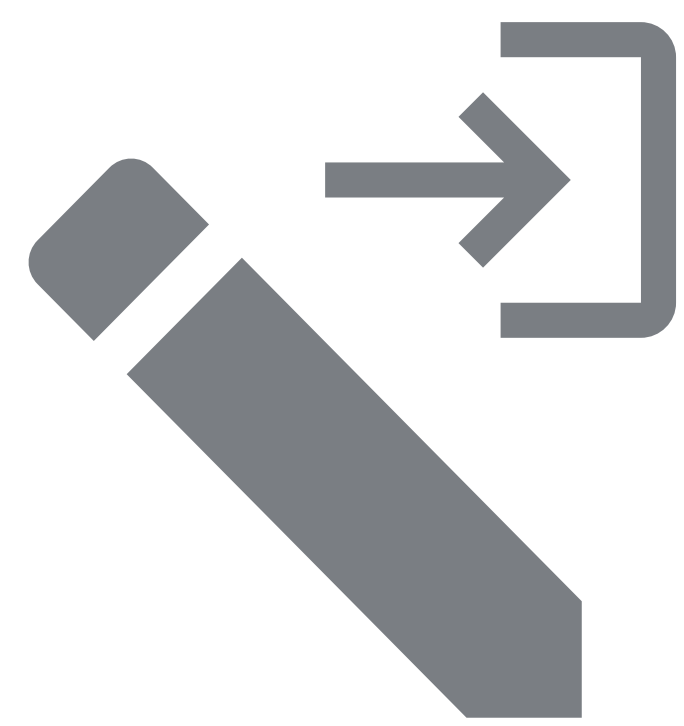


COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY MEETING



Please sign in at the
welcome table



Take a comment form and
contact information card



You can record your
comments online using
the comment form

ELBERT COUNTY COMMUNITY MEETING INTENT AND PURPOSE



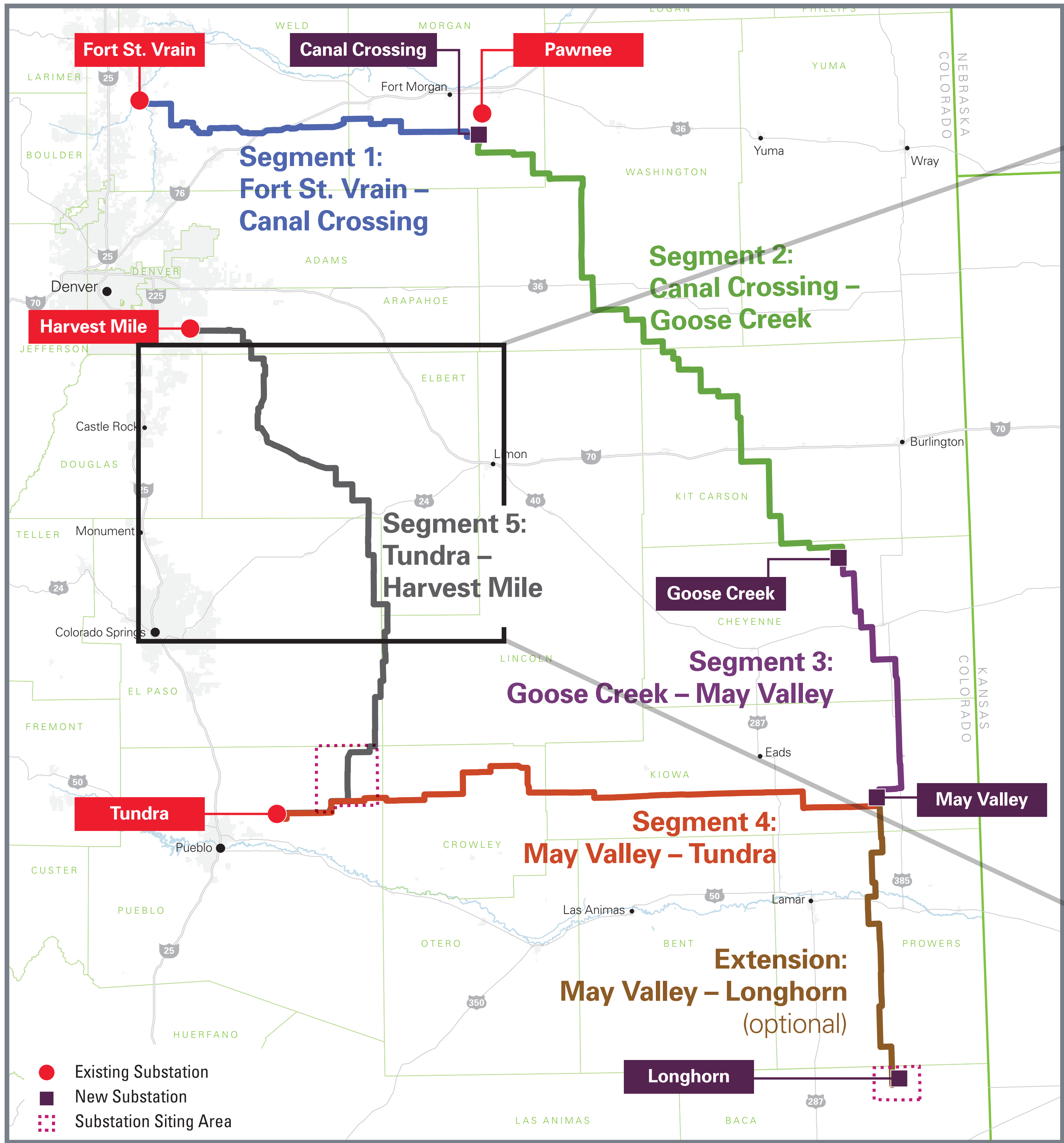
- Xcel Energy has submitted preliminary information to Elbert County's Community and Economic Development department and attended a Pre-Application Meeting in July 2023.
- Specific types of land use applications in Elbert County require a Community Meeting to inform neighboring and affected property owners and any known homeowners' associations in the vicinity.
- The Community Meeting provides an opportunity for the applicant, in this case Xcel Energy, to answer any community concerns about the proposal and to solicit community input early in the application process.
 - The proposal is limited to the single transmission line route in Elbert County.
- The required Community Meeting must occur prior to formal submittal of the land use application, and holding the meeting is the responsibility of the applicant.

