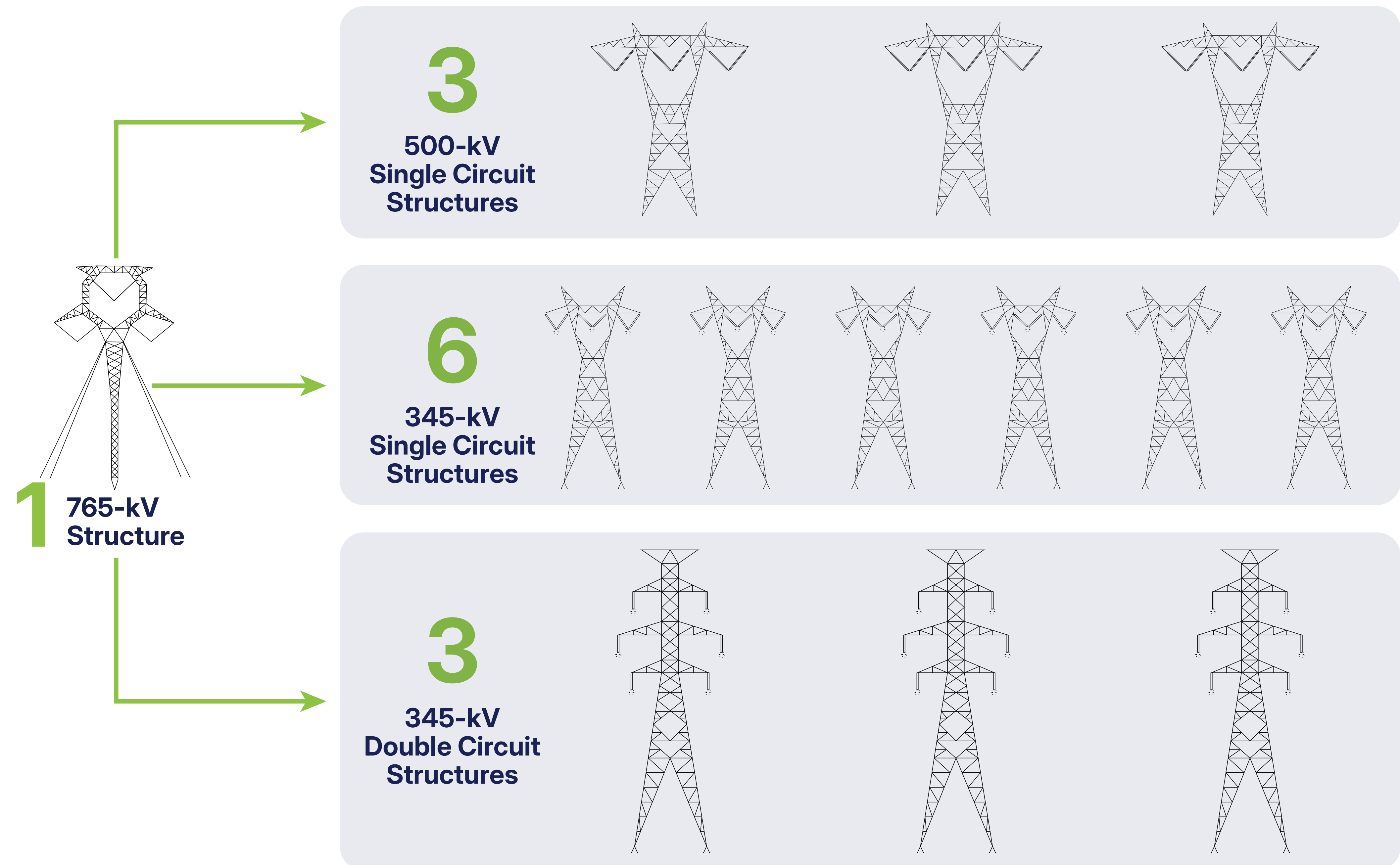
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765-kV Technology

MISO studied and determined that a 765-kV option significantly outperformed the alternatives.

Smaller lines would require much more land to carry the same amount of electricity.

By building right-sized infrastructure from the start, consumers avoid paying for multiple rounds of construction and upgrades down the road.



Typical Structure



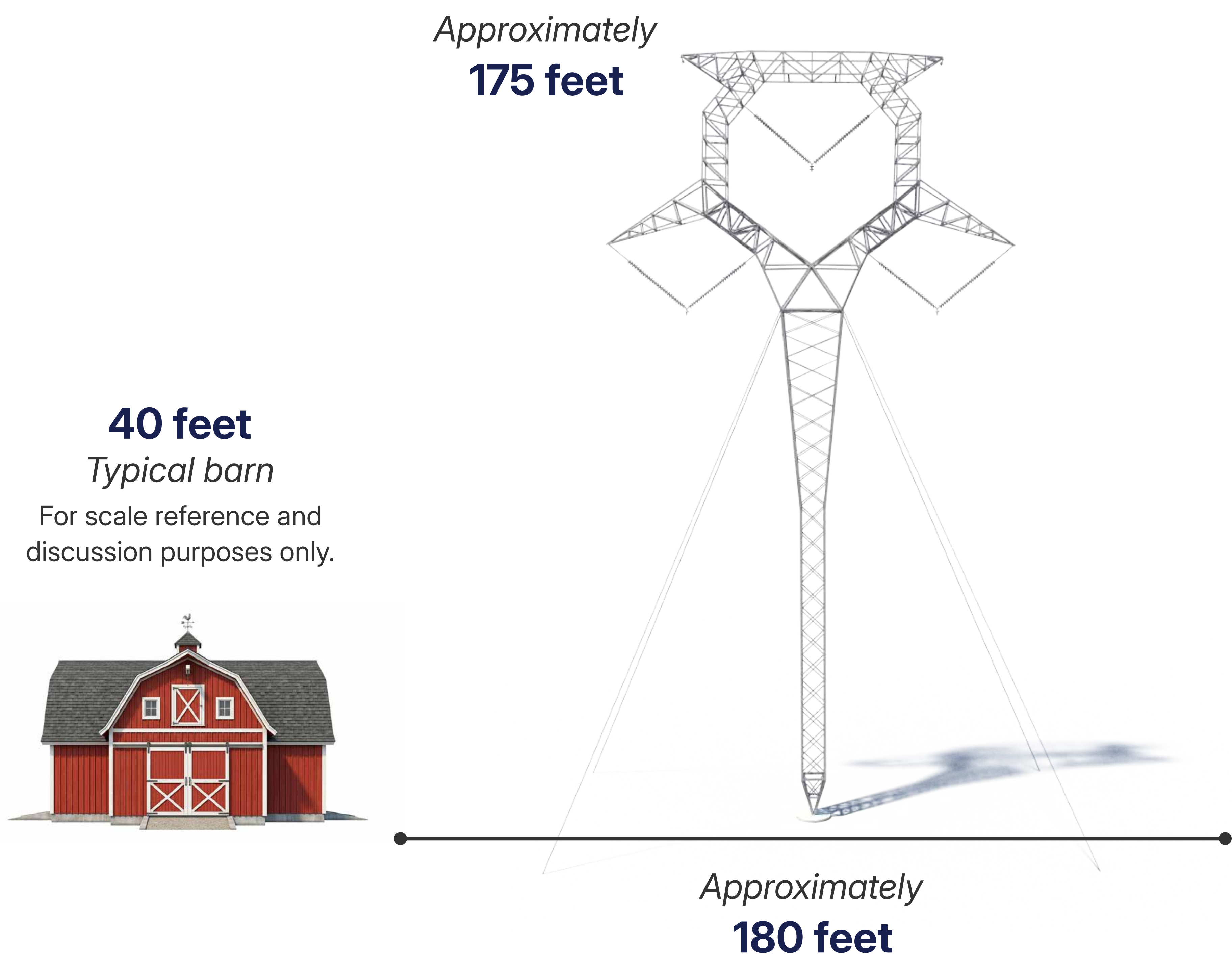
MGS will use its innovative “Guyed-Y” design, which reduces right-of-way width by at least 10 percent compared to traditional 765-kV structures. This helps minimize environmental and landowner impacts.

