



COLUMBIA VALLEY TRANSMISSION PROJECT UPDATE SUMMER 2011

CONTRACTORS SELECTED TO CONSTRUCT THE COLUMBIA VALLEY TRANSMISSION PROJECT

BC Hydro has selected RS Line Constr. Co. Ltd. and F&M Installations Ltd. to help construct the Columbia Valley Transmission Project – marking an important milestone in the project.

RS Line Constr. Ltd. has been retained to construct the 230-kilovolt transmission line between the Invermere Substation and the new Kicking Horse Substation. The company will also construct the new 69-kilovolt transmission line between the Kicking Horse Substation and the existing Golden Substation.

F&M Installations Ltd. will construct the new Kicking Horse Substation, expand the existing Golden Substation and Invermere Substation, and modify the Cranbrook Substation.

Both RS Line Constr. Co. and F&M Installations have a proven track record in constructing major projects like this and will provide the highest overall value to BC Hydro customers at the most cost-effective price.

Construction will begin later this summer and is expected to be completed by August 2012. The in-service date for the project is October 2012.

To date, the project has contributed more than \$12 million in economic benefit to the region as local and First Nations companies and contractors have provided services on several aspects of the project to date, including survey work and right-of-way clearing.

The transmission line serving the communities from Invermere to Field is at capacity due to increased electricity demand in the Golden area. The Columbia Valley Transmission Project will meet the area's long term electricity needs.

After examining all alternatives, BC Hydro decided that the best solution would be to construct a new 230-kilovolt transmission line from Invermere to a new substation (Kicking Horse Substation) west of Golden. The project also includes a new 69-kilovolt transmission line, which will bring power into the town of Golden, and modifications to the existing substations in Golden, Invermere and Cranbrook.

The expected in-service date for the project is October 2012.

The estimated cost of the Columbia Valley Transmission Project is between \$132 million and \$209 million.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Tree removal along the rights-of-way has been underway since March and will continue until November 2011. Approximately 20 kilometres of the 230-kilovolt transmission line right-of-way, and the 69-kilovolt right-of-way has been cleared, starting from the site of the Kicking Horse Substation west of Golden.

The statutory right-of-way for the 230-kilovolt transmission line is 31 metres. However, the width cleared will be greater, depending on terrain, topography and tree height in the area. The extra tree removal is a one-time clearing of trees that will be allowed to re-grow. Trees outside of the statutory right-of-way boundaries are removed as a safety and reliability measure. When trees inside the statutory right-of-way are removed, the remaining trees outside of the statutory right-of-way are exposed to the wind. They could fall into the statutory right-of-way, contact the circuits and poles, cause outages, start fires, and conduct electricity to the ground, creating a serious safety hazard for workers and the public.

The cleared area outside of the statutory right-of-way is allowed to re-grow up to the statutory right-of-way boundary and is monitored as part of BC Hydro's vegetation management program. Please note that the area cleared is in keeping with our Licence to Cut granted by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Construction of the transmission lines, the new Kicking Horse substation, expansion of the existing Golden, Invermere substations and modifications to the existing Cranbrook substation will occur simultaneously beginning in late July/early August 2011 and will continue through to August 2012.



Right-of-way clearing for the new 230kV transmission line



Right-of-way clearing for the new 69kV transmission line

SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

Our first concern is for the safety of employees, contractors and the public. Some segments of the transmission line right-of-way are in close proximity to recreation areas, and there will be large trucks and heavy equipment in operation during construction.

While construction is underway, the contractor will restrict public access around active work sites and provide traffic control as required. If you come across a project work area please observe these safety precautions:

- Respect fenced and gated areas and observe all danger and warning safety signs.
- Stay on designated trails and within marked areas.
- Supervise children and pets closely.
- Follow any related instructions from work crews.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience while we undertake this important project.

SCHEDULE

Milestone event	Status / Completion by
Right-of-Way Clearing and Access Construction	
• KHS Substation and Str. 92/3 North and 69kV West of Columbia River	Completed
• Central segment (Structures 51/1 – 92/3)	Work commenced / Completion by September 2011
• South segment (Structures 16/3 – 50/5)	Work commenced / Completion by November 2011
• All remaining sections	June 2012
Transmission line construction	
• 230 kV transmission line (from Kicking Horse Substation to Invermere Substation)	August 2011 to August 2012
• 69 kV transmission line (from Kicking Horse Substation to Golden Substation)	October to April 2012
Substation Construction	
• Golden Substation expansion	August 2011 to August 2012
• Kicking Horse Substation	Work commenced / Completion by August 2012
• Invermere Substation expansion	Work commenced / Completion by August 2012
• Cranbrook Substation modification	November 2011 to June 2012

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

The project website is updated regularly to give you the latest project news.

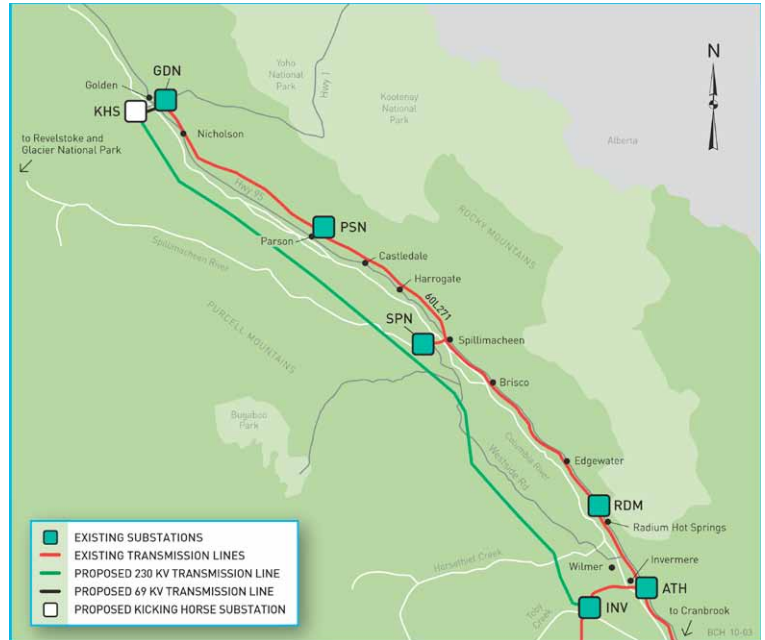
Please visit:

<http://transmission.bchydro.com/projects/cvt/>

If you have any questions about the project or require further information, please contact:

1 866 647 3334 or

stakeholderengagement@bchydro.com



ABOUT BC HYDRO

Fifty years ago, British Columbians turned to BC Hydro to construct the clean electricity system they count on to power B.C.'s economy, create jobs in every region, and keep the lights on. Now, BC Hydro is constructing again for the next 50 years. B.C. continues to grow and so has the need for more electricity. That's why BC Hydro is constructing, renewing, and encouraging conservation to meet today's needs and those of future generations. In 2011, BC Hydro is celebrating 50 years of providing power for British Columbians, and inviting them to help prepare for the next 50 years.

