

## Right-of-way acquisition

### ? What is right-of-way?

The term right-of-way or ROW is typically a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. Right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

### ? What is an easement?

A document allowing Minnesota Power and Great River Energy the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on a landowner's property.

Project representatives will hold individual meetings with **affected landowners** to discuss right-of-way needs.



Landowners are contacted to begin right-of-way acquisition process.

1



An easement is presented to a landowner. An offer based on fair market value is presented.

2



We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement. An easement is recorded.

3



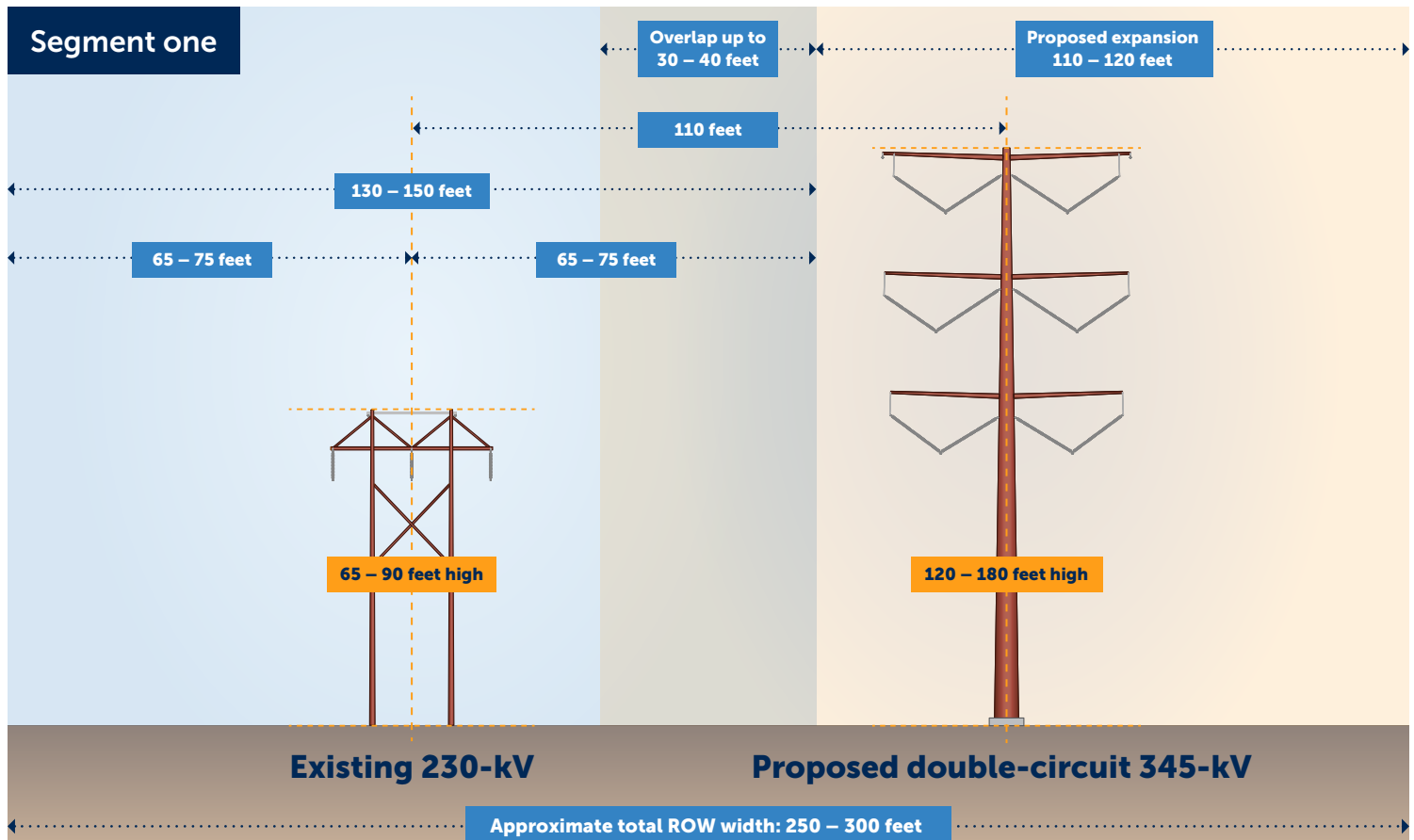
The utilities construct, operate and maintain the transmission line within the right-of-way.