OVERVIEW



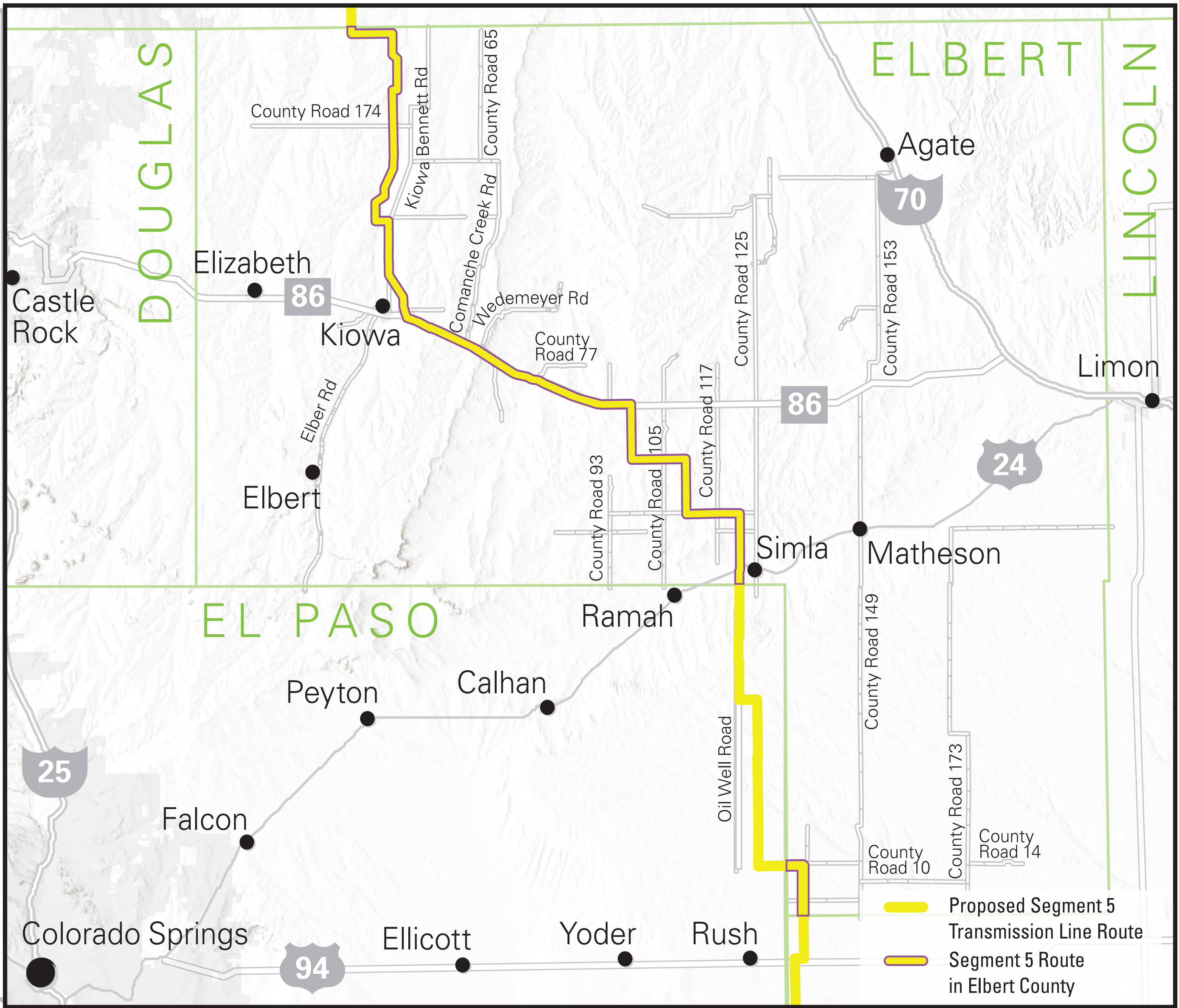
About

Colorado’s Power Pathway is a \$1.7 to \$2 billion investment to improve the state’s electric grid and enable future renewable energy development around the state.



Overview Map

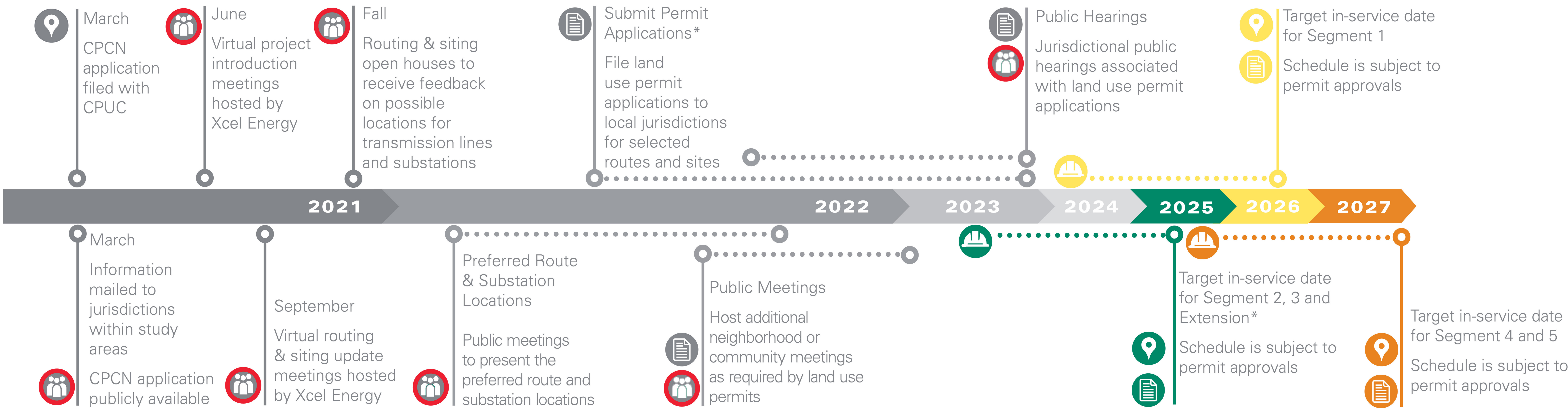
Focus Map



Timeline

Public outreach opportunities will continue through energization of all segments and are shown as red circles along the timeline.

Segments 2 and 3 are anticipated to be in-service by 2025, Segment 1 is anticipated to be in-service by 2026 and Segments 4 and 5 in 2027.



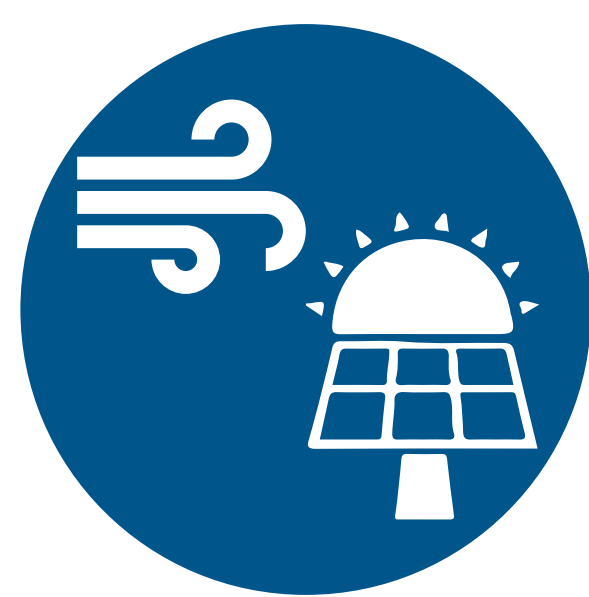
* A decision regarding the Extension will be made in 2023 at which point the permit application submission and in-service dates would be determined.

BENEFITS



Colorado’s Power Pathway supports the state-mandated goal of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, which all electric utilities are required to comply with. Because Colorado’s open transmission system carries electricity generated by multiple utilities that is distributed to homes and businesses by local power companies, both electric utilities and electricity users around the state benefit from this Project.

Electric System Benefits



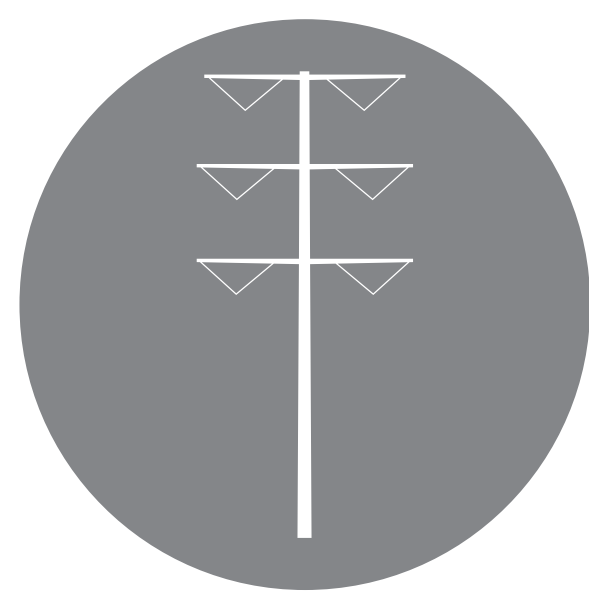
New transmission lines encourage and support the development of renewable energy to bring more low-cost electricity to help meet the needs of our growing state.