Typical Structure Height: Approximately 175 feet above ground

Typical Right-of-Way Width: Approximately 180 feet

Typical Span: Approximately 1,200 feet

Exact height and right-of-way requirements may vary.



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Photo Viewpoint Map

- # Photo Location
- Study Segment
- △ Connection Point Determined by Local Utilities
- Connection Point Determined by Local Utilities (only one to be selected)

No final route has been selected.

These study segments are preliminary and subject to change based on landowner input, engineering, surveys, and studies.



BECI

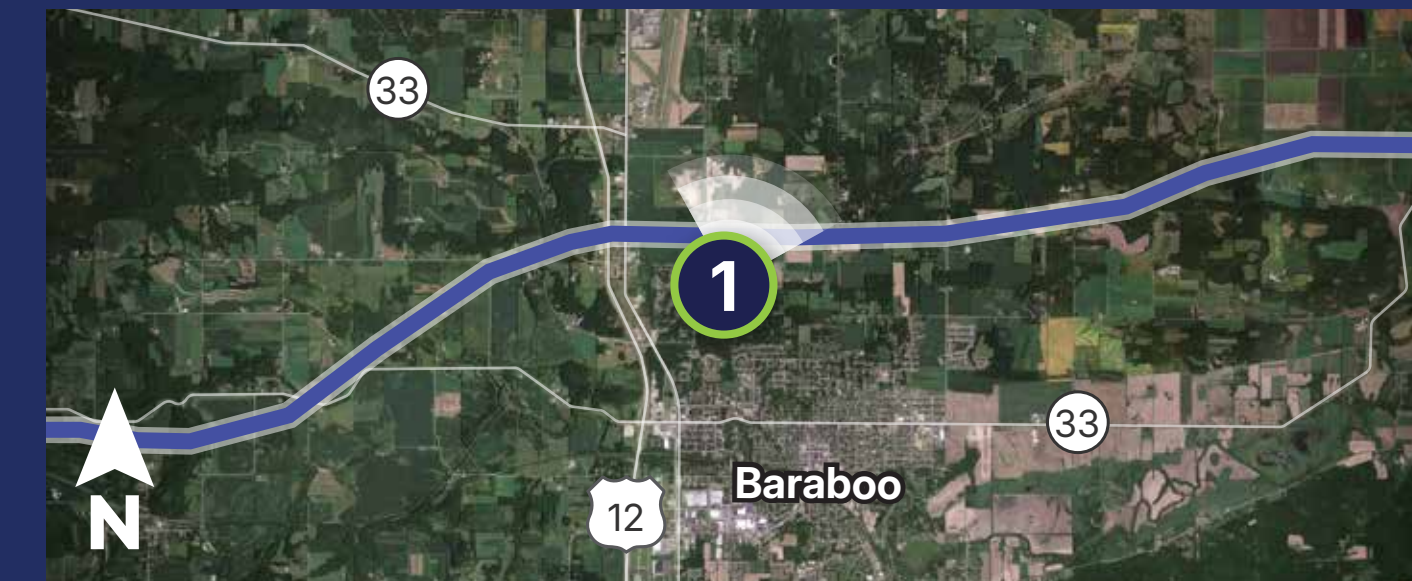
765-kV Transmission Line Project

Viewpoint 1

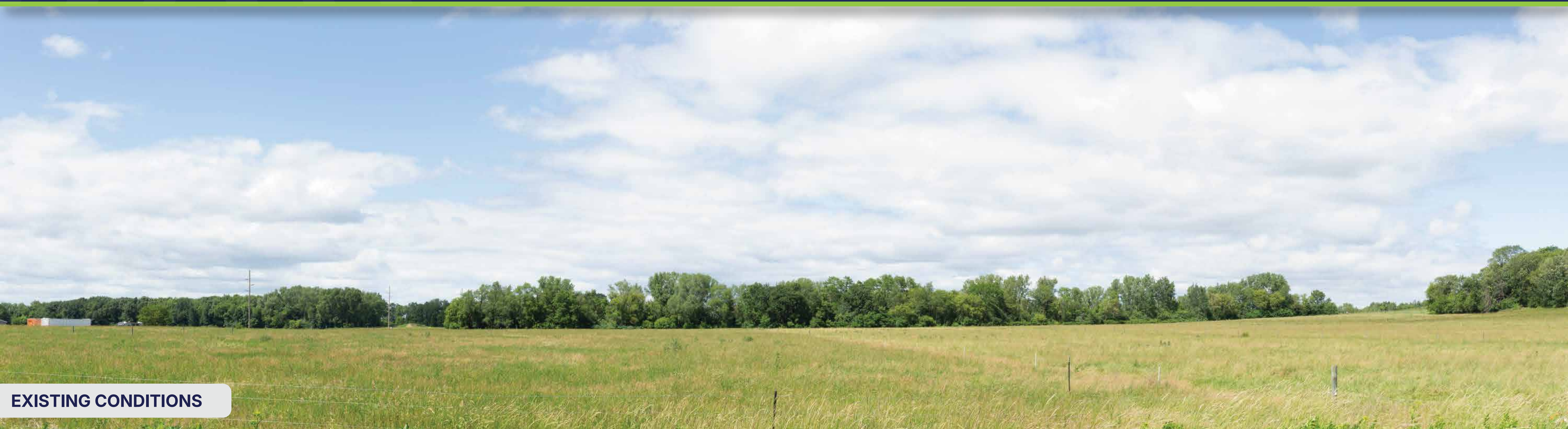
Date: 6/14/2026 Time: 4:02 pm Viewing Direction: North

① Photo Location Study Segment being Simulated

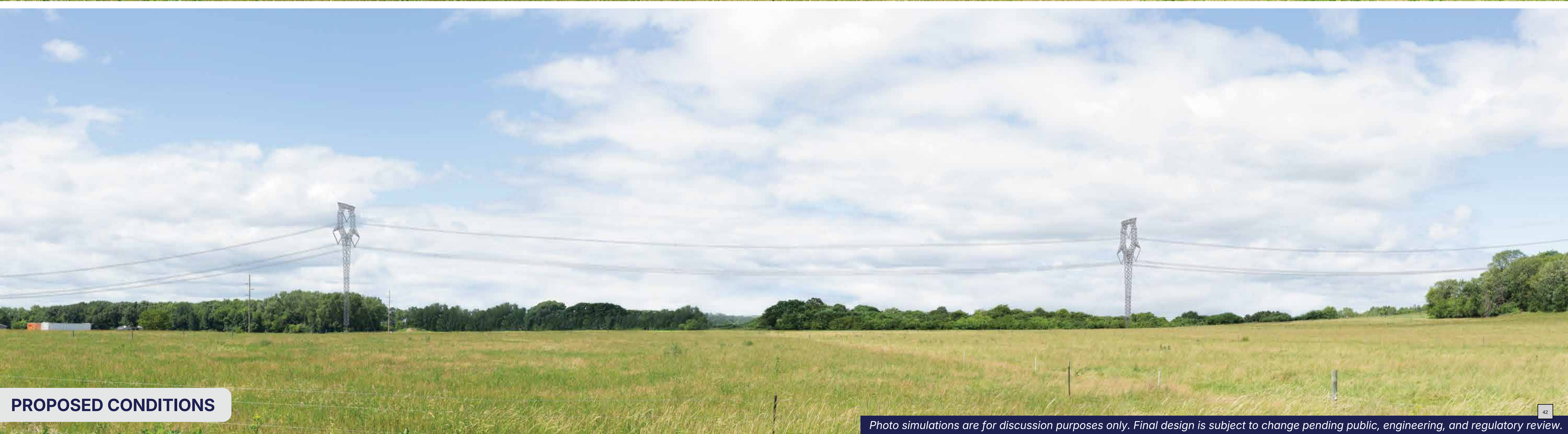
No final route has been selected.



