

# Transmission Lines

## What Are Transmission Lines?

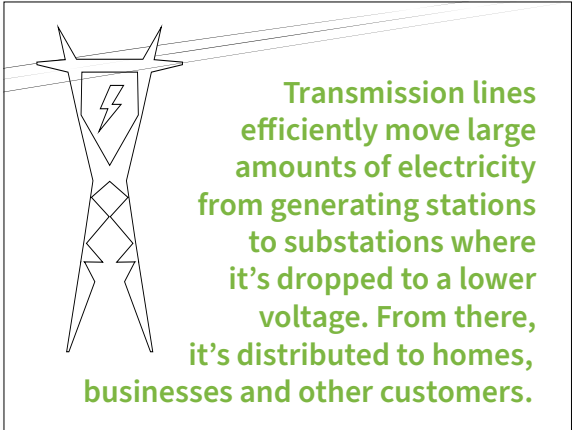
Transmission lines are power lines that can carry high-voltage power over long distances, acting as highways in a larger electrical transport network.

## Why Are They Important?

Transmission lines are necessary for taking electricity from various sources, such as [renewable energy](#) sources like wind and solar farms, and integrating it into the larger power grid.

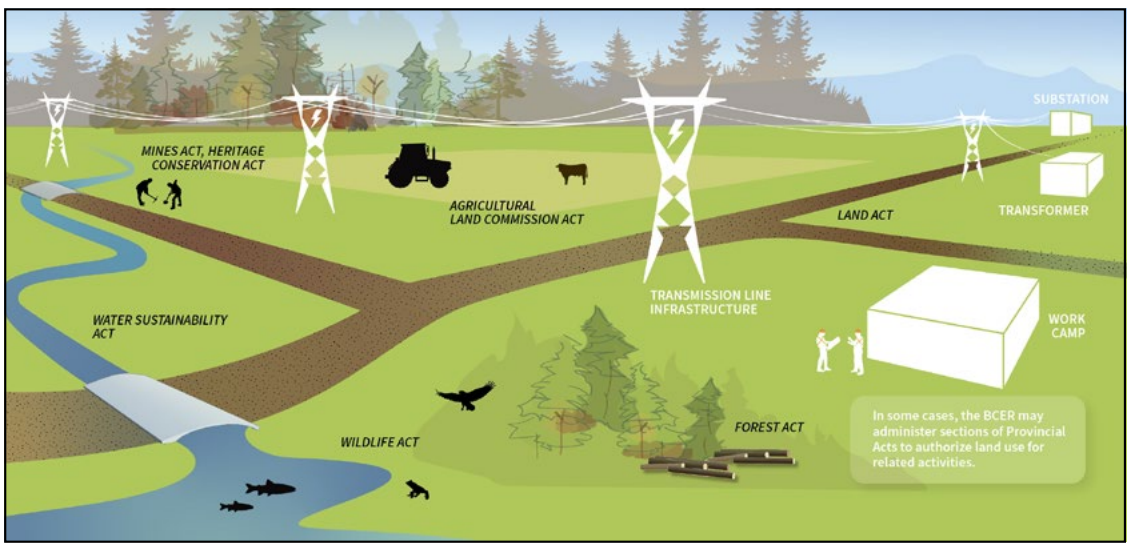
## Who Oversees Transmission Lines?

While [BC Hydro](#) and the [BC Utilities Commission](#) (BCUC) manage and operate the province's transmission line network, we are responsible for the land-based natural resource authorizations associated with some new transmission line projects.



Transmission towers, lines and related infrastructure (i.e. substations and transformers) are not regulated by the BCER.

The [Renewable Energy Projects \(Streamlined Permitting\) Act](#) (REPA) came into effect on July 1, 2025, expanding our authority to carry out work relating to renewable energy projects. We can make permitting decisions on a variety of natural resource matters, such as whether an activity may proceed on Crown land, or if a licence to cut timber may be issued. Other authorities include considering how heritage features, water and wildlife are to be protected should an activity permit be approved.



We may also authorize aggregate mining for construction essentials such as sand, gravel or crushed stone. More information on our new authorities is available on our [Legislative Framework](#) web page under [How We Regulate](#).

Our [Transmission Lines](#) web page houses the above graphic, comparing our intended scope of regulatory authority to transmission lines managed by BC Hydro and the BCUC (shown in white) and related infrastructure.

## What Do We Know About Natural Resources?

BCER staff include professionals in the fields of agrology, biology, forestry, hydrology, engineering, geology and more. This gives us the agility to manage and lead assessments for deciding on natural resource permits related to transmission lines. We can quickly and efficiently coordinate with other agencies and interested parties to ensure decisions are evidence-based and informed by First Nations and rights holders.



With over 25 years' experience in the field, we are well suited to assume new responsibilities under our expanded mandate.

## What Will We Do First?

Our initial focus will be on permitting the [North Coast Transmission Line](#) (NCTL) project, proposed by BC Hydro to run from Prince George to Terrace with the goal of meeting growing electricity demands. For more detailed information, refer to BC Hydro's [North Coast electrification and economic development](#) webpage.

Under the new legislation, the approvals process for transmission lines establishes the BCER as the single-window regulator, eliminating cross-ministry and agency permitting. We will maintain strict environmental and regulatory standards as we work on this and future proposed projects.

## We will also be regulating wind and solar power projects in BC Hydro's [2024 Call For Power](#).

A list of proponents, projects and community locations are available on the BC Hydro website [here](#).



Illustration credit: [BC Hydro](#)

## Where We Are

The BCER has over 300 staff in seven offices across the province including Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Terrace, Dawson Creek, Prince George, Kelowna and Victoria. We provide robust regulatory oversight for the life cycle of projects from site planning to restoration and [Environmental protection](#) and [collaboration with First Nations](#) remain fundamental to every decision we make.



Want to learn more about how we connect with landowners?

[Discover How We Help](#)



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This information is published by the BC Energy Regulator and is available online at [www.bc-er.ca](http://www.bc-er.ca).