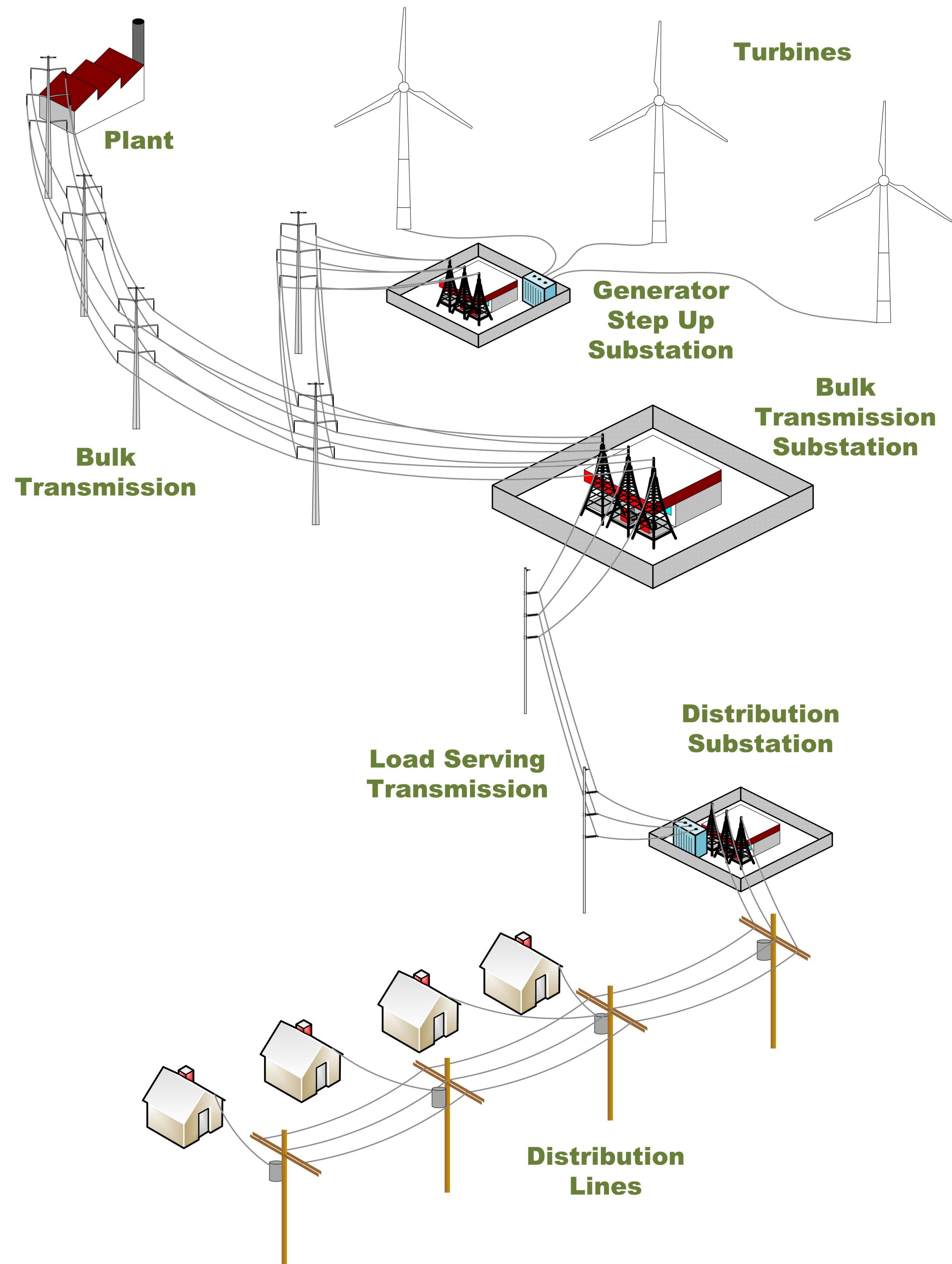
Existing transmission on the eastern plains primarily serves local needs and is nearly “full” and additional transmission capacity is needed to integrate more renewable generation



Colorado’s Power Pathway supports Xcel Energy’s Clean Energy Plan that will add approximately 5,000 megawatts of new wind, solar and other resources through 2030 to enable the state’s transition to clean energy



Colorado’s Power Pathway provides high voltage “backbone” transmission. A grid supported by backbone transmission is better positioned to withstand outages.



Community Benefits



Short-term and long-term positive economic impact

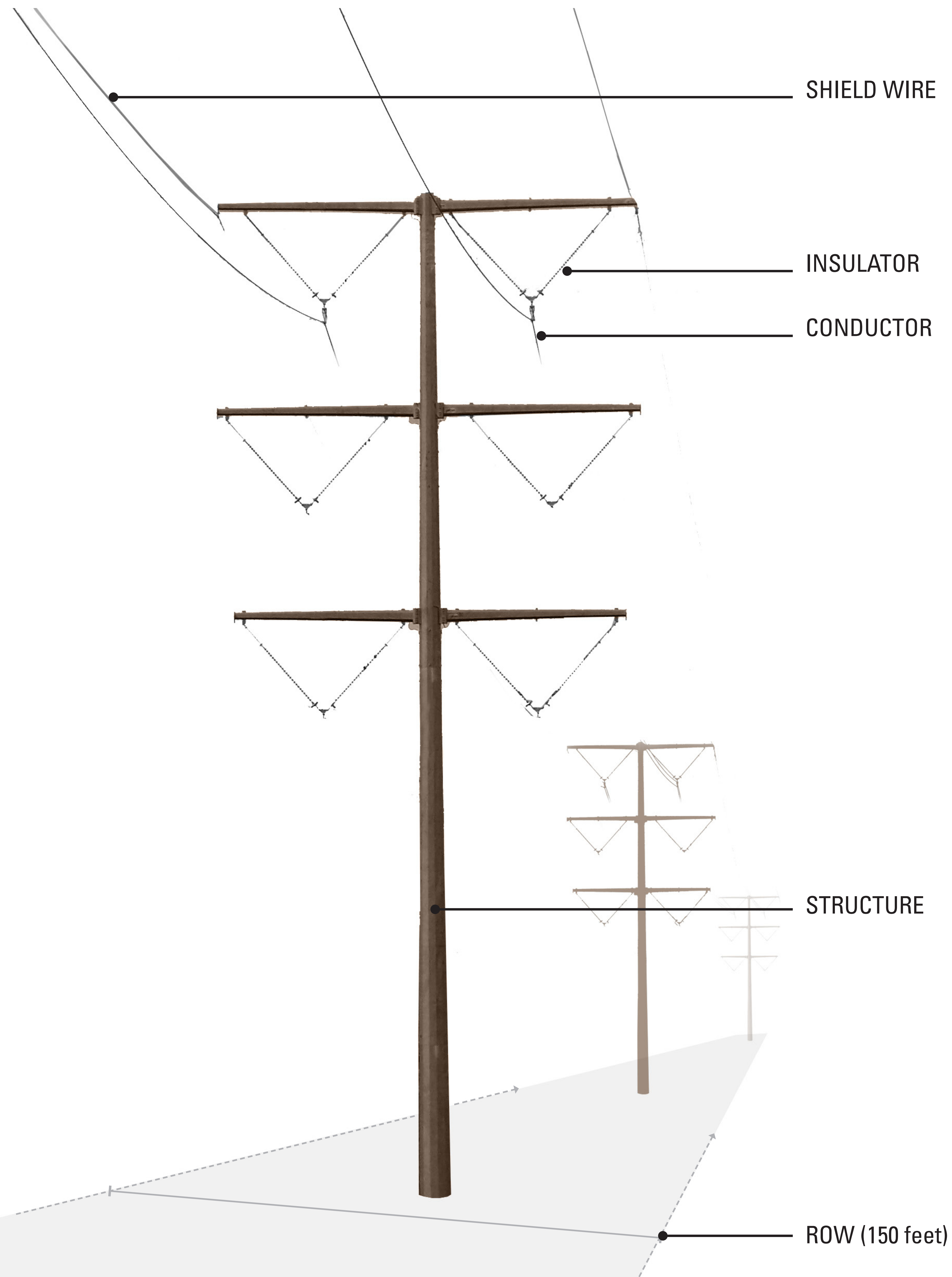


New temporary and permanent jobs, lease revenue and increased tax revenue



Increase reliability of the electric grid for all users and availability for new renewable energy projects