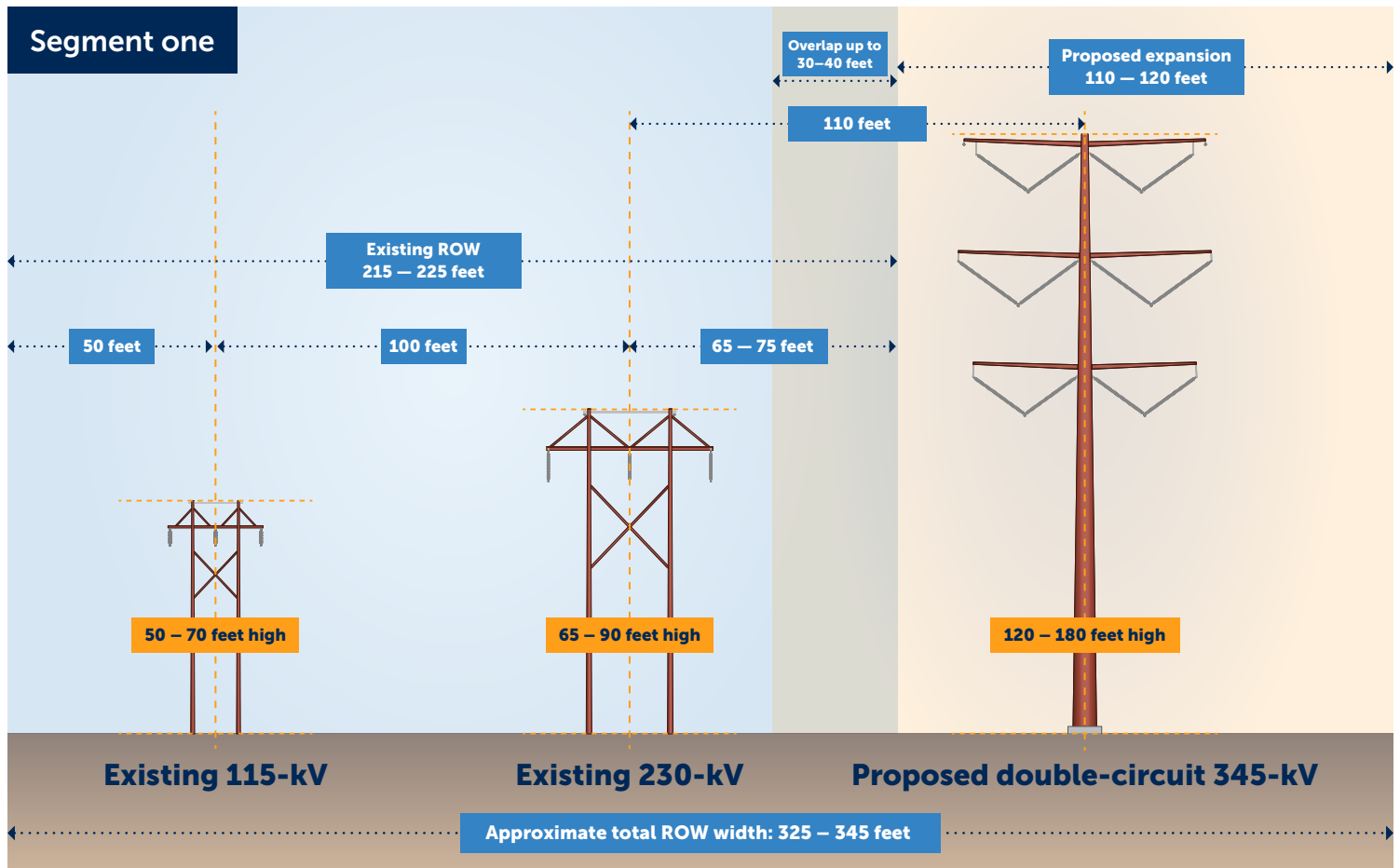
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## Frequently asked questions

### ? Can this project share right-of-way in segment one with an existing line?

There may be opportunities to overlap right-of-way with an existing line. We estimate up to 30-40 feet of right-of-way may be shared between the existing structure and the new structure depending on factors like engineering, construction and topography.



