



# Montana Alberta Tie Line Overview

## Montana Transmission Pathways

# Energy and Technology Interim Committee

September 9, 2025

# MATL Overview (WECC Path 83)



**LEGEND**

- MATL Substation
- Northwestern Energy Substation
- Generation Facility
- MATL Transmission Line (230 KV)
- - - Regional Boundary
- Railway
- Road
- First Nations Reserve
- Urban Area

Asset Summary	
In-Service Date	September 2013
Change of Ownership to BHE	May 2020
Base Specification	Single-circuit, 230/240kV AC Merchant Line
Line Length	214 mi. (345 km)
Path Rating	300MW bi-directional
Northbound Capacity	300 MW (fully-contracted)
Southbound Capacity	300MW (fully-contracted)

## Transmission Service Offerings

- Long-term, auction, and hourly products
- Hourly products: Firm & Non-Firm
- Ability to connect radially to Montana

# MATL's Regulatory Framework



- MATL facilities in Montana are regulated by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality under the Major Facilities Siting Act
- Federally, MATL is regulated by a Presidential Permit as an international power line.
- As a merchant transmission line, MATL is not subject to Montana Public Service Commission oversight
- MATL has been granted negotiated rate authority by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
  - Subject to the MATL Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT)
  - MATL is not a party to energy offtake agreements, meaning connected generators are free to form agreements directly with energy purchasers
- In Canada, MATL is federally regulated by the Canada Energy Regulator and provincially regulated by the Alberta Utilities Commission

# Key Facts about MATL



## Interconnection Projects

- 189MW of generation resources are currently connected to MATL
- 439MW of generation resources are active in the MATL interconnection queue including:
  - 385 MW of a project with wind, solar, and energy storage
  - 54 MW solar project
- There currently is no load connected to MATL, but multiple developers have inquired about potential load connections near Great Falls
- Potential for telecommunication services on the surplus fiber optic network available in the MATL's overhead shield wire

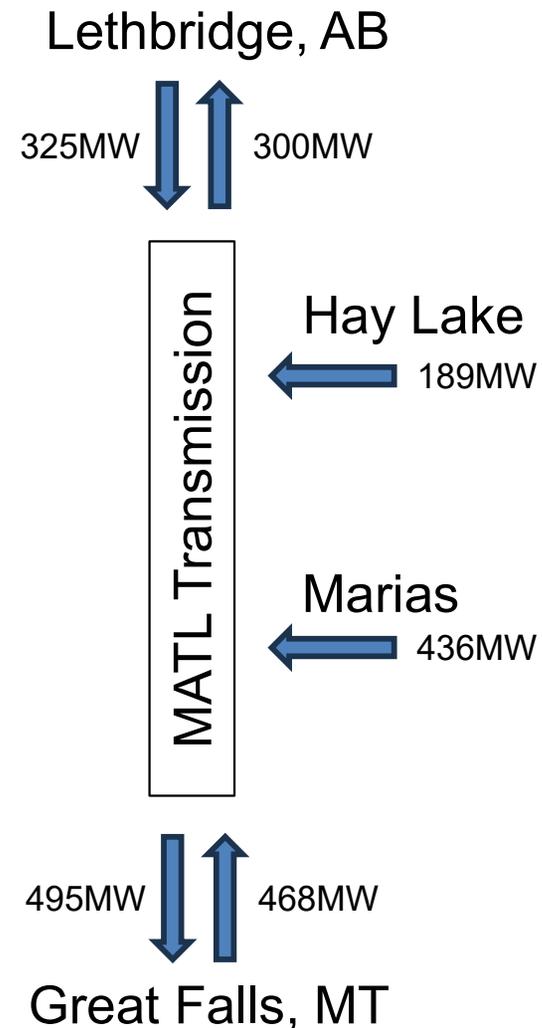
## Congestion and Curtailment on MATL

- At present, most curtailments on MATL are driven by the curtailments and congestion within the Alberta Interconnected Electric System
- Declining reliability within the Alberta system is leading to restrictions on energy import originating from Montana
- Southbound curtailments into the Northwestern system can occur, but are much less frequent than curtailments in the Alberta system

# MATL Transmission Upgrades



- The conductor installed on MATL is rated for over 600MW of capacity. The limiting factor is the transformer capacity located on the northern segment into Alberta
- Since 2020, MATL has considered multiple alternatives for transmission upgrades
- MATL's preferred alternative for expansion is to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> transformer on the northern segment of the MATL transmission system
- MATL is currently seeking to fund a transmission capacity expansion at the Great Falls Substation, and actively working with Northwestern Energy on an interconnection project to increase capacity at Great Falls



# Current Issues Related to Path 83



- BHE U.S Transmission views Montana as being located at a key energy intersection in the western U.S. and is supportive of regional and interregional transmission projects that increase capacity into and out of Montana
- MATL is currently working to join BHE Montana's Power Watch balancing authority and offer surplus transmission into the Western Energy Imbalance Market by May 2026.
- Energy exports northbound into Alberta are regularly curtailed due to policies of the Alberta Electric System Operator and reliability issues within the Alberta Interconnected Electric System
  - This trade issue has impacted the amount of BHE's investment in further transmission and generation projects in Montana
  - BHE Canada and MATL are working with the Alberta Government, the Alberta Utilities Commission, and the Alberta Electric System Operator to restore the intertie capacity to its WECC path rating to resolve this dispute



 **BHE**  
U.S. TRANSMISSION®