Item 9.



EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED CONDITIONS

Photo simulations are for discussion purposes only. Final design is subject to change pending public, engineering, and regulatory review.

BECI

765-kV Transmission Line Project

Viewpoint 2

Date: 6/14/2026 Time: 5:53 pm Viewing Direction: Northwest

② Photo Location — Study Segment being Simulated

No final route has been selected.



EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED CONDITIONS

What is Permission to Survey?



What “Permission to Survey” Means

- Temporary access for our team to enter property and collect basic data (measurements, mapping, environmental checks)
- A preliminary step for planning and feasibility—not construction
- Helps inform early decision-making before any project commitments

What It Does Not Include

- No construction activities
- No demolition
- No permanent changes to the property
- Not a construction permit
- Does not transfer ownership or control of the land
- Does not guarantee the BECI Project will move forward on that site

Commitment to Landowners

MGS is committed to working transparently, respectfully and collaboratively with landowners throughout the process.



What are Rights-of-Way and Easements?

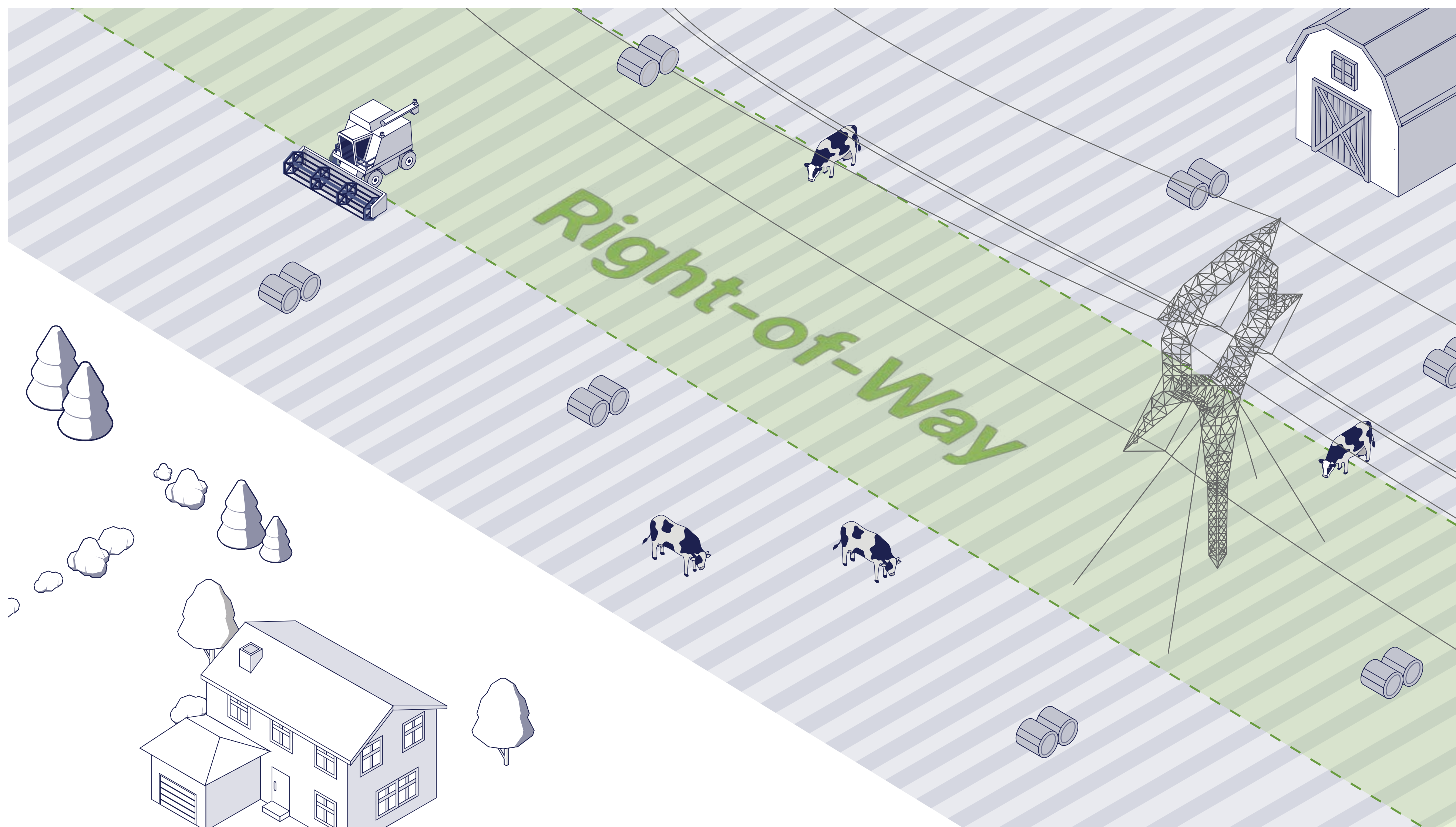


Rights-of-Way

We maintain designated corridors, known as rights-of-way, that allow us to build, operate, and maintain power lines and infrastructure. This allows us to keep electricity flowing safely and reliably.

Easements

An easement is the legal agreement that gives MGS permission to use a portion of private property, while the right-of-way is the physical space where transmission lines are built and maintained. Property owners may continue to use the area as long as the use is not inconsistent with the easement.



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Right-of-Way Process



Our team holds two key philosophies regarding power line right-of-way.



Routes should reduce disturbance to the community and the environment.



Property owners should be fairly compensated for any acquired land rights.

The Typical Right-of-Way Process:



Obtain survey permissions

to access properties for activities such as:

- Environmental assessments
- Appraisal work
- Land surveying, soil boring, and other field activities
- Cultural and historical resource reviews



Acquire easements

and communicate:

- Easements
- Terms and conditions
- Right-of-way width



Outline our construction process

with a focus on:

- Property access and special conditions
- Property restoration
- Damage mitigation as appropriate



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Vegetation Management



Our vegetation management program aims to:



Protect the electric grid and reduce power outages



Minimize negative impacts to the environment



Foster positive relationships with customers and communities



Work safely and efficiently



Comply with federal, state and local regulation



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Field Activities



Ground Penetrating Radar:

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) helps identify the location of underground utilities. This device looks like a lawnmower and is nondestructive to soil, using radio frequencies to detect objects below the ground's surface.



Helicopter:

Challenging terrain or other restrictions/obstructions can make accessing certain parts of the project area difficult. In these cases, crews use helicopters to install structures, string conductors, perform line work and maintain electric facilities. We work with local media outlets to communicate these activities to the public.



Hydro Excavation:

Crews use hydro excavation (hydrovac) in areas where many underground utilities are located near each other. This involves using pressurized water to break down soil to expose underground utilities. Afterward, crews backfill the area. The process helps prevent damage to underground infrastructure while gathering information.



LiDAR:

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) uses laser pulses to measure the distance of an object to the source. The data points result in digital 3D maps for accurate design and engineering. LiDAR surveying crews use mobile (car or aerial vehicle) or static (tripod) equipment.