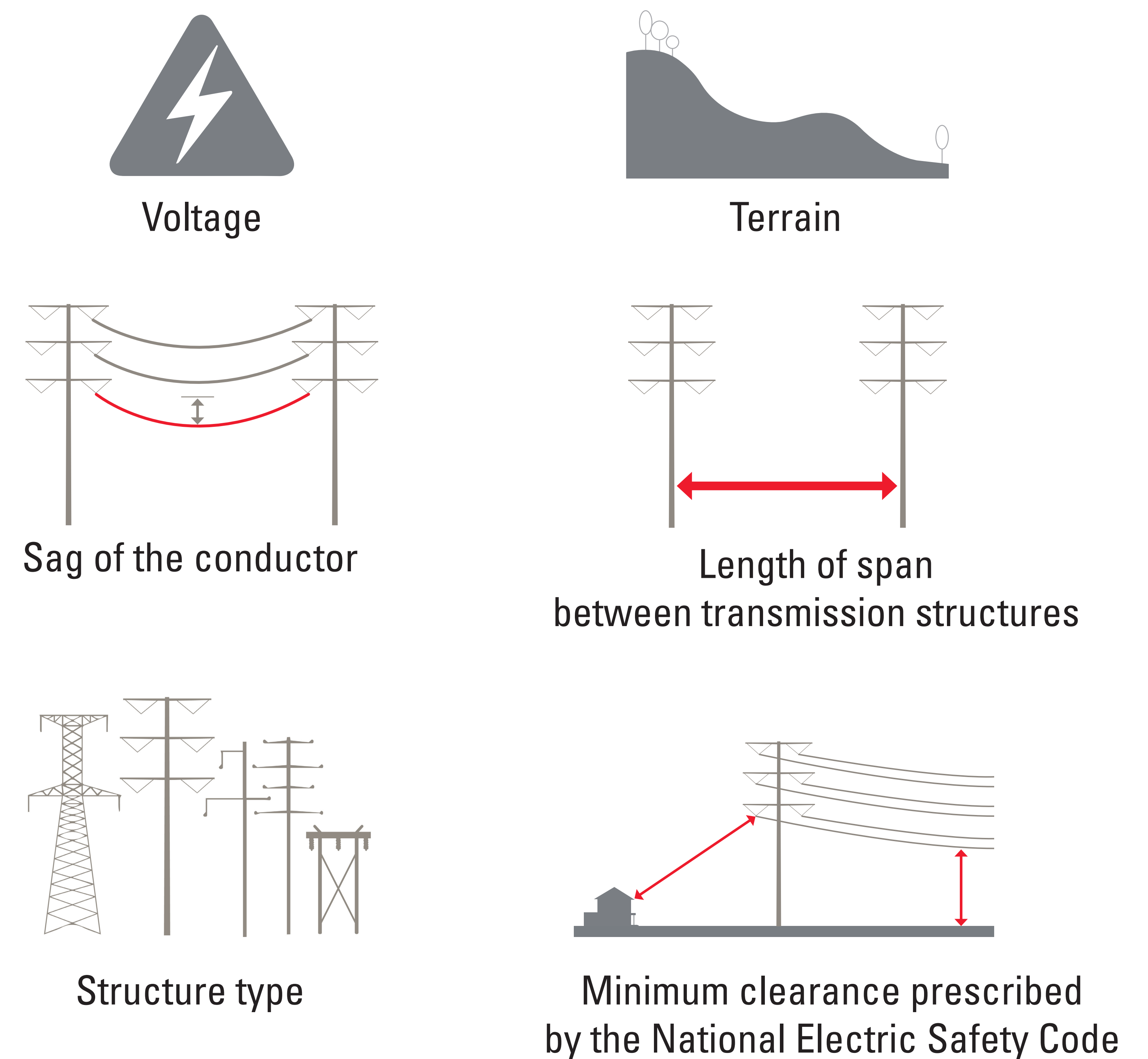
TRANSMISSION LINE



Anticipated Design

- Steel double-circuit transmission structure
- Single pole for most structures, two poles for certain high-loading structures
- Each pole will be on a concrete foundation
- Typical poles range 105 to 140 feet above ground
- 150-foot-wide Right-of-Way
- Typical span length of 950 feet between transmission structures
- Weathering steel or galvanized grey color

Transmission line structures vary in height depending on:



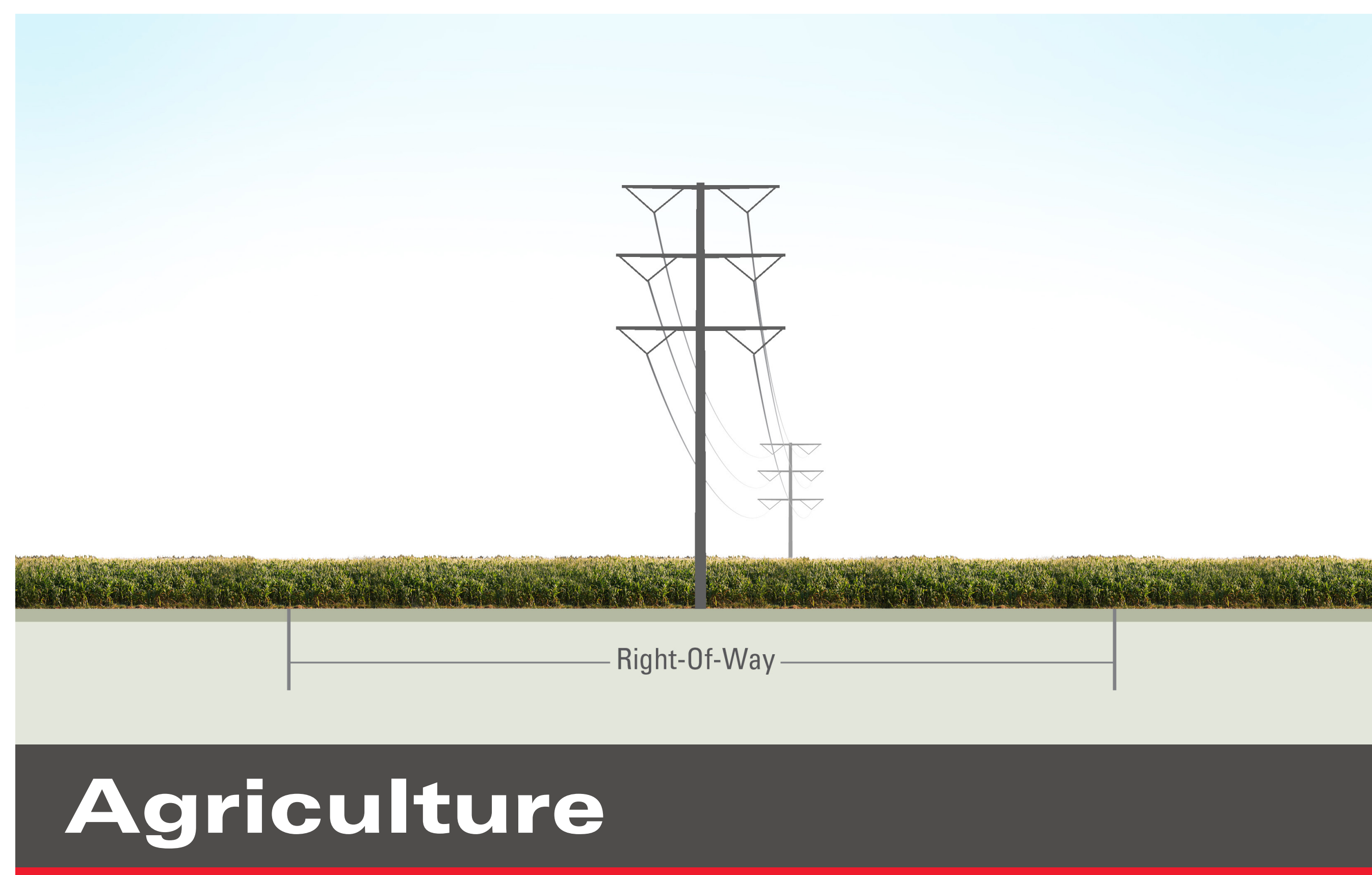
WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS

EASEMENTS are a permanent right authorizing a utility to use the Right-of-Way (ROW) to build and maintain a transmission line.