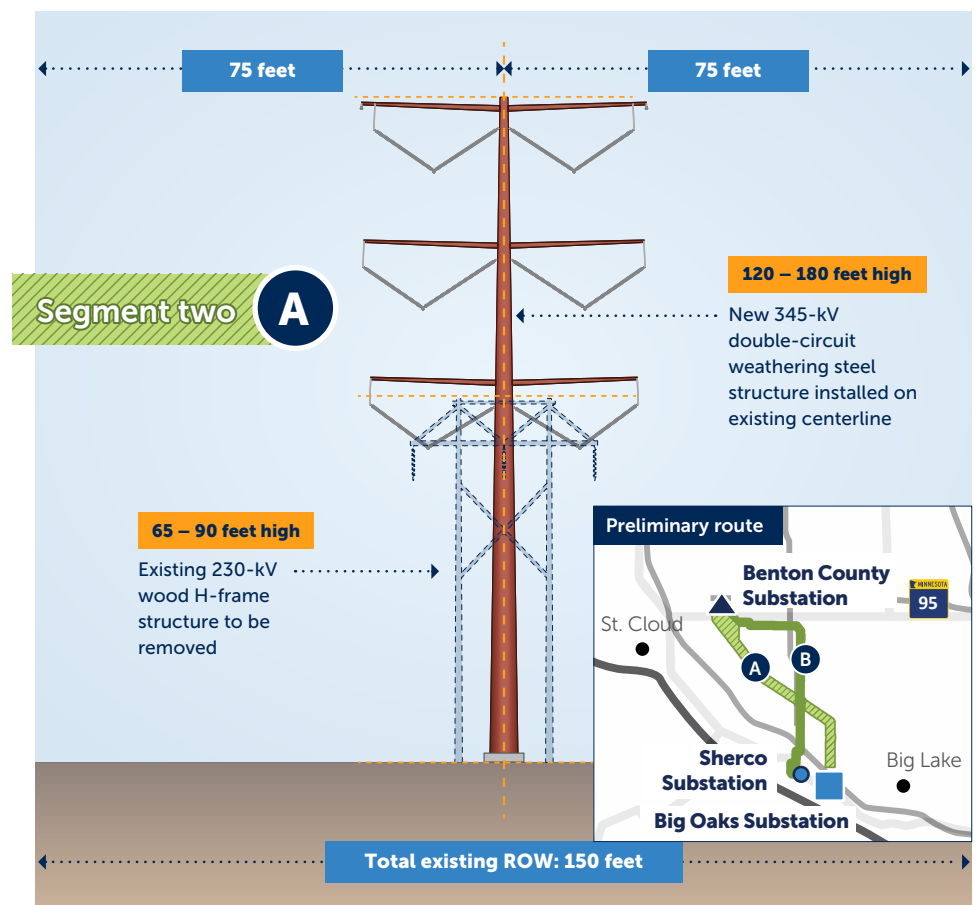


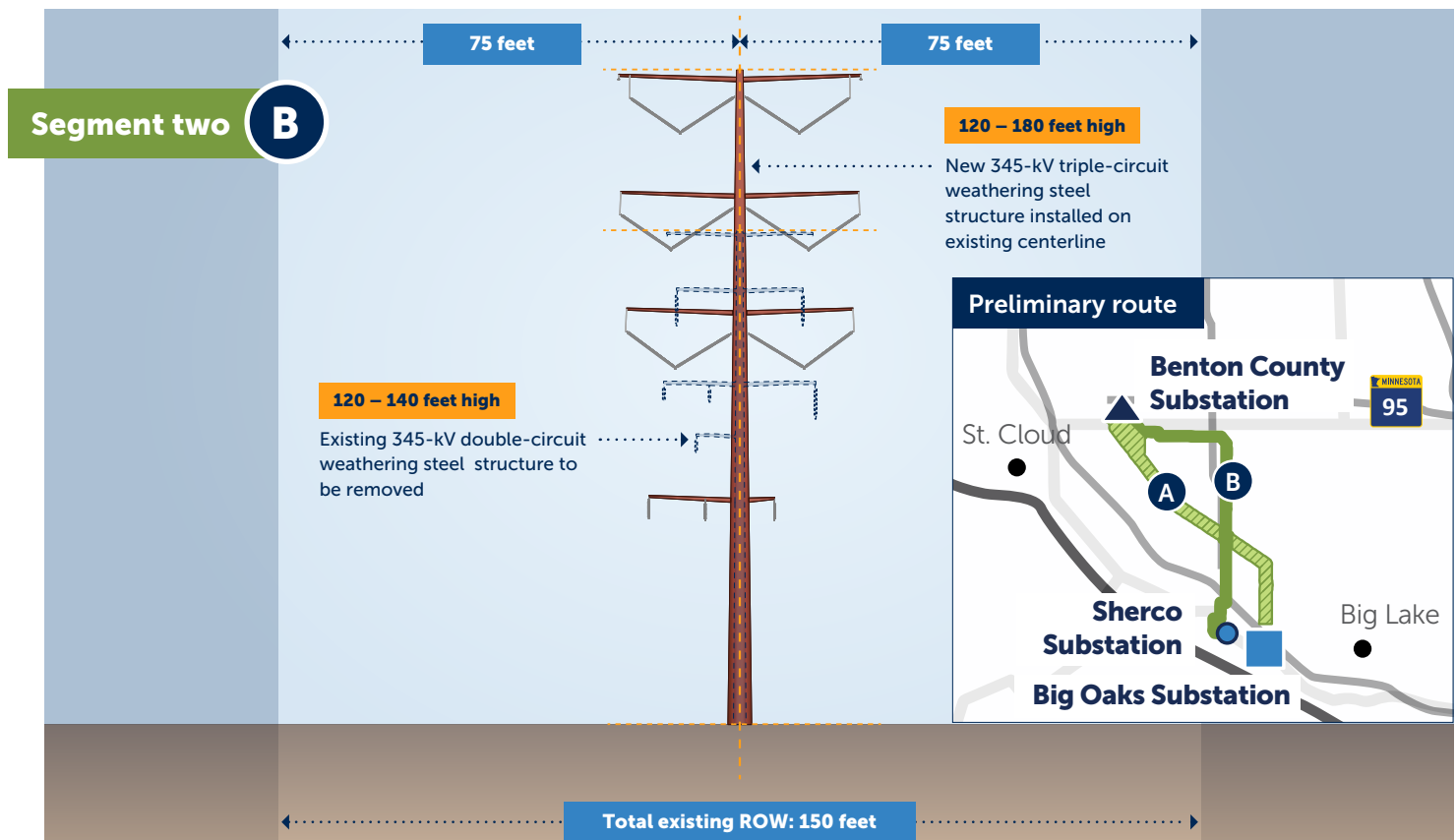
**? How large of an easement do you need?**

The typical right-of-way width will be at a minimum 150 feet for each transmission line (75 feet on each side of a transmission line). It is sometimes necessary to secure additional permanent right-of-way at angles or areas where we use specialty structures. It could also be necessary to secure temporary areas next to the permanent right-of-way for stringing and construction access.

**? Does segment two require a wider easement?**

At this time, we do not anticipate requiring additional easement width for the line replacement along segment two (Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation). The replaced line is expected to be in the same ROW as the existing line.





#### ? How far will the transmission line be from homes and businesses?

To the extent practicable, the project team will design the route to maximize separation from homes and businesses. Proximity to homes and businesses is one of the routing criteria for Minnesota Power and Great River Energy. We do not anticipate having structures within our 150-foot-wide right-of-way.

#### ? How does an easement affect my property?

The easement restricts the placement of buildings and structures within the easement area for safety and reliability and provides rights for access as well as clearing and removal of vegetation. Our project team will coordinate with landowners prior to construction. Additionally, easements stay with a property even if the ownership of a property changes.

#### ? What activities are allowed within the easement area?

In general, the land can continue to be used as before, provided that the use does not interfere with the construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy encourage landowners on the final approved route to discuss the activities they plan to conduct in the easement area with a land agent.

#### ? Will eminent domain be used for this project?

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power intend to work with all landowners to reach voluntary agreements. In the event those agreements cannot be reached, then eminent domain proceedings may be necessary. In those instances, the Northland Reliability Project team encourages landowners to consult with their own counsel. The Northland Reliability Project team will continue to negotiate with landowners during an eminent domain proceedings and will dismiss the proceedings if an easement agreement is reached.



#### Connect with us

Questions? We want to hear from you.



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