Soil Borings:

Field crews use a drill to bring up soil samples and then backfill the holes. Testing the core samples help determine soil conditions. Soil conditions and types can affect structure location and foundation design.



Field Activities



Cultural Resource Survey:

Field crews walk the area and conduct multiple excavation tests to identify historical and archaeological artifacts. Landowners also provide information about their property to survey crews.



Environmental Survey:

Surveyors collect information about the habitats and physical attributes of the project area. They also look for ecological concerns like wetlands, flood plains, and forests. This process can help protect threatened and endangered species.



Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones):

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), or drones, perform aerial inspections and safely gather data and detailed images of electric facilities. Company employees and vendors comply with all commercial Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines. We work with local media outlets to communicate these activities to the public.



Staking:

Field crews use staking to mark the project area, identify utility equipment and pinpoint future structure locations. This process essentially transfers engineering and construction plans to the field. Right-of-way crews use staking to identify parcel boundaries, easement boundaries and other utility locations within the right-of-way. Environmental crews use staking to identify wetlands or other environmentally sensitive areas.



Field Survey:

Field survey crews help determine an appropriate route for a new transmission line by identifying constraints within the project area. Engineers conduct extensive studies of the terrain and soil to determine what types of structures and foundations are most suitable. They also gather information to create digital 3D maps of the project area to help engineer and design the project.



What to Expect During Construction



Construction During Corridor Development

Crews prepare for construction by:

- Building access roads
- Marking utilities and structure locations along the power line route using stakes and flags
- Removing obstructions from the right-of-way easement area
- Crews clear the right-of-way by clearing trees and woody-stemmed vegetation. They may also clear identified danger trees outside of the right-of-way as allowed per the easement
- Installing safety and environmental controls, such as fencing



Structure Installation

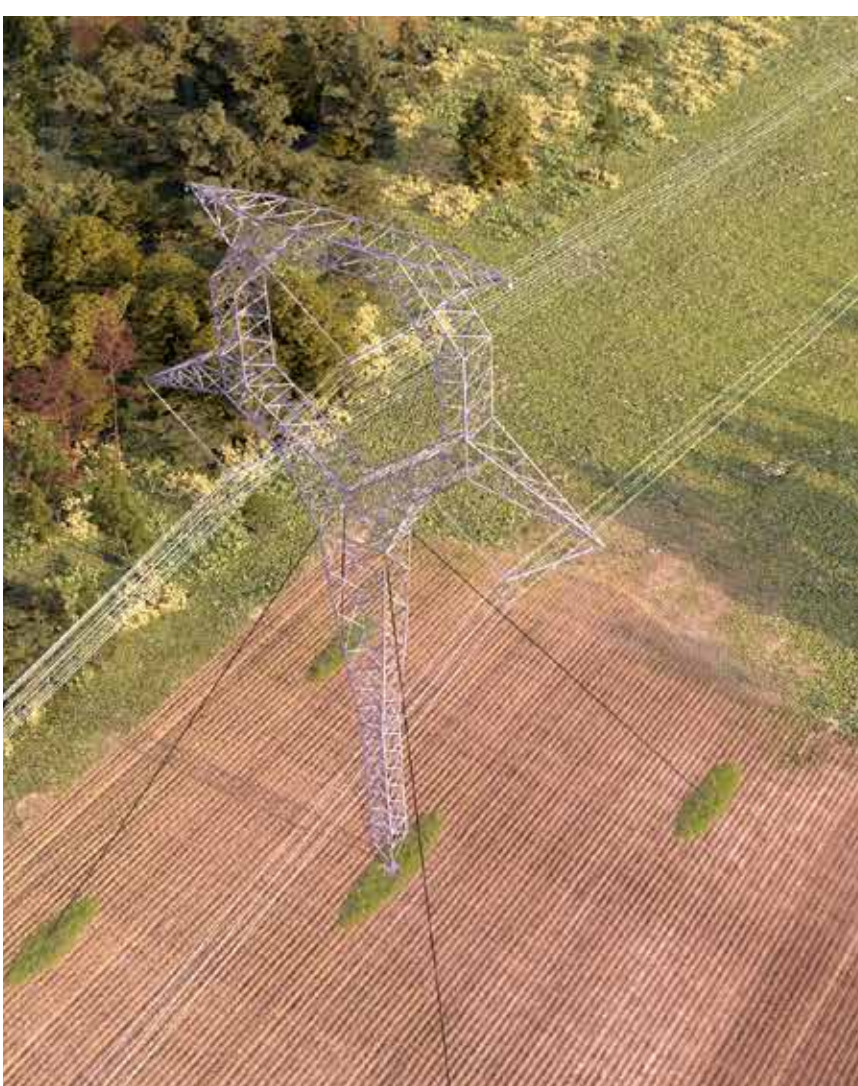
At most structure locations, crews:

- Assemble the structure and place it near the installation area
- Install and stabilize the base of the new structure
- Install and secure the new structure



Wire Installation

Crews install the wires on the new structures along the power line route.



Post-Construction & Site Restoration

Crews energize the transmission line after finishing structure and wire installations.

Properties are restored to as close to their pre-construction condition as possible. Our teams work with individual landowners to address any property damage.



Agricultural Operations



Transmission lines and agriculture have coexisted for generations, from the earliest rural electric systems to today's modern infrastructure.

Transporting electricity from generation plants to urban centers often requires crossing farmland, and transmission infrastructure has evolved to allow agricultural operations to continue safely and efficiently alongside power lines, with structure heights designed to accommodate modern harvesting practices.

Transmission facilities are planned with consideration for plowing, planting, crop management and harvesting, and many farming activities can continue through the right-of-way. Whenever possible, lines are routed along existing property features such as fence rows, tree lines or field edges to minimize disruption to planting areas. Orchards and specialty crops can also remain productive near transmission rights-of-way.

Utilities also provide guidance on safe working distances and clearances so farmers can continue daily operations safely around structures and wires.



Easement widths vary depending on terrain, structure type and voltage requirements.



Lines are designed in close consultation with landowners so that agriculture activities can continue through the right-of-way.



Structure heights are planned to support modern harvesting equipment.



Transmission lines support continued agricultural land use.



A legacy of cooperation between transmission and agriculture.



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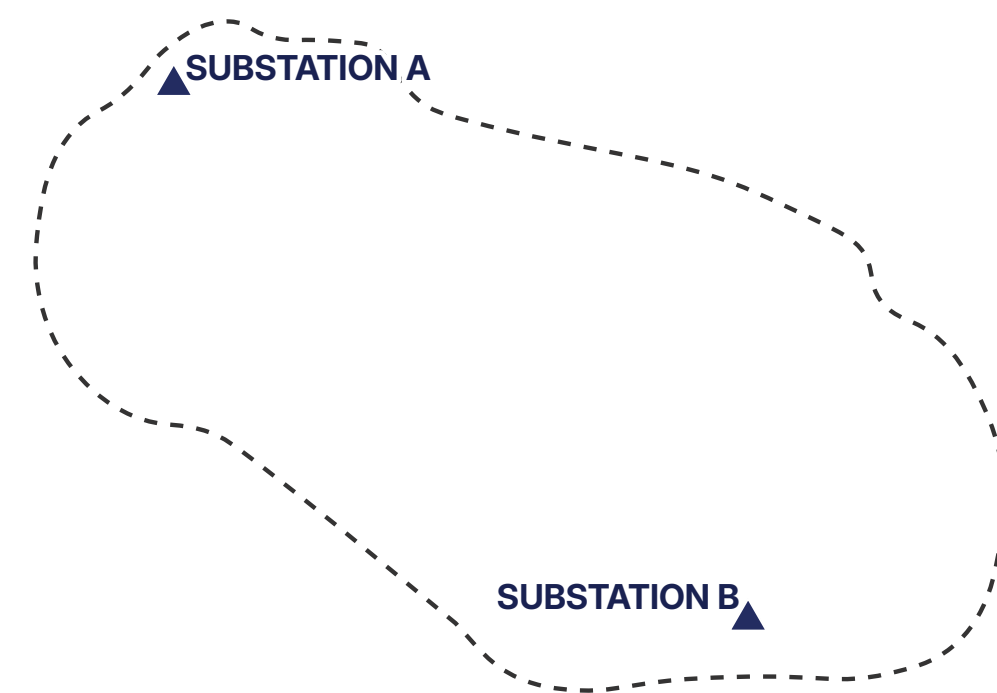
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Routing Process