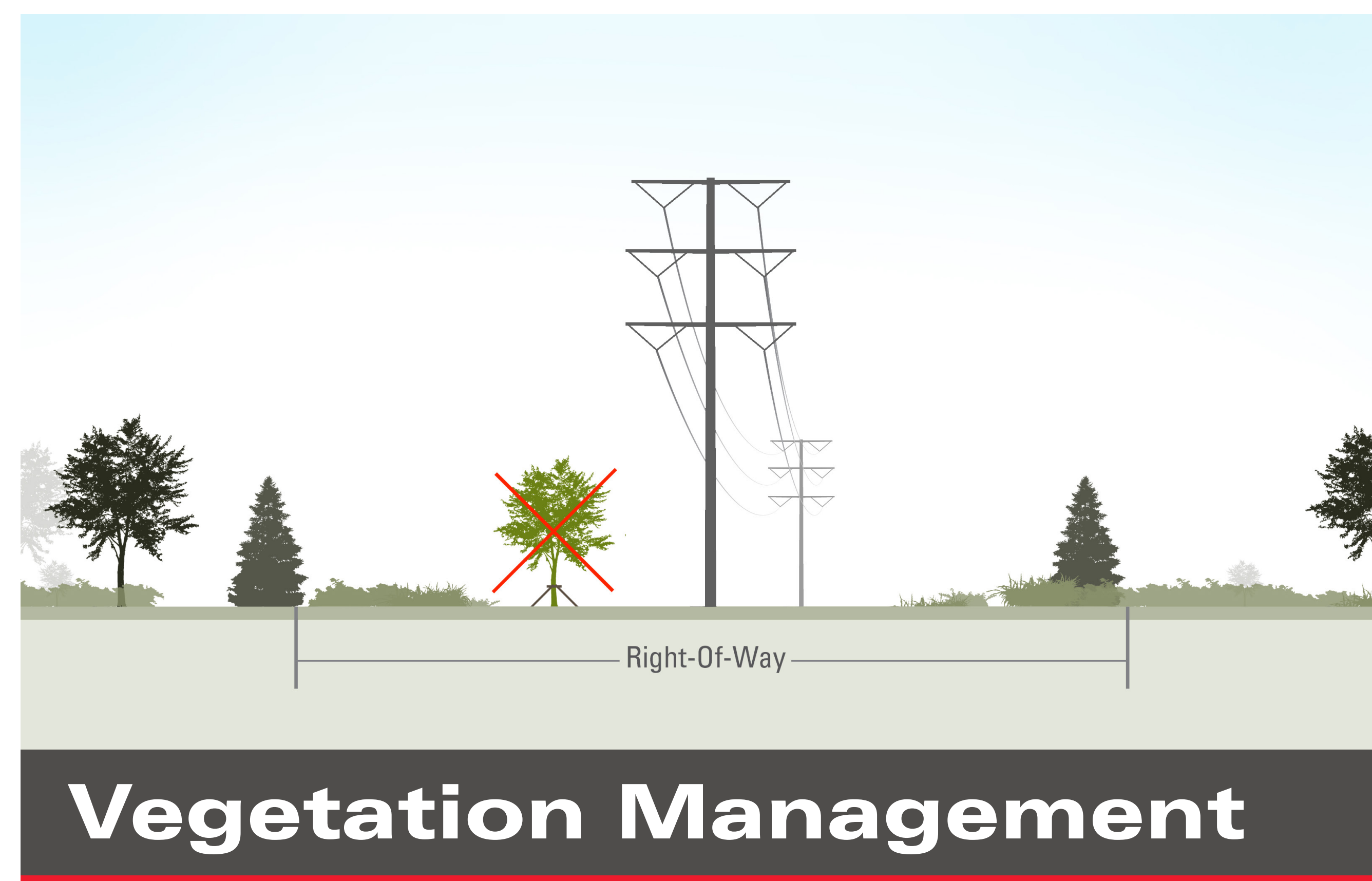
Landowners are paid a fair market value for the easement and can continue to use the land so long as their use does not interfere with the operation and maintenance of the transmission line.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY are the actual land areas acquired for a specific purpose such as a transmission line, roadway or other infrastructure.

Allowed Uses within Easements

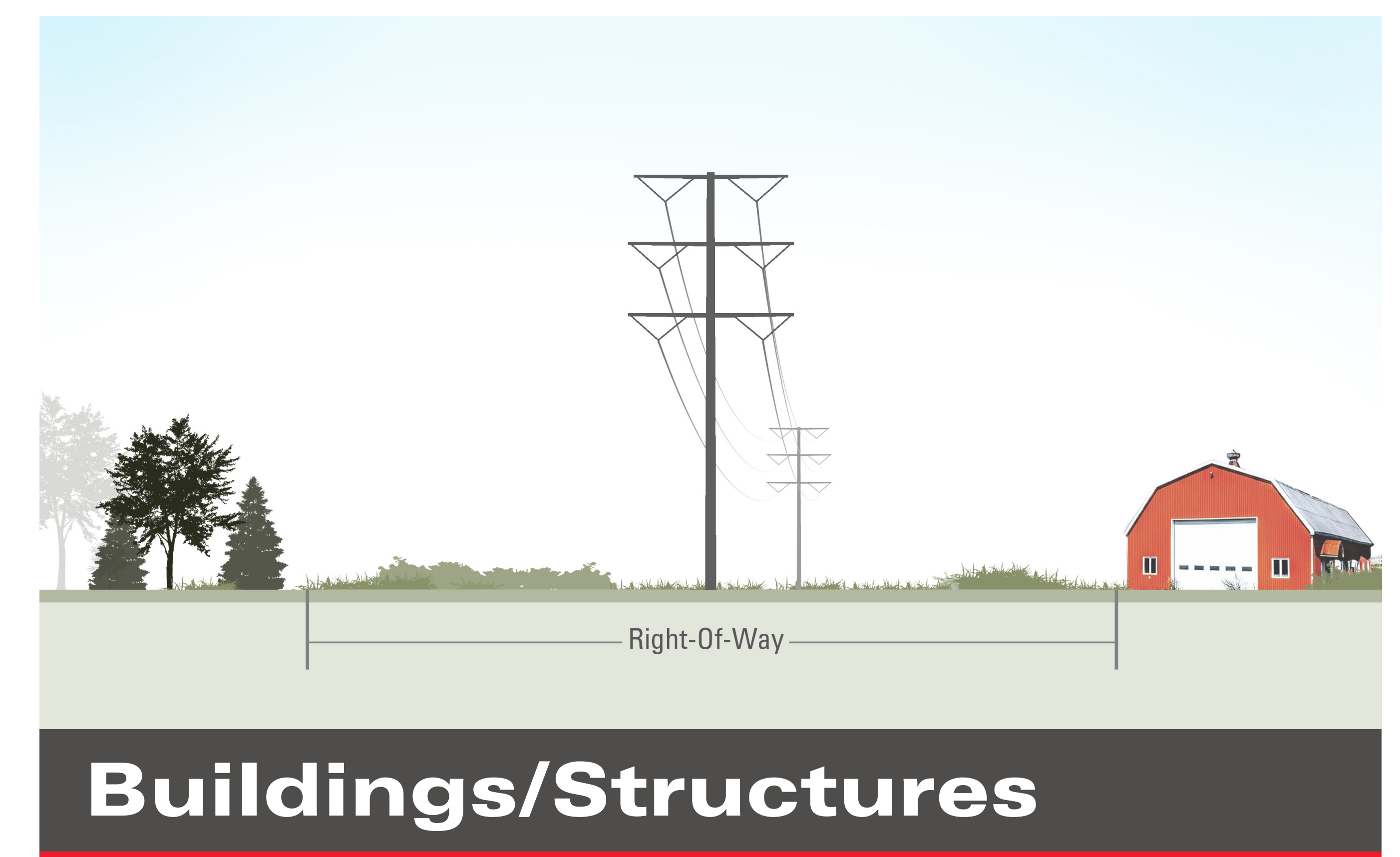


After initial construction of the utility infrastructure, agricultural activities can continue outside of the small area occupied by the transmission structures.



