

Major Transmission Line Project Proposals for Montana



Project	Owner	Location (line endpoints)		Transmission Capacity	Voltage	Length	Type(s) of Power	Timeline * (estimated)	Cost (estimated)
Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI)	Northwestern Energy (NWE) – Sioux Falls, SD (utility)	Townsend, Montana	Twin Falls, Idaho	1,500 MW	500 kV AC	430 mi.	Wind and other	Draft EIS in Autumn 2009. In service 2015.	\$800 million – \$1 billion
Renewable Energy Collector Project	NWE – Sioux Falls, SD (utility)	North central, south central and eastern Montana	MSTI at Townsend	2,000 MW (5 lines)	230 kV	Varies with each line	Primarily wind	In service 2014.	Unknown
Montana Alberta Tie Line (MATL)	Tonbridge Power Inc. – Toronto, Ontario (merchant)	Great Falls, Montana	Lethbridge, Alberta	300 MW	230 kV AC	214 mi.	Wind	Under construction. In service mid-2010.	\$215 million
Chinook Transmission Line	TransCanada – Calgary, Alberta (merchant)	South central Montana	Las Vegas, Nevada	3,000 MW	500 kV DC	1,000 mi.	Wind and other	Planning and review 2009-2010. Construction to begin 2012. In service 2014.	\$3 billion
Colstrip to Garrison Upgrade	Joint agreement between Colstrip Transmission System owners and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)	Colstrip, Montana	Garrison, Montana	Additional 500-600 MW	500 kV	Upgrade to current lines	Coal and wind	In service 2012.	\$207 million
Montana to the Northwest Upgrade	BPA, NWE and Avista	Colstrip, Montana	Puget Sound Area	Additional 750-1,000 MW	500 kV	Upgrade to current lines	Coal	In service 2012.	\$1.031 – \$1.35 billion **
Green Line	Tonbridge Power Inc. – Toronto, Ontario (merchant)	Great Falls, Montana	Townsend, Montana	1,000 MW **	230 kV	100 miles	Wind and other	In feasibility stage. In service 2013.	\$60 – 80 million ***

Note: Merchant transmission lines differ from traditional utility-built lines in that merchant lines are generally constructed entirely with private funds and users of the line, rather than rate-payers, pay for the line.

* Estimated timelines for projects were obtained from the companies proposing the projects.

** Cost estimate based on recently completed projects. Estimate does not reflect land cost, or the cost of required environmental review.

*** Because the Green Line is still in the conceptual phase, these numbers are rough estimates.



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