

Interior to Lower Mainland Reinforcement Project (ILM) Update

After careful consideration of the alternatives, including feedback received over the last six months from communities, the public and First Nations, an environmental overview, and engineering and costing analyses, BCTC has decided that it will seek the necessary approvals to construct a new 500 kilovolt (kV) AC transmission line, mostly along the existing right-of-way from the Nicola Substation near Merritt to the Meridian Substation in Coquitlam – the largest expansion to BC’s transmission system in 30 years.

In deciding to pursue the new transmission line alternative, BCTC believes that it has selected the alternative that is the most effective and energy efficient solution to increase the province’s transmission capacity. BCTC will be required to present its assessment of alternatives in its application for approval for the ILM Project to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (see further below). Ultimately, the BCUC has the final decision-making authority on whether to approve BCTC’s recommended solution and may choose an alternative solution, including upgrading some of the existing transmission circuits between the Interior and the Lower Mainland.

If approved, the proposed 240-kilometre, 500 kV ILM Project is planned to be in service by 2014. Current estimates of the overall capital cost for the new line range from \$531M to \$726M.

The ILM Project will require the approval of the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). It will also be reviewed by the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and may be reviewed by federal agencies under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA).