## MONTANA'S ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION GRID Several Companies Provide the Bulk of Montana's Electric Transmission Οe Western Eastern U.S. Grid U.S. Grid Transmission Lines Capacity. 100 Kilovolts (kV) and High - 100 - 115 161 230 345 Billine 500 Avista Berkshire Hathaway Energy Montana-Dakota Utilities NorthWestern Energy NextEra **Montana Transmission System PacifiCorp** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Last Updated November 2022 **Colstrip Transmission System Owners** Transmission Line Data Source: Montana Department of Environmental Quality, 2022

## **Energy Snapshot**

Montana's transmission lines are owned by different companies and have varying capacities as shown in the map above.

- In-state transmission ownership is dominated by a few companies including NorthWestern Energy,
  Bonneville Power Administration, Western Area Power Administration, and Avista.
- The double 500 kV Colstrip lines are the largest transmission lines in the state and are owned by a consortium of five utilities that serve both in-state and out-of-state customers.
- Montana currently exports about 40% of the electricity it produces. Under certain conditions, Montana utilities import electricity as well.
- Few new lines have been put into service in the past few decades, with the most recent being the Montana-Alberta Tie Line which came online in 2013 and the NextEra Energy-owned line connecting the Clearwater Wind project to the Colstrip substation, which came online in 2022.
- Most distribution lines in Montana (not shown here) are owned by NorthWestern, Montana-Dakota Utilities or one of the 25 rural electric cooperatives that serve customers across the state.

## **Resource Links**

• U.S. Department of Energy, How Electricity is Delivered to Customers

