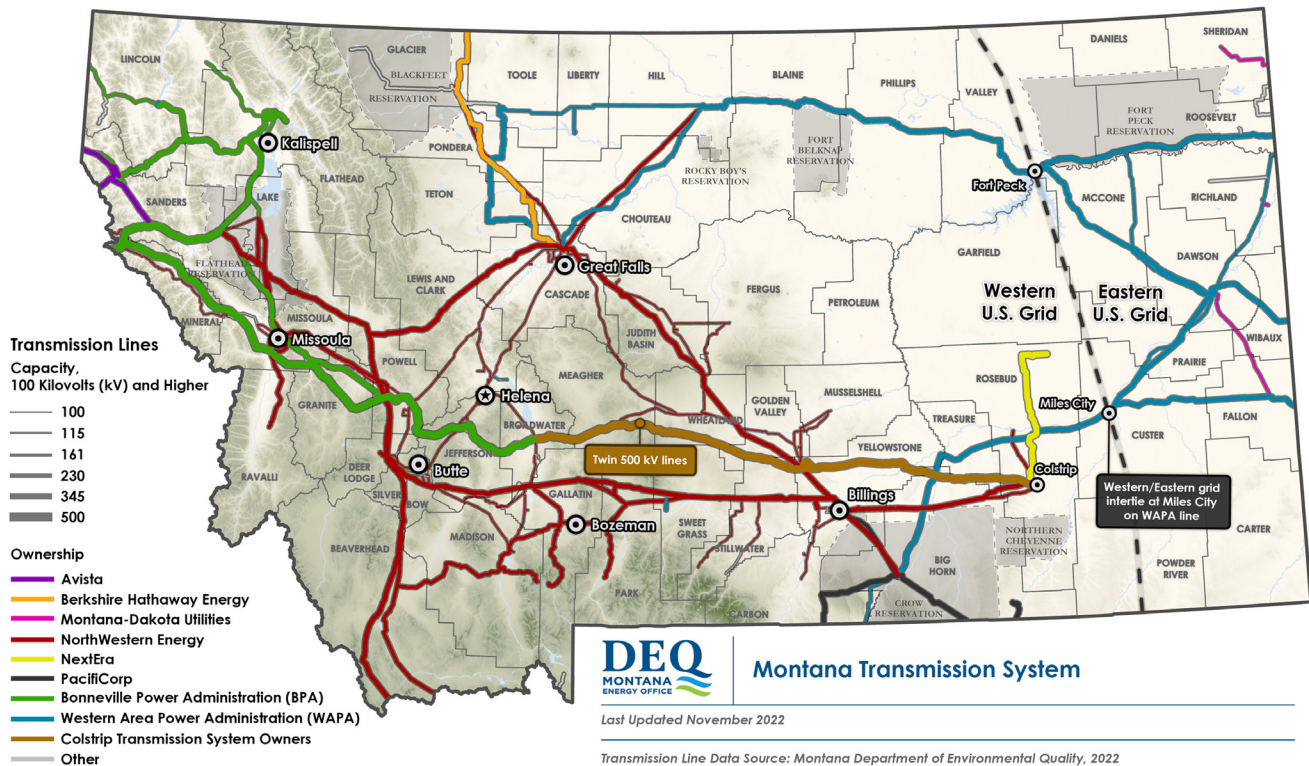


# MONTANA'S ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION GRID

Several Companies Provide the Bulk of Montana's Electric Transmission



## 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](#)