

MERRITT AREA TRANSMISSION PROJECT

APRIL 2013

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.

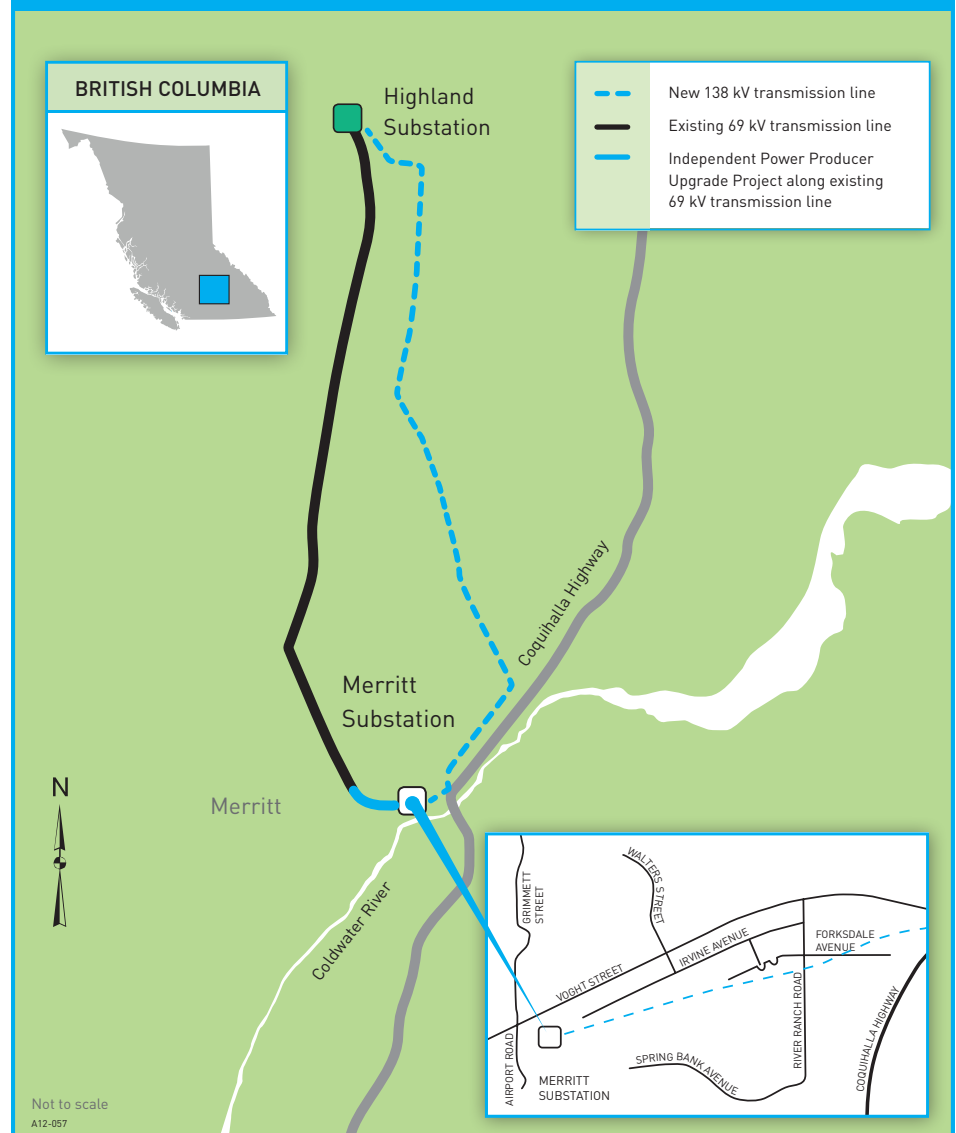
The Merritt Area Transmission (MAT) Project will ensure Merritt's homes and businesses continue to have reliable electricity for the next 30 years.

The MAT project includes:

- A new 35-kilometre above-ground 138-kilovolt transmission line along mostly existing BC Hydro rights-of-way, between the Merritt and Highland substations.
- Upgrading the Merritt Substation, including the addition of new equipment and small buildings, 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 in 2014.

MERRITT AREA TRANSMISSION PROJECT



The MAT project is preparing for the construction phase. BC Hydro has been carrying out engineering and environmental studies, and consulting with First Nations and key stakeholders—including property owners—to confirm the project design and transmission line routing. Consultation will continue throughout the construction phases of the MAT project. We will continue to update the MAT project web pages and welcome your questions and feedback.

DRAFT SCHEDULE

Milestone	Date (subject to change)
Construction tenders issued	January 2013 to January 2014
Site preparation for Merritt Substation upgrade	April 2013 to June 2013
Civil construction for Merritt Substation upgrade	July 2013 to March 2014
Right-of-way preparation (clearing and access road construction)	September 2013 to December 2013
Construction of transmission line (pole install and line stringing)	November 2013 to July 2014
Electrical construction for Merritt Substation upgrade	December 2013 to July 2014
Construction at Highland Substation	February 2014 to July 2014
In-service date	July 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, to provide 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'd like more information on the MAT project, please visit the MAT section of BC Hydro's website: bchydro.com/mat

If you have any questions, please contact:

Sarah McKinney

BC Hydro Stakeholder Relations

Toll free: 1 866 647 3334

Email: stakeholderengagement@bchydro.com



FOR GENERATIONS



Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle.

A13-096