Trees growing near power lines can be a safety hazard and are a major contributor to electric service interruptions nationwide. There may be some areas where tree removal and pruning will be needed.

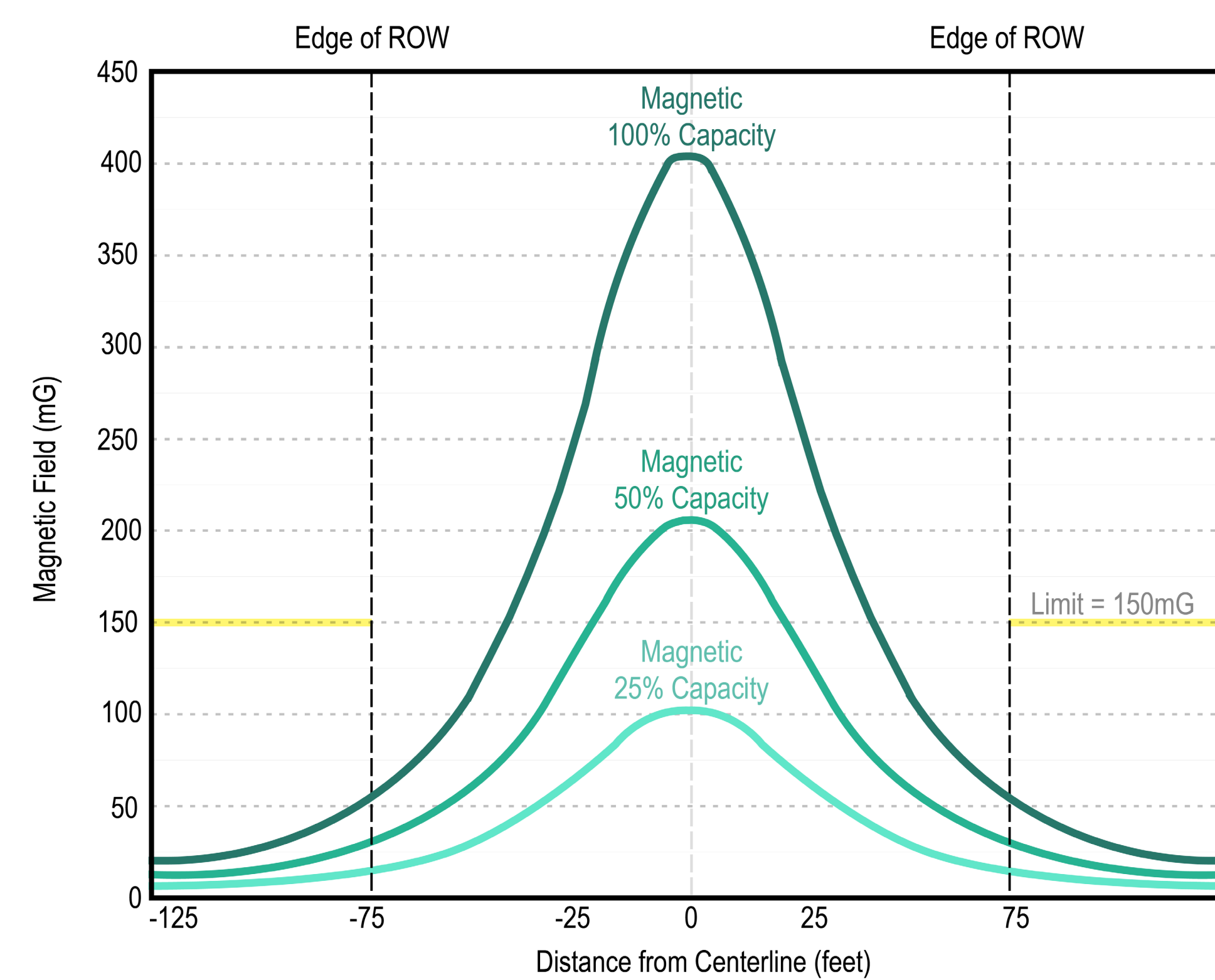
Tree pruning is the selective removal of branches that are not an adequate distance away from power lines, or that will grow too close to the power line before the next maintenance cycle. Our goal is to provide safe, reliable electric service while also taking the best possible care of one of your community's valuable natural resources.



Generally, buildings or other structures are not allowed in the Right-of-Way/easement for transmission lines due to clearance and safety concerns. Landowners can only build structures under a power line after receiving written approval from the electric utility.

MAGNETIC FIELDS AND NOISE

MAGNETIC FIELDS



MAGNETIC FIELDS, measured in milliGauss (mG), are produced by electric current and only exist when an electric appliance is turned on – the higher the current, the greater the magnetic field. As with electric fields, the strength of a magnetic field dissipates rapidly as you move away from its source.

The power line serving your neighborhood produces EMF just like household appliances such as your toaster, hair dryer, lamps and washing machine. Business equipment, such as computers, copiers and fluorescent lights, also produce EMF.

Typical magnetic fields six inches from common home appliances measured in milliGauss (mG) are depicted in the chart below.

Vacuum Cleaner
300

Microwave Oven
200

Copy Machine
90

Garbage Disposal
80

Hair Dryer
60

Blender
50

Fluorescent Light
40

Dishwasher
20

Computer
14

PUC limit
at edge
of ROW
150 mG

PUC limit
depending
on zoning
**50-75
dB(a)**

The chart below provides typical noise levels encountered in common settings measured in decibels [dB(a)]