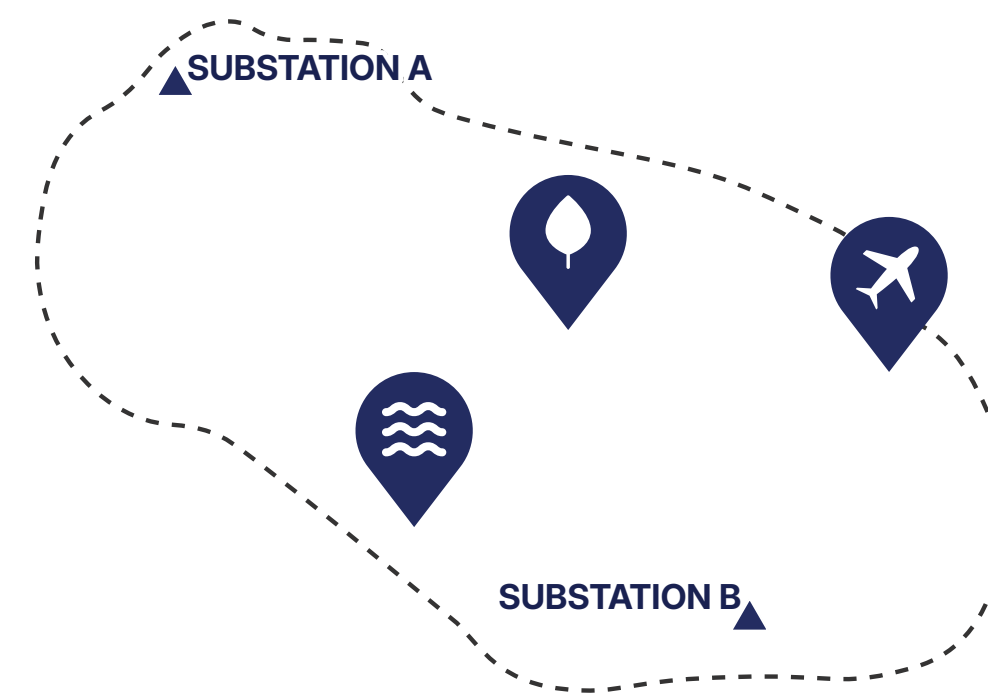


Our routing team considers all the issues before defining a transmission line route.



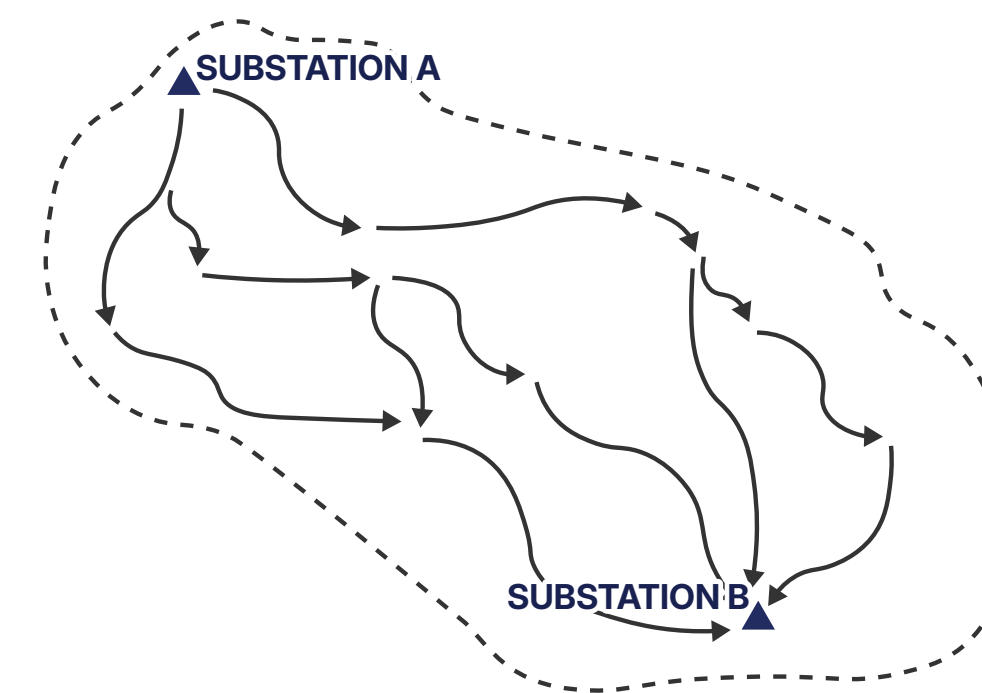
1. Study Area:

Develop a study area for the project that incorporates end points of the power line and the area between.



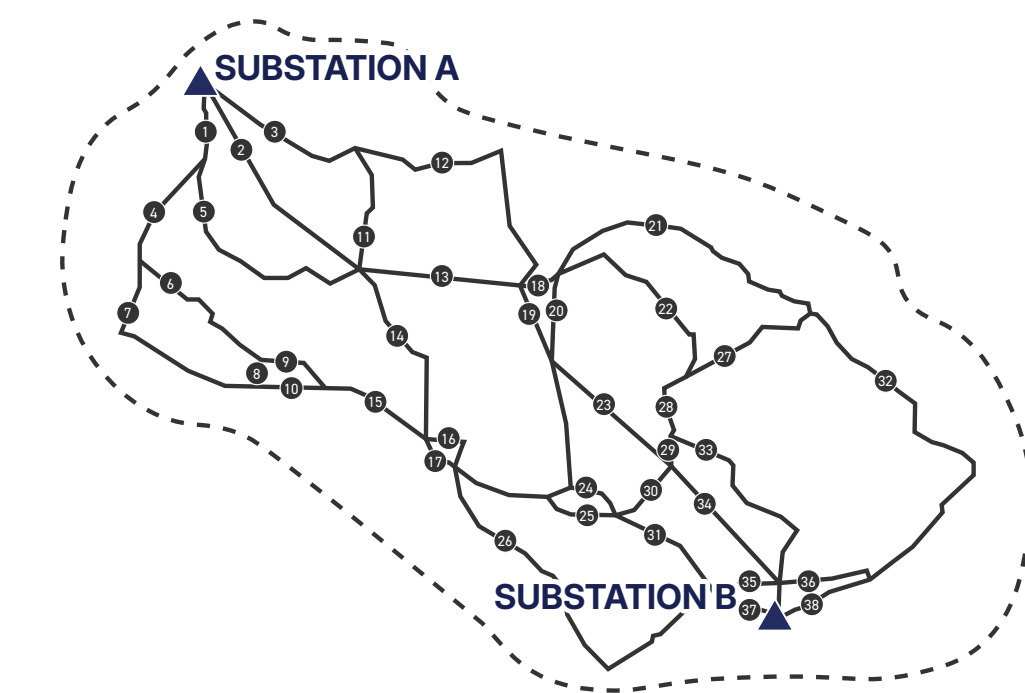
2. Information Gathering:

Data is gathered for the defined study area including environmental, land use, historic and cultural resources, existing infrastructure and sensitive areas.



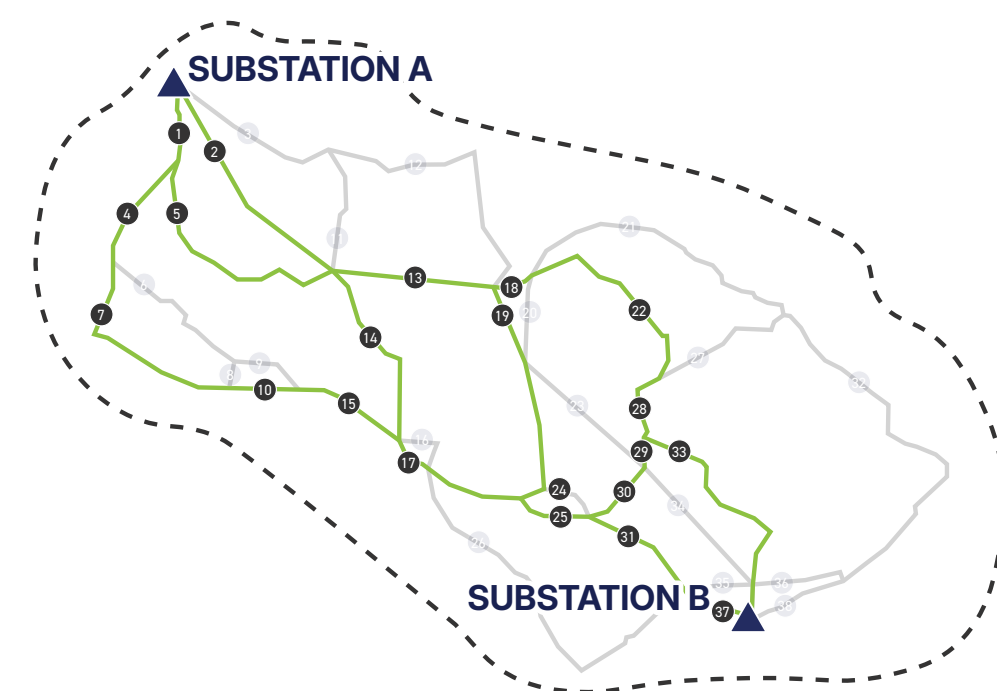
3. Conceptual Routes:

The routing team uses data gathered to develop conceptual routes adhering to a series of general routing and technical guidelines.



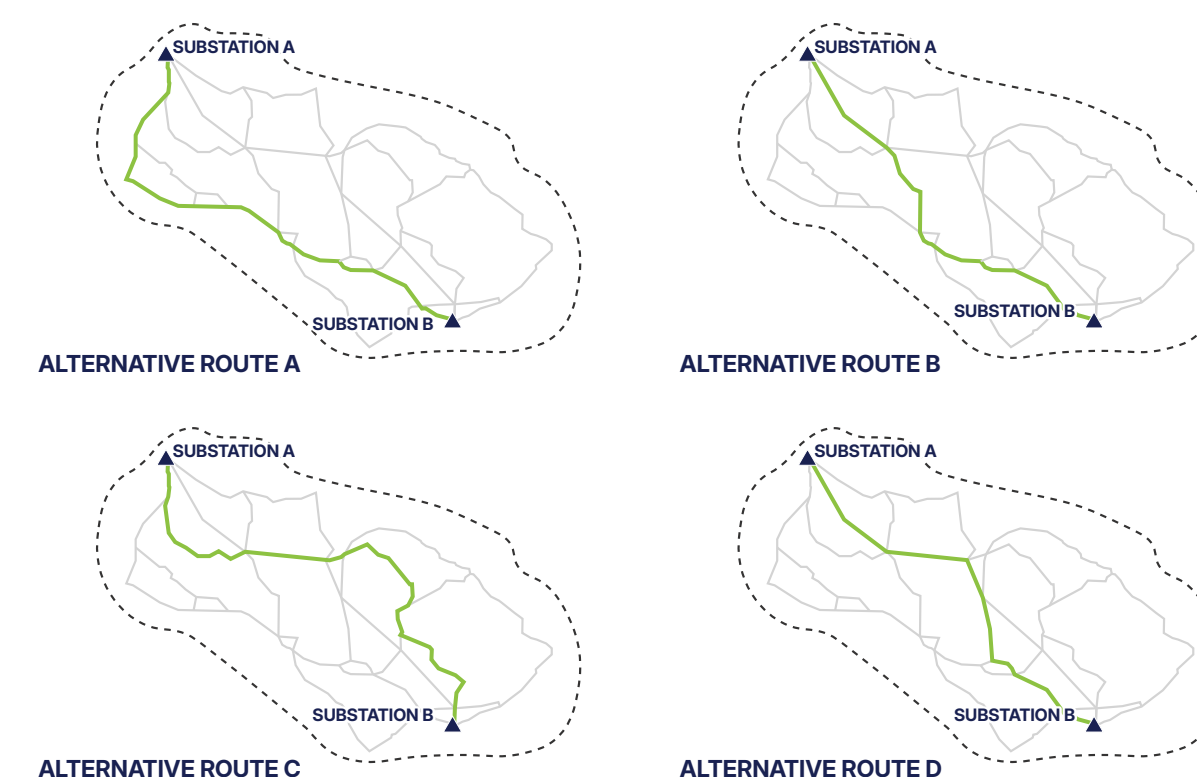
4. Study Segments:

Study segments are developed from conceptual routes. Each route consists of links connecting two common intersection points. Collectively, these study segments form the study segment network.



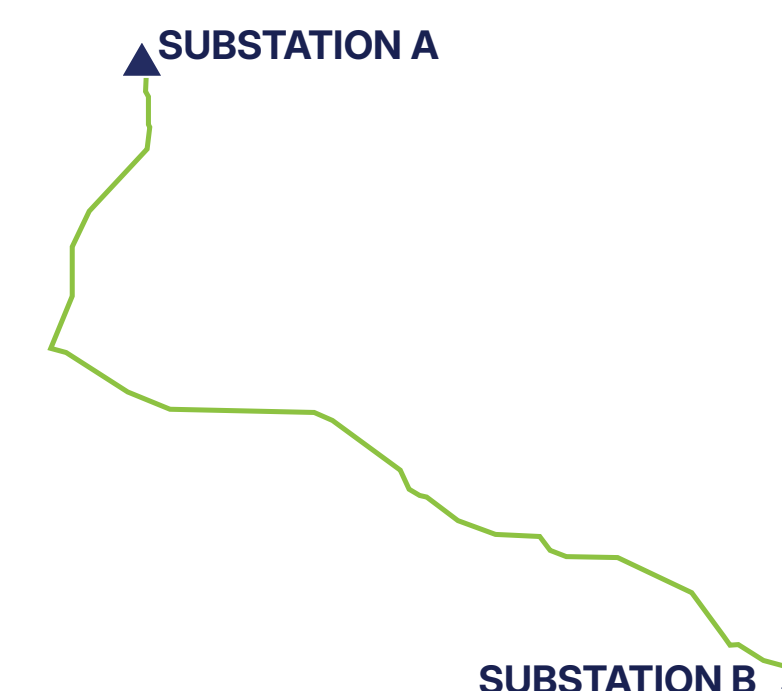
5. Refined Study Segments:

As more information is collected, including feedback from the public, the study segments are updated and improved. Some segments may be changed or removed, resulting in a smaller set of refined study segments for further review.



