

MERRITT AREA TRANSMISSION PROJECT



PROJECT UPDATE

Construction of the Merritt Area Transmission (MAT) Project is ongoing and is expected to be completed in fall 2014. An updated detailed construction schedule can be found on the back of this page.

WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?

Demand for electricity in the Merritt area is growing. BC Hydro load forecasts have determined that significant electrical load growth is anticipated in the Merritt area. Contributing factors to this growth include development of new hotels, residential subdivisions, commercial areas and a resort south of Merritt in the Coquihalla corridor. To meet the increasing demand for power in Merritt, a new transmission line must be in service by the end of 2014.

The MAT project will ensure Merritt's homes and businesses continue to have reliable electricity for the next 30 years.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The MAT project includes:

- A new 35-kilometre above-ground 138-kilovolt transmission line between the Merritt and Highland substations.
- Upgrading the Merritt Substation, including the addition of new equipment and a building, all within a new, expanded fenced area.
- Adding new equipment at the Highland Substation.

Routing of the MAT transmission line was selected to be cost effective, minimize environmental impacts and allow the project to be built on time to meet Merritt's electricity needs by the end of 2014.

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Construction of a new, upgraded Merritt Substation is underway along Voght Street in Merritt (adjacent to the existing substation). Two new transformers, supporting equipment, and a new building are being installed within an expanded fenced area on existing BC Hydro property. Installation of electrical equipment at the Merritt Substation recently began as well.

Vegetation clearing along the right-of-way for the new transmission line is scheduled to begin in early May. Some of the clearing is being completed by Aspen Planers, a local timber tenure holder with existing clearing rights in the area. The rest of the clearing will be done by a local clearing contractor. Access road upgrades and construction will occur in conjunction with vegetation clearing, and is scheduled to begin mid-May.

Work on the MAT project will continue over the coming months and is expected to be completed in November 2014.

SCHEDULE

Milestone	Date (subject to change)
Site preparation for Merritt Substation upgrade	Completed, July 2013
Transmission centre-line survey	Completed, January 2014
Civil construction for Merritt Substation upgrade	August 2013 to June 2014
Right-of-way preparation (tree clearing and access road construction)	May 2014 to August 2014
Electrical construction for Merritt Substation upgrade (installation of electrical equipment at Merritt Substation)	April 2014 to November 2014
Transmission line design finalized	May 2014
Construction at Highland Substation	June 2014 to October 2014
Construction of transmission line (pole install and line stringing)	July 2014 to November 2014
In-service date	November 2014

MERRITT GREEN ENERGY PROJECT

Following completion of the MAT project, BC Hydro will upgrade a portion of the existing transmission line in Merritt to support Merritt Green Energy, an independent power producer, in providing safe reliable electricity. Three kilometres of the existing 69-kilovolt transmission line, starting at the Merritt Substation and heading west along Voght Street and Highway 8, will be removed and replaced with a 138-kilovolt transmission line.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information on the MAT project, please visit bchydro.com/mat. There you'll find schedule updates, maps, and more. We will continue to update the MAT project web pages and welcome your questions and feedback. Thank you for your patience and understanding during the construction of the MAT project.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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