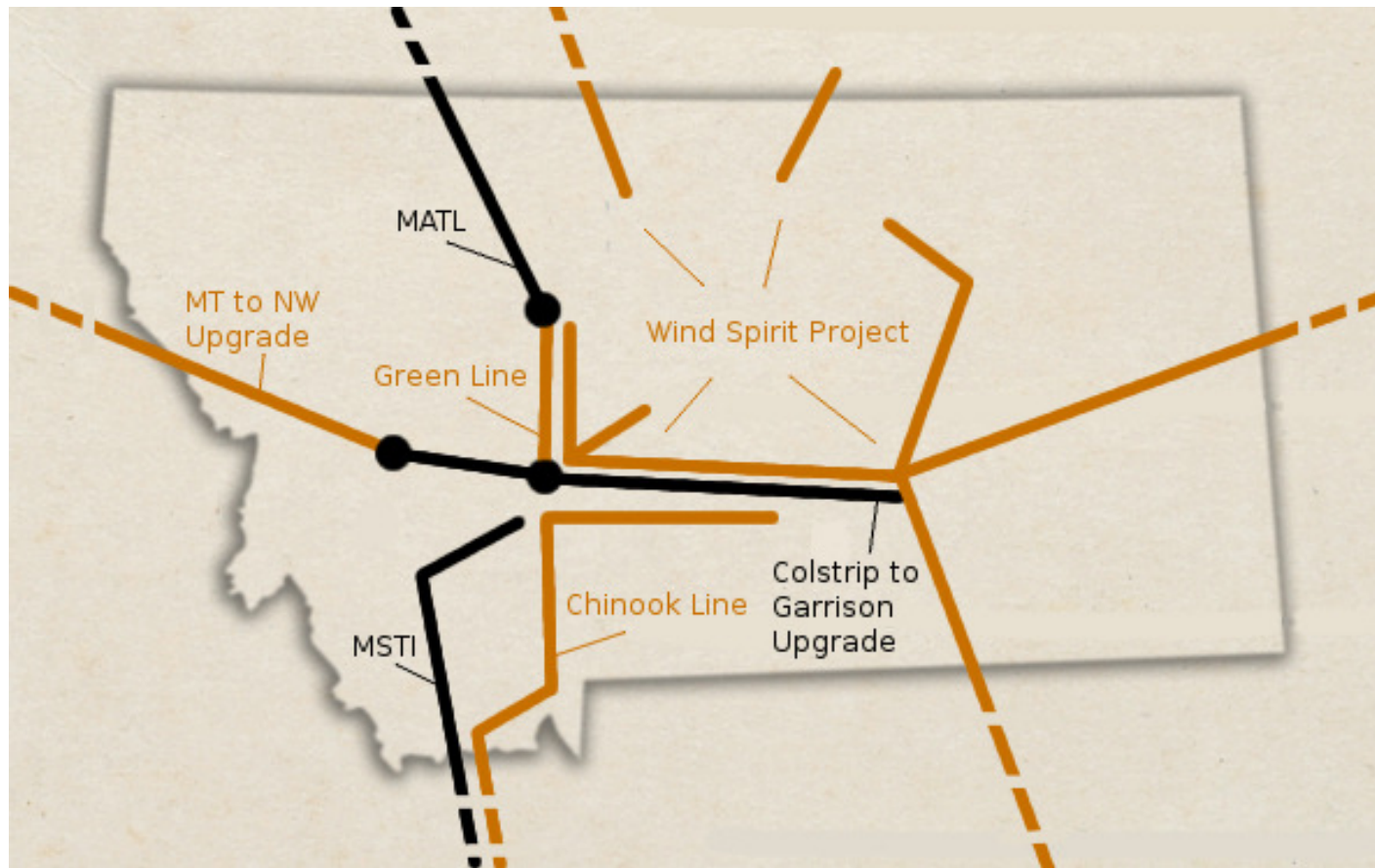


Major Transmission Line Project Proposals for Montana



| Project | Owner ¹ | Location (line endpoints) | | Transmission Capacity | Voltage | Length | Type(s) of Power | Timeline ² (estimated) | Cost (estimated) |
|---|---|---|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---|---|
| Montana Alberta Tie Line (MATL) | Tonbridge Power Inc. – Toronto, Ontario (merchant) | Great Falls, Montana | Lethbridge, Alberta | 300 MW | 230 kV AC | 214 miles | Wind | Under construction. In service mid-2010. | \$215 million |
| Montana to the Northwest Upgrade | Bonneville Power Administration, NorthWestern Energy and Avista | Colstrip, Montana | Puget Sound Area | Additional 750-1,000 MW | 500 kV | Upgrade to current lines | Coal | In service 2012. | \$1.031 – \$1.35 billion ³ |
| Colstrip to Garrison Upgrade | Joint agreement between Colstrip Transmission System owners and Bonneville Power Administration | Colstrip, Montana | Garrison, Montana | Additional 500-600 MW | 500 kV | Upgrade to current lines | Coal and wind | In service 2012. | \$207 million |
| Green Line | Tonbridge Power Inc. – Toronto, Ontario (merchant) | Great Falls, Montana | Townsend, Montana | 1,000 MW ⁴ | 230 kV | 100 miles | Wind and other | In feasibility stage. In service 2013. | \$60 – 80 million ⁵ |
| Renewable Energy Collector Project | NorthWestern Energy – Sioux Falls, South Dakota (utility) | North central, south central and eastern Montana | MSTI at Townsend | 2,000 MW (5 lines) | 230 kV | Varies with each line | Primarily wind | In service 2014. | Unknown |
| Chinook Transmission Line | TransCanada – Calgary, Alberta (merchant) | South central Montana | Las Vegas, Nevada | 3,000 MW | 500 kV DC | 1,000 miles | Wind and other | Planning and review 2009-2010. Construction to begin 2012. In service 2014. | \$3 billion |
| Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) | NorthWestern Energy – Sioux Falls, South Dakota (utility) | Townsend, Montana | Twin Falls, Idaho | 1,500 MW | 500 kV AC | 430 miles | Wind and other | Draft EIS June 2010. In service 2015. | \$1 billion |
| Wind Spirit Project | Grasslands Renewable Energy – Bozeman, Montana (merchant) | Various wind farms throughout Montana and the Northern Plains | MSTI at Townsend | Designed to collect a minimum of 3,000 MW to deliver 1,000 MW of consistent power | A series of 230 KV AC and HVDC lines | 1,300 miles ⁶ | Wind | Began regulatory phase in Fall 2009. Completion planned for 2017. | \$4 billion, including lines and storage applications |



The Policy Institute blends authoritative research and hands-on political engagement to create public policy based on economic justice, fair taxation, corporate accountability and environmental responsibility.

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¹ Merchant transmission lines differ from traditional utility-built lines in that merchant lines are generally constructed entirely with private funds and users of the line, rather than rate-payers, pay for the line.

² Estimated timelines for projects were obtained from the companies proposing the projects.

³ Cost estimate based on recently completed projects. Estimate does not reflect land cost, or the cost of required environmental review.

⁴ Because the Green Line is still in the conceptual phase, these numbers are rough estimates.

⁵ Because the Green Line is still in the conceptual phase, these numbers are rough estimates.

⁶ In addition to 1,300 miles of transmission lines, the project includes one or more storage applications.