Pneumatic chipper
120-130

Loud audible horn
(1 mile away)
110-120

Inside motorbus
80-90

Average traffic
on street
70-80

Conversation
60-70

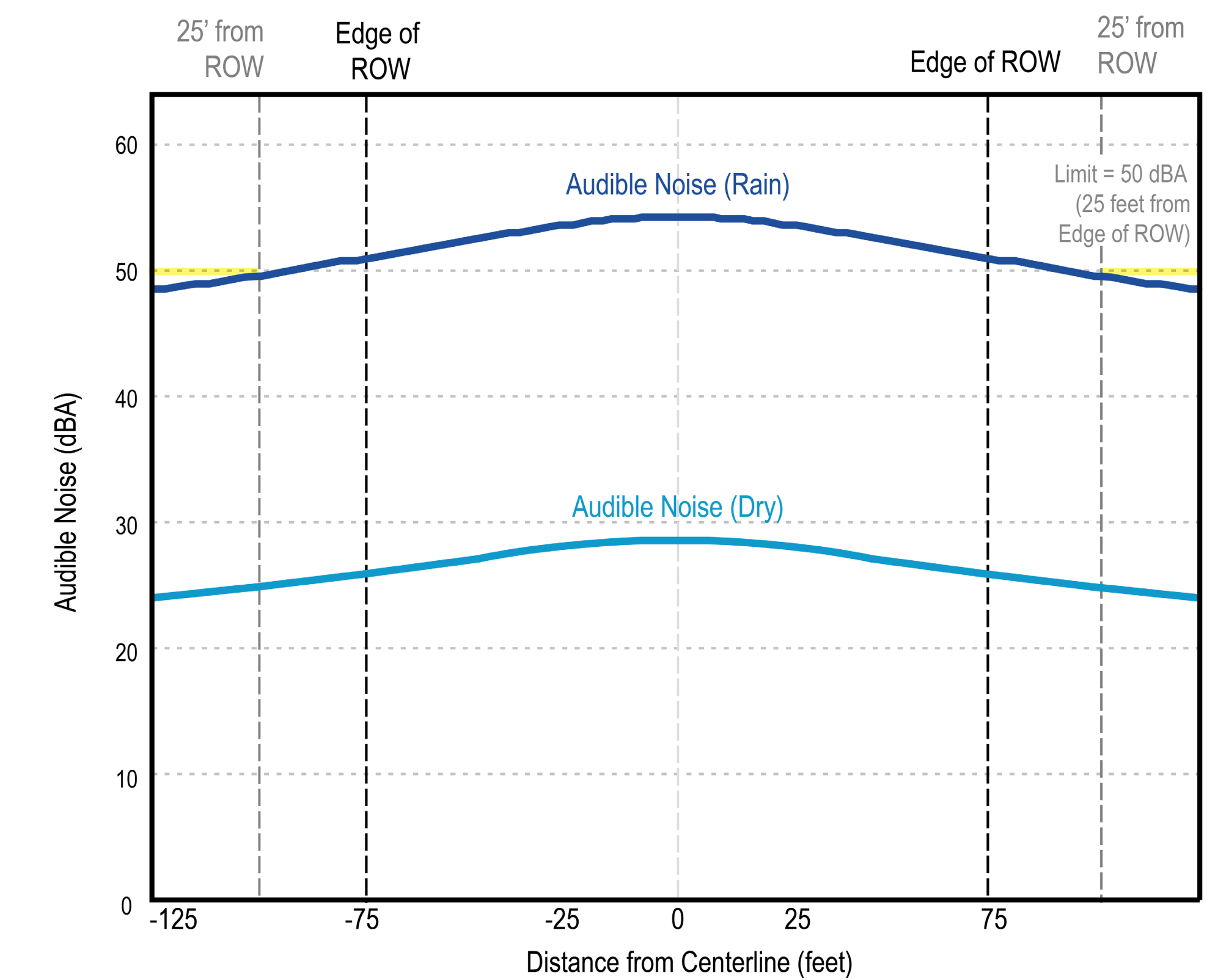
Living room
40-60

Library ambient
noise
30-40

Wilderness with no
wind or animal activity
25

Threshold of
hearing
0-10

AUDIBLE NOISE

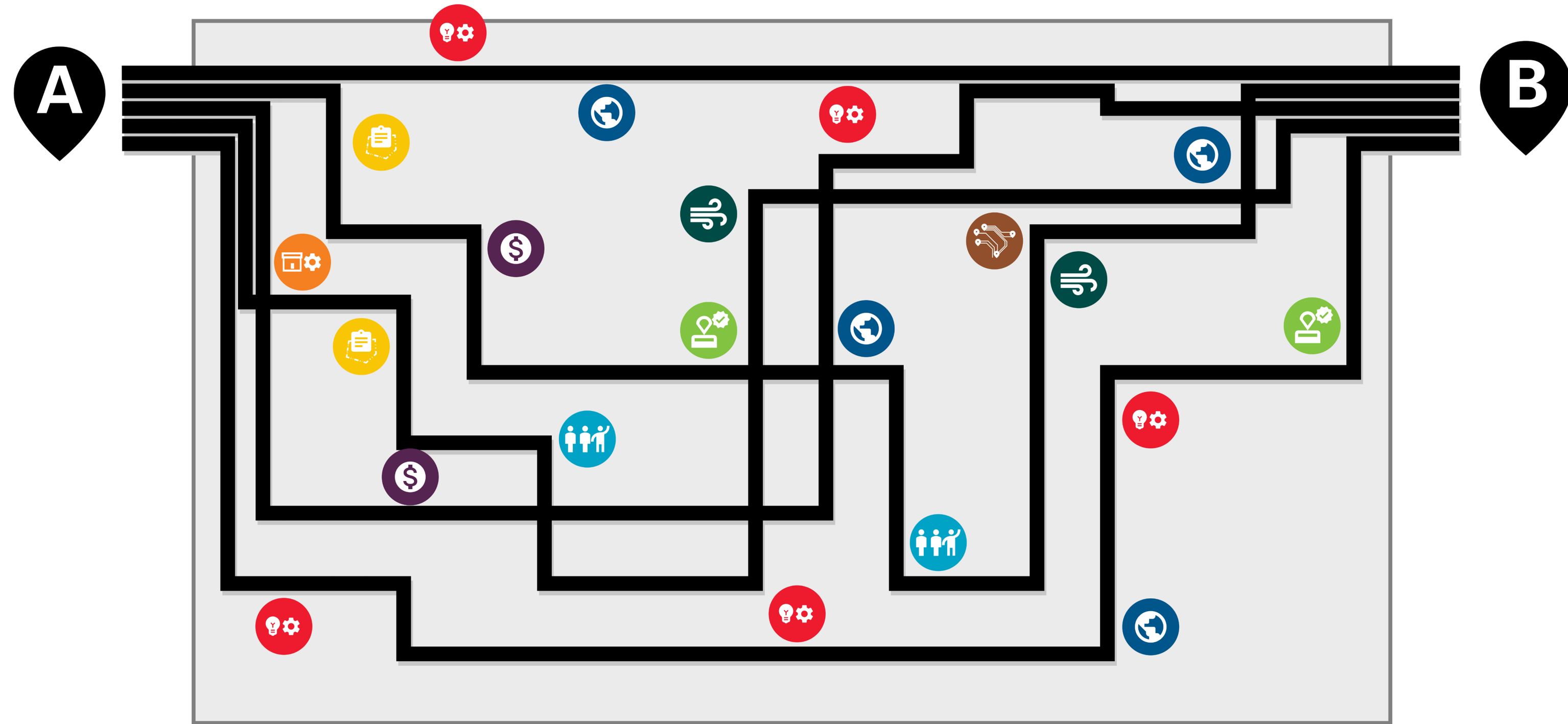


CORONA is a phenomenon associated with all transmission lines. Corona is a small electrical discharge, not unlike the static electrical charge that a person may experience when touching a metal object when walking on carpet. Corona is what creates the hissing or crackling sound that often emanates from transmission lines. Corona increases substantially in wet weather, when water droplets form on a transmission line which increase the corona (and increase audible noise).

