March 2026

Mount Pleasant Substation Upgrade

Construction starting late March 2026

In March, we'll start work to upgrade Mount Pleasant Substation, located on the 6th Avenue.

We're planning to install additional equipment inside the existing building so that we can keep providing clean, reliable electricity to your area.

In this newsletter, we're sharing what we're doing and why, our expected timeline, what you can expect to see and hear while we're working, and how you can contact us with any questions or comments.

We'll reach out again as our work advances to share information about how construction is progressing and what you can continue to expect as we complete this important work.

We're completing the Mount Pleasant Substation

When we built the Mount Pleasant Substation, we made sure there was room for additional equipment when it was needed.

Since then, more customers are using more electricity, so it's time to bring in additional equipment, and connect it to the system that delivers electricity to homes and businesses.

The most significant upgrade will be the installation of a third transformer. Transformers are large, heavy pieces of equipment that 'step down' high voltage electricity into lower voltage electricity so that it can be used in homes and businesses.

What is a substation?

Substations are a critical part of the electricity delivery system.

Within distribution substations, specialized equipment transforms high-voltage electricity to lower-voltages for distribution to our customers.

Additional equipment is used to direct electricity to where it is needed and protect the electrical system.

BC Hydro
Power smart

Construction timeline

We expect to start construction in March 2026 and to complete our work in early 2029. Our work will take place in three key phases:

One

Initial equipment installation

March 2026 to summer 2026

- Most of this work will take place inside the substation
- You may see deliveries via the laneway, but there will be limited impacts outside the substation

Two

Transformer installation and assembly

Summer 2026 to end of 2026

- The transformer will arrive at night and be lifted into place over a few days
- First, you'll see us install contractor trailers on 6th Ave and close Alberta Street adjacent to the substation to store materials and equipment and work safely
- When the transformer is delivered, two blocks of 6th Avenue will be closed for up to three days
- Once the transformer is in place, we'll assemble it and fill it with insulating liquid
- You'll see deliveries to site and hear the transformer-filling equipment

Three

Energization and equipment reconfiguration

2027 - 2029

- We'll receive more equipment deliveries and continue assembling and installing equipment inside the substation
- When ready, we'll power up the transformer and install a roof over this new equipment
- You'll see us using a crane and scaffolding when we're installing the roof over the transformer
- Once the roof is installed, most of our work will continue inside the substation, so you'll see us re-open Alberta Street and then there will be limited impacts outside the substation again

Phase One: what to expect

For the first few months of construction, you may notice additional workers in the area and more activity in the laneway behind the substation as we move new equipment and materials into the building. We'll be working in the basement of the building, so we don't expect that you'll see or hear our work.

At this early stage of our work, key details are:

Days of work:	Monday to Friday
Hours of work:	7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where:	inside the substation – you may see more activity in the laneway
What:	installing additional equipment
Impacts:	limited – we do not expect you to see or hear this work

This work will **not** cause power outages. If you experience an outage while we're working, please follow the advice at **bchydro.com/outages**.

Looking back: construction of the Mount Pleasant Substation

Were you in the neighbourhood when we built Mount Pleasant Substation? Construction started in 2010 and the substation was switched on in 2014. Built as part of our effort to deliver safe, reliable power to a fast-growing area, this was the first new substation constructed in Vancouver in 30 years.

Thoughtful Design & Architecture

Rather than the traditional open-air, fenced-off substation, this facility was built as a compact, fully-enclosed building so that it would better fit into the neighbourhood. Inside, the substation is equipped with modern equipment that has a much smaller footprint than we use at other locations. This made it possible to design a smaller, modern building that fits in with Mount Pleasant's studios, shops, and mid-rise buildings.

Renders shared before we started construction.

Safety as the first priority

Because substations are critical infrastructure, the building was constructed to post-disaster seismic standards. That means it's engineered to remain operational after a major earthquake, helping keep power flowing when the community needs it most. All the station equipment is anchored and protected.

The substation taking shape.

Sustainable Construction

The Mount Pleasant Substation achieved LEED® Silver Certification – the first of our substations designed and built to meet these rigorous environmental standards. It includes many sustainable design features such as energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems and low-emitting materials. The compact design itself is a sustainability win - using less land to house this critical infrastructure.

Construction in a Busy Neighbourhood

Building a major electrical facility in the heart of Mount Pleasant required careful coordination. Crews worked within tight space limits, managed noise and traffic impacts, and kept sidewalks open whenever possible. The result was a substation that strengthens the local grid while respecting the daily life of the community it serves.

In 2013, we invited the community inside before switching on the new substation.

March 2026

Other BC Hydro projects in your area

In addition to work at the substation, you'll see up to three more BC Hydro crews working around the Mount Pleasant Substation during and just after our construction period.

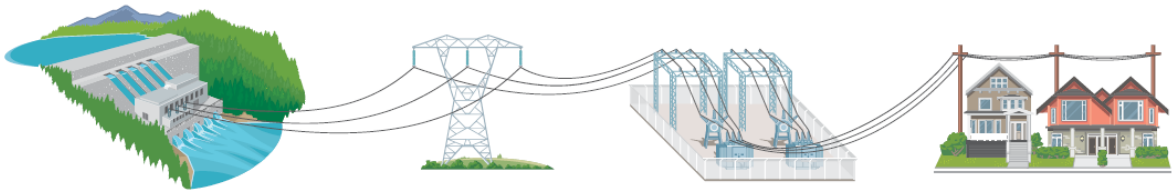
These teams will be expanding the distribution network – the underground cables that transport power from the substation to homes and businesses.

Two of these teams will build underground duct banks on 6th Ave – one heading west from the substation and one heading east from the substation. Duct banks are protective pipe and concrete structures that protect distribution cables underground. A third crew will follow to pull the distribution cables through these duct banks.

As we learn more about other teams' project timelines and activities in this area, we'll share them with you in our Mount Pleasant Substation Upgrade updates so that you hear about all BC Hydro activities in once place.

Our electrical system

BC Hydro provides approximately 5,000,000 people with clean, reliable electricity via 80,000 kms of transmission and distribution lines and 300+ substations.



Generation

Electricity is generated by BC Hydro and independent power producers.

Transmission

Electricity is moved from where it's produced to where it's used.

Substations

Voltage is reduced at substations to provide power suitable for use in your home or business.

Distribution

Low voltage electricity is provided to neighbourhoods and businesses.

CONTACT US

IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

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