6. Alternative Routes:

After public input is gathered, study segments are further refined and evaluated. The most suitable study segments are selected and assembled into alternative route options.



7. Preferred Route Alternatives:

Alternative routes are assessed, and preferred alternatives are chosen for the PSCW filing. These routes minimize impact to the community and environment, while considering cost, line length, and design requirements.



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Routing Considerations



Our team considers a variety of factors to balance the need to power our communities while also minimizing community and environmental impacts.



Community and neighborhood growth and development



Environmental and social justice impacts



Wildlife, vegetation and fisheries
including threatened and endangered species



Historic, cultural and archaeological sites



Aesthetics and visual impacts



Soils and geology



Water quality
including wetlands, streams and water bodies



Terrain and constructability



Existing infrastructure,
including power lines, renewables, roads, railroads, and pipelines



Current and proposed land use



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Environmental Protection



MGS is committed to environmental protection and will work with federal, state, and local agencies to mitigate environmental impacts. Avoiding environmental impacts and meeting regulatory standards will help guide the project from the planning stage through construction.



Water Quality



Water Resources



Natural Resources



Air Quality



Threatened or Endangered Species



Cultural Resources



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project as part of the PSCW review and approval process. The EIS evaluates potential environmental impacts, considers alternatives, and helps inform agency decision-making before any final approvals are issued.



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Providing Comments



Thank you for learning about the BECI Project. Your feedback is valuable and helps develop the best project for Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.

The public comment period closes **September 7, 2026**, so our team can review feedback.



If you have questions,
please let a project team member know.



A virtual open house
and online comment card and map
showing the study segments are available
at mgs-projects.com/BECI.



Please return your comment form
before you leave or mail it back to us.



Want to contact us after today?
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BECI 765-kV Transmission Line Project

The BECI project is designed to strengthen the power grid, improve reliability and enable the flow of low-cost energy to customers in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest. It is part of a broader regional plan developed and approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to ensure the grid is reliable and efficient.

Overview

The BECI project is an approximately 190-mile, 765-kV project in Wisconsin connecting electric facilities in Crawford County with facilities in Walworth County before continuing to the state line. The exact connection point at the state line has not been determined because the connecting transmission line in Illinois is under development by another utility.

About MGS

MISO selected Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) to build and maintain the BECI project. MGS brings the expertise and experience of Transource Energy—a joint venture of American Electric Power and Evergy—and BHE Transmission.

Location

The BECI Project study area includes Crawford, Richland, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Dane, Jefferson, Walworth, and Rock counties.

Benefits



Improves grid reliability

A backbone transmission line serves as a highway for electricity, delivering large amounts of power to local communities helping to maintain reliable service and support local growth.



Powering growth now and into the future

We're using more electricity than ever. A stronger grid helps make sure there's enough reliable power for homes and businesses, today and in the future. Investing in these higher capacity lines addresses current and long-term transmission needs.



Providing Local Benefits

The BECI project connects local communities to a stronger, more resilient grid that can support growth while maintaining reliable service.



Promotes jobs and economic prosperity

Investing in critical energy infrastructure helps create local jobs, supports area businesses and strengthens the local economy.

Typical Structures

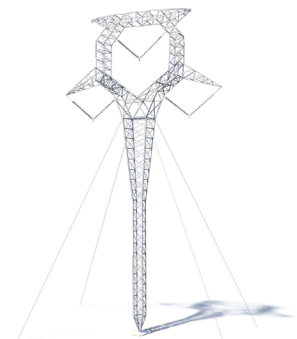
MGS will use its innovative "Guyed-Y" design, which reduces right-of-way width by at least 10 percent compared to traditional 765-kV structures. This helps minimize environmental and landowner impacts.

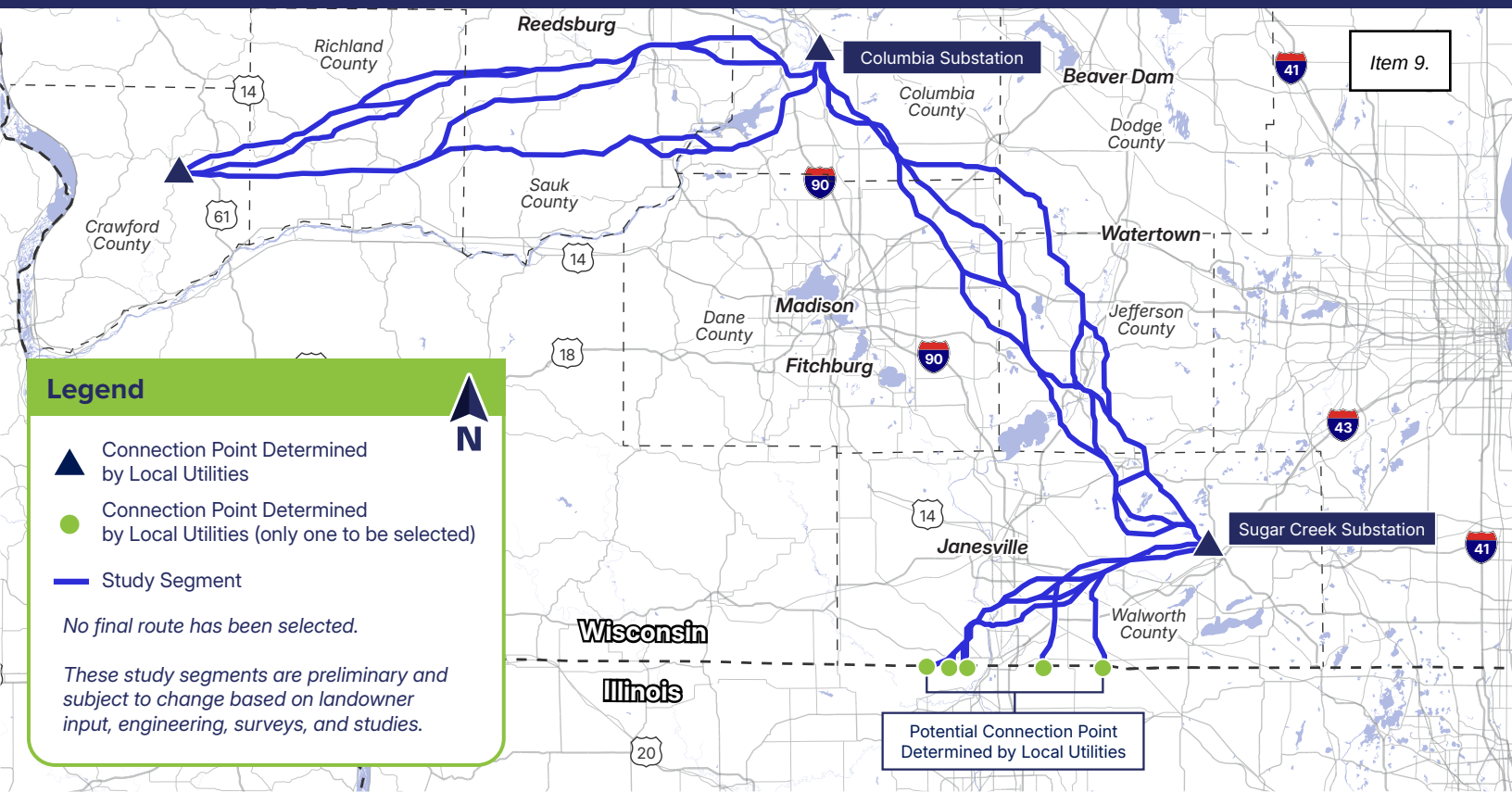
Typical Structure Height: Approximately 175 feet above ground