SITE AND ROUTE SELECTION

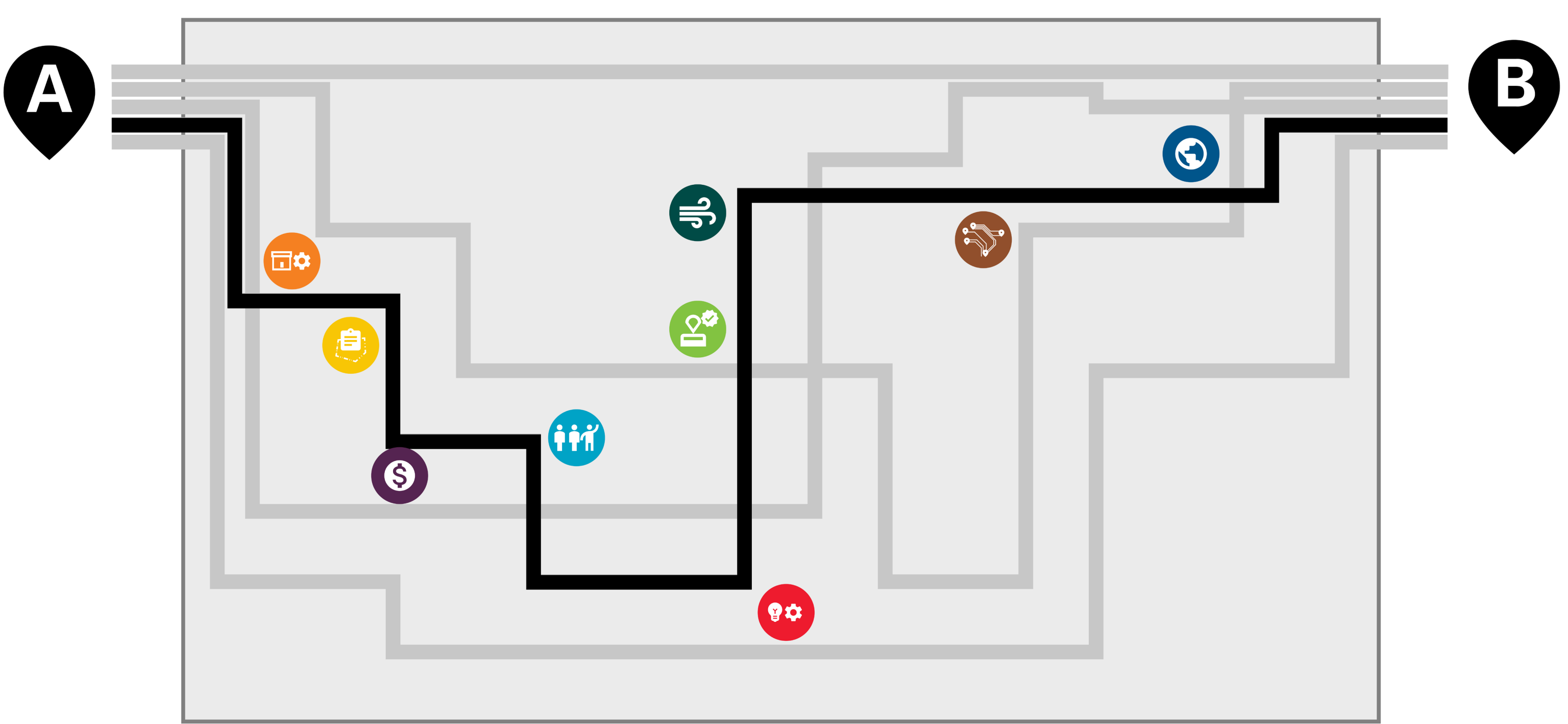
Xcel Energy uses an open and comprehensive process to evaluate and select transmission line routes and substation sites that considers electric system planning, project costs, the environment, public involvement, regulatory compliance, existing and planned land use, land rights and system engineering.

Criteria	Acquisition of Land Rights	Substation Engineering	Transmission Engineering	Electric System Planning	Economics	Environmental and Cultural Resources	Public Involvement	Renewable and Other Generation Resources	Regulatory Compliance
Consideration	<div>Existing easements and fee-owned property</div> <div>Jurisdiction and land ownership</div> <div>Formally designated areas with restrictions that prohibit development of transmission lines</div> <div>Existing and planned developments (residential, commercial, other) that may not have enough space for easements</div>	<div>Vacant developable land</div> <div>Available for purchase</div> <div>60-acre site</div> <div>Accessibility for construction and operation – located adjacent to maintained public roads</div>	<div>Topography/slope</div> <div>Proximity to buildings (homes, businesses)</div> <div>Transportation infrastructure</div> <div>Roads</div> <div>Railroads</div> <div>Airports</div> <div>Military and other special use airspace</div> <div>Oil & gas infrastructure such as wells and pipelines</div>	<div>Adjacency to existing transmission lines – reliability and redundancy</div> <div>Electric system interconnections (substations)</div> <div>Line length</div>	<div>Overall route length</div> <div>Construction, operation, and maintenance needs such as access</div> <div>Structure types required for straight sections for turns/angles</div>	<div>Land use/land cover</div> <div>Proximity to residences and structures</div> <div>Designated scenic areas</div> <div>Special status and protected species habitat, critical habitat</div> <div>Wetlands and waterways</div> <div>Cultural and historic sites</div>	<div>Landowner feedback</div> <div>Stakeholder discussions</div> <div>Comments received during public open houses and through Project website, email, and hotline</div> <div>Proximity to homes</div> <div>Noise</div> <div>EMF</div> <div>Wildlife impacts</div> <div>Agricultural operations</div> <div>Traffic</div> <div>Visual impacts</div> <div>Landowner interest</div>	<div>Existing and planned utility-scale wind and solar facilities</div> <div>Renewable generation zones</div> <div>Future electric system interconnections</div>	<div>Local land use permitting requirements such as zoning and setbacks</div> <div>Coordination with Colorado Parks & Wildlife and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service</div> <div>Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense and/or other military airspace requirements</div> <div>Army Corps of Engineers for wetlands/ waterways</div>



Alternative Routes

Identifying the location for the new transmission line segments is accomplished through a process that includes engaging the public, landowners and other stakeholders. Cultural and historic resources, technical and engineering requirements, environmental constraints, existing and planned land use and other factors that people have told use are important to consider are evaluated and compared for transmission line route options. The final route proposed in the local land use permitting processes will balance all these factors.



Preferred Route

WILDLIFE AND WETLANDS



Xcel Energy shares the interest of our customers and the communities we serve in promoting clean energy and protecting the environment. Sensitive natural resources are considered in identifying the locations for the substations and transmission lines to minimize potential impacts.



Wetlands and Water Resources

Impacts to wetlands will be avoided or minimized by careful placement of the substations and transmission lines.

We attempt to site transmission structures in locations that will avoid conflicts with irrigation equipment and its operation to the extent possible.

Impacts to rivers and streams will be avoided or minimized by placing transmission structures outside the waterway and spanning where possible.



Birds and Wildlife

Locations of known habitat are mapped and avoided where possible.

Conservation easements, national wildlife refuges and state wildlife areas will be avoided to the extent possible.

Seasonal restrictions are implemented to avoid constructing near habitat during certain seasons (such as nesting) as recommended by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidance.

Electrical components of the transmission lines and substations will be separated to minimize the risk of avian contact. Bird diversion devices will be installed where necessary.



Agency Coordination and Regulatory Compliance

Xcel Energy filed an application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in March 2021 (Proceeding Number: 21A-0096E).

Xcel Energy will coordinate with wildlife agency representatives regarding the proposed project throughout planning, design and construction and will comply with all regulatory requirements.

Local land use and construction permits will be obtained in the jurisdictions crossed and include:

- 1041, Use by Review, Land Use Change, Special Use Review, Major Land Use Permits
- Right-of-Way Use, Road Use Agreements, Access, Transport, Grading, Stormwater

CODE OF CONDUCT



- All Community Meeting guests are expected to maintain reasonable and appropriate behavior at all times. Any behavior disregarding the code of conduct as determined by security personnel or law enforcement can result in ejection from the Community Meeting.
- Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to:
 - Interference with the event or participants of the event in any way.
 - Disturbing other attendees' ability to review materials, speak with Xcel Energy or Elbert County representatives or provide comments.
 - Harassing or using offensive language against Xcel Energy team members, Elbert County staff, other meeting attendees, facility staff, security personnel or law enforcement.
 - Using profanity and/or other offensive words and gestures.
 - Failing to comply with instructions from security personnel or law enforcement.
 - Violating rules, regulations or policies of the meeting facility.
 - Violating any local, state or federal laws.
- No signs will be permitted in the meeting facility.
- Xcel Energy reserves the right to deny entry or eject attendees from the facility including attendees engaging in inappropriate behavior, as determined by security personnel or law enforcement.