

[<<Back](#)



## VIPs celebrate imminent launch of Montana-Alberta Tie Line

Posted: Nov 30, 2009 06:33 PM MST

Updated: Nov 30, 2009 06:35 PM MST



Construction will start next month on a major power line connecting Montana and Alberta, and supporters hope it will also deliver a major boost to the North Central Montana economy.

A gathering was held on Monday in Great Falls at the History Museum to bring together many of the people involved in the Montana-Alberta Tie Line (MATL).

Leonard Mizel, Alberta Legislative Assemblyman, noted, "Today we celebrate another link between Alberta and Montana. A link that literally ties us together."



And Bob Williams, MATL Regulatory Vice President, added, "It's appropriate this ceremony is being held in a museum because in a number of ways this project is historic."

The line will stretch 214 miles from Great Falls to Lethbridge, delivering power from future wind power projects.

Cascade County Commissioner Peggy Beltrone commented, "This line is so important for us on the ground in North Central Montana. It's going to bring economic development. A billion dollars of economic development."



The project will also create jobs and pay lots in taxes in the counties it crosses; agreements are still being worked on with the nearly 400 land owners on both sides. Johan van't Hof, Chief Executive Officer of MATL, voiced his appreciation: "And the land owners are taking on a imposition for our society and we owe them a debt of thanks too."

Transmission lines are important to wind farm development, and Governor Brian Schweitzer hopes that more lines will be built to Montana where he says there is incredible wind potential.



Reporting for KRTV

Schweitzer said, "We are living in the most important energy corridor on the planet. It's in the next twenty years we will develop this area in a way that we will be proud and our grandchildren will be proud of our activity."

And there is already talk of [a second MATL line](#) - meaning that for Montana's wind power, the sky appears to be the limit.

The MATL line is expected to carry enough power for 35,000 homes and developers say it has undergone extensive review on both sides of the border.



All content © Copyright 2004 - 2009, WorldNow, Montana's News Station and Cordillera Communications. All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

[News in Aiken, SC](#), [News in Billings, MT](#), [News in Bozeman, MT](#), [News in Bryan, TX](#), [News in Butte, MT](#), [News in Charleston, SC](#), [News in Colorado Springs, CO](#), [News in Corpus Christi, TX](#), [News in Great Falls, MT](#), [News in Lafayette, LA](#), [News in Lexington, KY](#), [News in Missoula, MT](#), [News in Salisbury, NC](#), [News in San Luis Obispo, CA](#), [News in Tucson, AZ](#)

[Business Reviews in South Carolina](#), [Business Reviews in Kentucky](#), [Business Reviews in Colorado](#)