Typical Right-of-Way Width: Approximately 180 feet

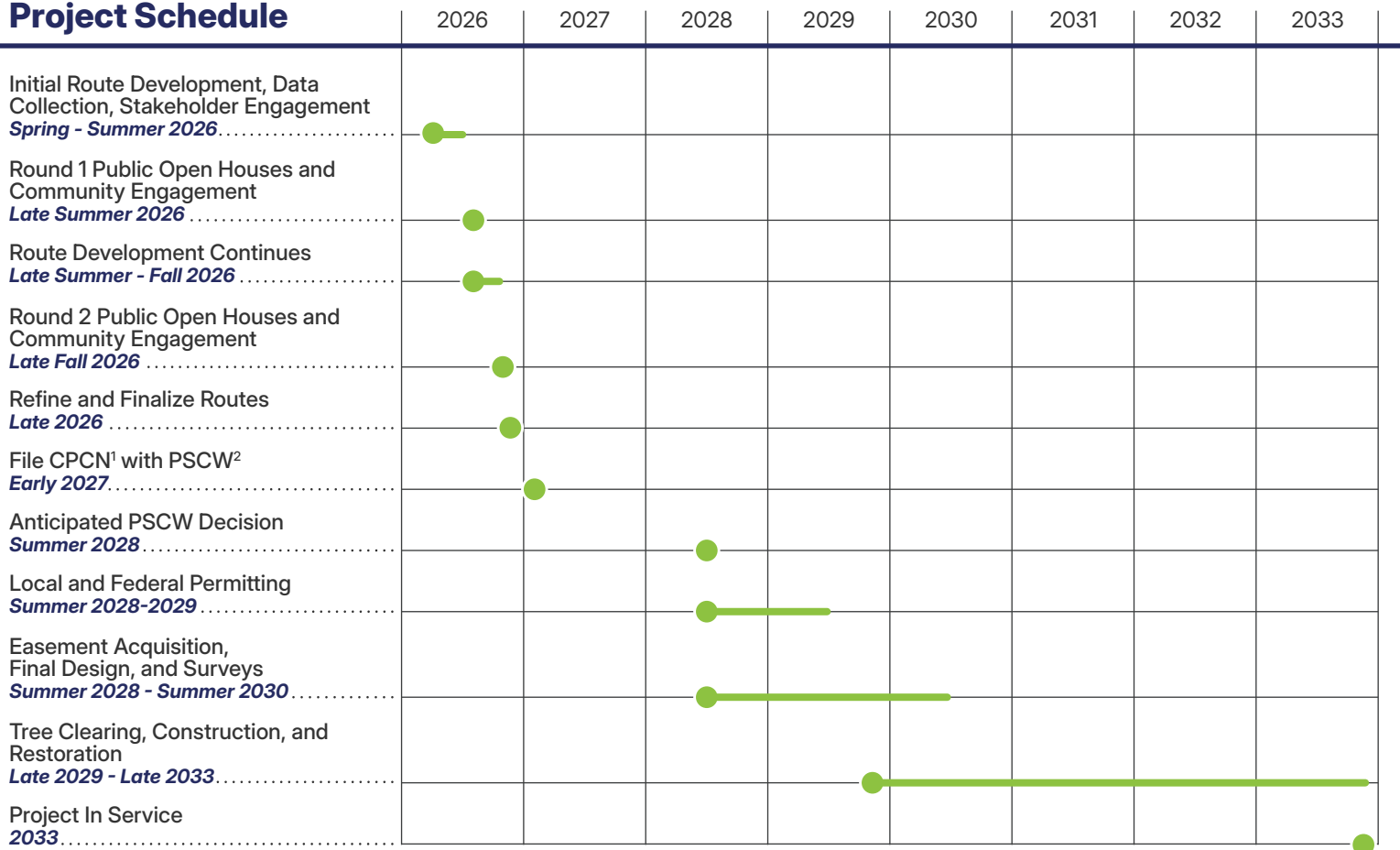
Typical Span: Approximately 1,200 feet

*Exact structure, height, and right-of-way requirements may vary.





Project Schedule



¹CPCN: Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity; ²PSCW: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
 *Timeframes are approximate and subject to change.



Midcontinent Grid Solutions, LLC
3902 Milwaukee St., P.O. Box 7426
Madison, WI 53714

You're Invited

Please join us for one of our community open houses to learn about the BECI 765-kV Transmission Line Project.

Hello,

You are receiving this letter because you are a stakeholder, own property or live near a potential preliminary power line route option for the Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) BECI 765-kV Transmission line project. The project is in its early stages and we are evaluating routing options. No final route has been selected at this time.

The BECI project is an approximately 190-mile, 765-kV project in Wisconsin connecting electric facilities in Crawford County with facilities in Walworth County before continuing to the state line. The exact connection point at the state line has not been determined because the connecting transmission line in Illinois is under development by another utility.

The BECI project is designed to strengthen the power grid, improve reliability and enable the flow of low-cost energy to customers in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest. It is part of a broader regional plan developed and approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to ensure the grid is reliable and efficient.

In early 2026, MISO selected MGS through a competitive bidding process to build and maintain the new transmission line. MGS pulls together the expertise and experience of Transource Energy—a joint venture of American Electric Power and Evergy—and BHE Transmission. With more than 100 years of industry experience, these companies operate more than 84,000 miles of transmission lines across the country, delivering the infrastructure that keeps power flowing safely and reliably to customers.

We are hosting our first round of eight public open houses later this month. That's where we'll share project information and gather valuable routing input. Detailed maps will be available for review and comment at the open houses. A virtual open house and online comment card and map showing the study segments are available at mgs-projects.com/BECI. We are asking for public feedback on the study segments by September 7, 2026. Your participation in this process is an important step in helping us make more prudent, informed decisions as we plan and build a project that benefits Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.

Following the open houses and public comment period, our team will continue to evaluate information, review public feedback and identify preliminary routes to share at future public open houses later this fall. MGS plans to file an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in early 2027. Enclosed with this letter is additional information about the project, along with a map showing the preliminary route options.

Sincerely,

Virginia Limmiatis
MGS Outreach Specialist

Para obtener la traducción al español, por favor visite nuestro sitio web y seleccione la opción de español. También habrá traductores de español presentes en las reuniones públicas.

Open Houses

Choose from any of the open houses below that best fits your schedule. There is no formal presentation – you may come and go at your convenience during the scheduled meeting time. The same information and opportunities for feedback will be provided at each meeting.

Richland County
Mon, Aug. 24, 10 AM-1 PM
Richland Center High School
1996 US-14 W
Richland Center, WI 53581

Crawford County
Mon, Aug. 24, 4-7 PM
Gays Mills Community Center
16381 WI-131
Gays Mills, WI 54631

Sauk County
Tue, Aug. 25, 10 AM-1 PM
UW-Platteville Baraboo (Lange Center)
1006 Connie Rd.
Baraboo, WI 53913

Columbia County
Tue, Aug. 25, 4-7 PM
Whispering Pines
101 Bethel Dr.
Poynette, WI 53955

Jefferson County
Wed, Aug. 26, 10 AM-1 PM
County Fairgrounds Activity Center
503 N. Jackson Ave.
Jefferson, WI 53549

Dane County/Dodge County
Wed, Aug. 26, 4-7 PM
The Round Table
1611 N Bristol St.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Walworth County
Thur, Aug. 27, 10 AM-1 PM
Lake Lawn Resort
2400 E Geneva St.
Delavan, WI 53115

Rock County
Thur, Aug. 27, 4-7 PM
Woodman's Center
2510 Milton Ave.
Janesville, WI 53545

Study Segment Map

