

Brandon dispatchable capacity

Information sheet

Project overview

Our 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) road map has identified that peak demand for electricity by 2029/2030 will exceed our capacity, and we will need approximately 1760 megawatts (MW) of added capacity by 2035. Included in the recommended development plan is 750 MW of capacity from combustion turbines.

The 2025 IRP road map identified that dispatchable capacity resources will be an essential part of meeting demand in the next decade, especially during Manitoba's coldest winter days. Dispatchable resources can be started, stopped, and adjusted quickly, allowing Manitoba Hydro to respond to rapid changes in system conditions and ensure electricity is available when customers need it most.

To help address this need, Manitoba Hydro is exploring the potential development of additional combustion turbine units at the Brandon generating station. Initially fuelled by natural gas, these turbines would provide a reliable, dispatchable capacity resource that can be developed relatively quickly. Based on current planning modeling and economics, the turbines would be expected to operate infrequently, primarily to meet peak demand and provide backup during droughts, extreme weather, or other system contingencies.

Manitoba Hydro is also seeking turbines with dual-fuel capability or adaptability to alternative fuels, such as hydrogen, to support long-term flexibility. IRP modeling consistently identified combustion turbines as a feasible option but no final decision was made with the recommended development plan.

Purpose

The purpose of the Brandon Dispatchable Capacity project is to generate electricity on demand for Manitoba Hydro's overall system when needed and to increase natural gas reliability and capacity for the southwest Manitoba gas distribution system. As part of the project, Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct two natural gas pipelines in a common right-of-way.

Project scope

The current scope of the Brandon Dispatchable Capacity Project is focused on early-stage planning and evaluation to support Manitoba Hydro's long-term electricity capacity needs. No final decisions have been made to develop this resource option.

The scope currently includes:

- Planning and preliminary design for the potential development of combustion turbine units located on Manitoba Hydro-owned land adjacent to the existing Brandon generating station.
- Electrical Transmission and Distribution equipment upgrades.
- Planning and routing studies for an approximately 30-kilometre underground natural gas corridor that would include:
 - A 24-inch diameter non-odourized natural gas pipeline to deliver fuel from TC Energy's Canadian Mainline to the Brandon generating station site; and
 - A 12-inch diameter odourized natural gas pipeline intended to enhance reliability and capacity of the Brandon and southwest Manitoba gas distribution system.

Contact us for related inquiries



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Combustion turbines

IRP modeling has identified that dispatchable capacity resources will be an important part of meeting demand in the next decade. Combustion turbine dispatchable capacity resources:

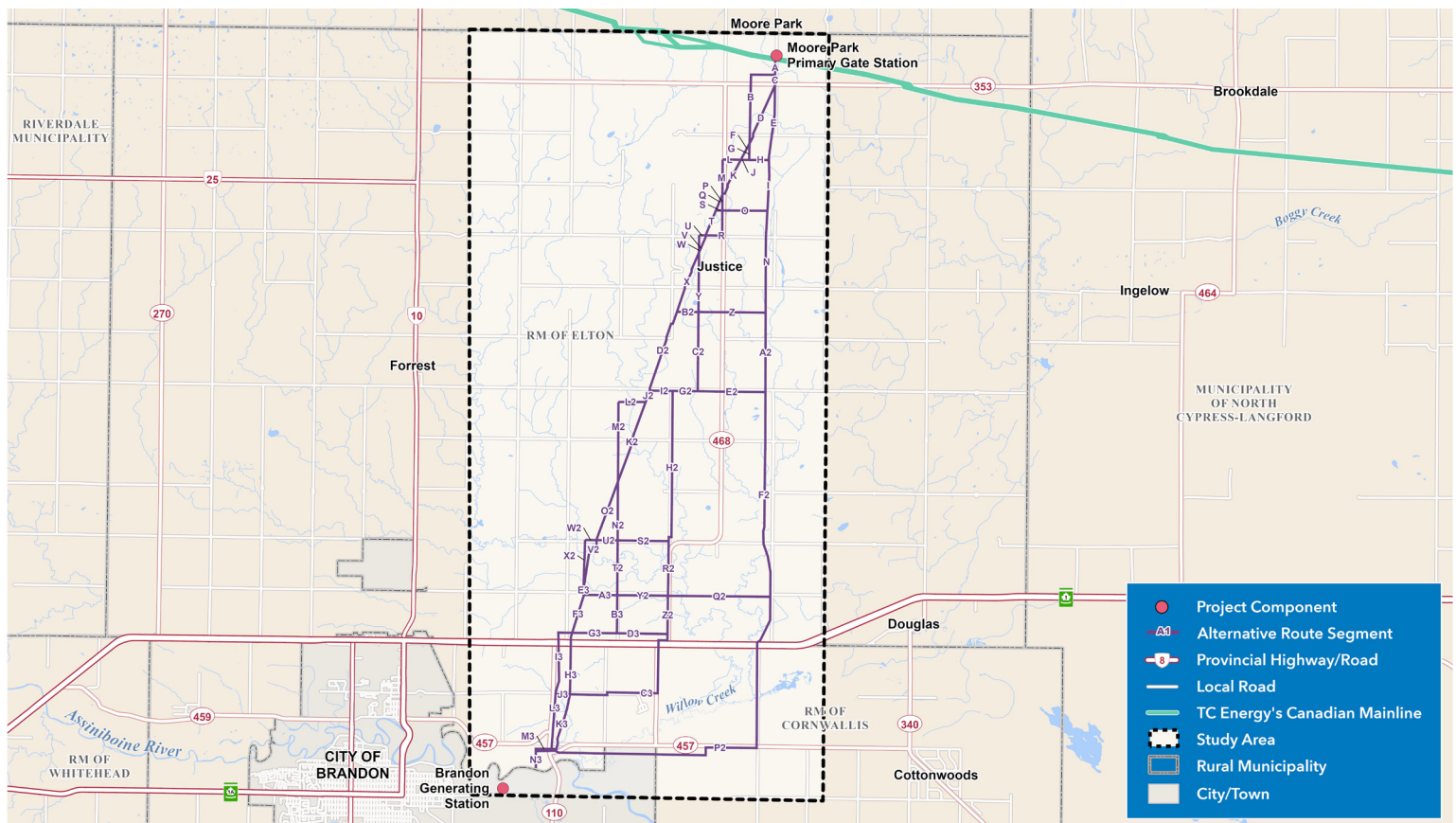
- Are low-cost, dispatchable, and quick to develop.
- Can operate infrequently to meet peak demand or during emergencies.
- Support Manitoba Hydro's goals for a net-zero grid by 2035 and a net-zero economy by 2050.
- Can help backstop intermittent Indigenous majority-owned wind generation projects.

Round 1 engagement

We are planning to select a preferred route that will travel from TC Energy's Canadian Mainline at Moore Park to the Brandon generating station and the Brandon and southwest Manitoba gas distribution system. We have developed alternative route options and are seeking feedback, please see map below.

We are undertaking an engagement process to share project information, address concerns, and gather feedback to assist in determining a preferred route for the project.

Image 1. Map of alternative route options for the Brandon dispatchable capacity project.



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Regulatory requirements

The Brandon Dispatchable Capacity project is subject to a number of approvals including a Major New Facilities Review by the Public Utilities Board, a Notice of Alteration on the existing Environment Act Licence for the Brandon generating station (2497 R), and a new Environment Act Licence for the natural gas pipeline right-of-way. Portions of the project may also be subject to regulatory review under the Federal Impact Assessment Act.

Timeline

Combustion turbine units:

- Engagement: January 2026– June 2026
- File notice of alteration for regulatory review: Summer 2026
- Licensing decision: Late 2027
- Combustion turbine unit construction start, if notice of alteration approved: Early 2028
- Target in-service date: Summer 2030

New natural gas pipeline right-of-way:

- Round 1 engagement: January – March 2026
- Round 2 engagement: May – July 2026
- File environmental assessment report for regulatory review: Fall 2026
- Licensing decision: estimated Spring 2028
- Gas pipelines construction start, if licence approved: Summer 2028
- Target in-service date: Summer 2030

The schedule is tentative and subject to change.

How to participate

Our Round 1 engagement to identify and evaluate alternative route options for the natural gas pipelines is now underway. We encourage you to ask questions, voice your concerns, and share feedback with us to help inform our routing and plans. Check out our current engagement opportunities:

Online survey and feedback portal

Go to www.hydro.mb.ca/community/engagement/brandon-dispatchable-capacity to take the online survey and use the interactive feedback portal to share your feedback about the project. These will both be available on our webpage until **March 31, 2026**.

Open houses

Join us for an in-person (drop-in) open house on:

- Tuesday, February 17 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 - Brandon Legion (560 13 St E, Brandon, MB)
- Saturday, February 28 from 12-2:30 p.m.
 - Riverdale Community Centre - Rivers Curling Club (101 Main St, Rivers, MB)

Virtual information sessions

Join us for a virtual information session on Microsoft Teams on:

- Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 24 at 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 4 at 12:00 p.m.

To register for a virtual session, visit the project webpage at www.hydro.mb.ca/community/engagement/brandon-dispatchable-capacity

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