
ENERGIZE EASTSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SCOPING MEETING COMMENT SECTION

6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12, 2015
Bellevue City Hall
450-110th Avenue Northeast
Bellevue, Washington

BRANDICE L. PIVAR, CCR
NORTHWEST COURT REPORTERS
1415 Second Avenue, Suite 1107
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 623-6136
www.northwestcourtreporters.com

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COMMENT SECTION NO. 1

MS. KAPELA: To David Pyle: Dear David, I have just been speaking to Carol, and she informed me that Joyce Nichols from governmental affairs would be the person for me to speak to. I think the law called "the tariff," which was the law enacted in the 1800s in Olympia, should be looked into by the City of Bellevue. The law is obsolete and should be updated. It's ridiculous to think that a city would get stuck with a bill for putting wires underground, period. That should be a cost of the power company, period.

The electrical wires are all underground in Arizona; they're underground in Europe. And this is ridiculous for this Australian company, PSE, to expect the City of Bellevue to pay for that cost.

So let's start the legal department of Bellevue looking into modifying, updating that 1800 law called the tariff, period.

Sincerely, Betty Lou Kapela.

MS. JUDKINS: I'm the current Somerset Community Association president, 4324-136th Place Southeast, Bellevue 98006.

I live on the Puget Sound Energy and Olympic Pipeline easement in Somerset off of Southeast 44th. This is a dead-end street; it's the only access to my driveway. The current power lines and poles run down this -- on each side

1 of this easement, they have to be, like, 15 feet from the
2 Olympic Pipeline, which is underneath the easement. So my
3 main concern, or one of my main concerns is that if this
4 line is chosen, the J-line, and they are putting in these
5 135-foot towers -- and I've seen pictures of the process,
6 and they're immense -- how long will I not have access to my
7 driveway to my home while this project is going on? It
8 makes me very unhappy to think that, basically, I'd have to
9 go stay in a hotel, I guess, because I wouldn't be -- I have
10 two dogs. I wouldn't be able to drive in and out to my
11 home.

12 My other concern is there's a lot of underground
13 streams in Somerset. And my concern is the soil's stability
14 for putting in things on this line. After they replaced the
15 poles in my yard about 6 years ago, the disruption to the
16 soil and everything, a couple weeks later, huge arborvitae
17 that were next to these poles toppled over onto my driveway.

18 And those are my main concerns. And I'm the Somerset
19 Community Association president. We have 1,500 homes there,
20 and everybody in the community is totally against the
21 Energize Eastside project.

22

23 COMMENT SECTION NO. 2

24 MS. KAPELA: My name is Betty Lou Kapela. Do
25 you want my address?

1 MS. WAGONER: Your address, please.

2 MS. KAPELA: 5652-132nd Avenue Northeast
3 Bellevue, 98005.

4 To try and sum this up in a nutshell, I think most of
5 the people here today really don't care about the
6 statistics, all these charts out here; we're not in the
7 energy business. I'm sure they have needs and don't needs.
8 I've heard they were shipping energy from the Columbia River
9 to Canada. This is a for-profit company; it's owned by an
10 Australian man, not an American.

11 I think what we're here today is -- this is a high-end
12 residential community. We do not want intercontinental
13 power lines running crisscross through our city. It's bad
14 enough with the old power line that we do have.

15 Back in the 1800s, a law was passed called "the
16 tariff." I request that the City of Bellevue direct their
17 legal department to analyze the situation. I've requested
18 it before; I never got a phone call back. But I'm
19 publically asking that the legal department look into the
20 tariff law and see about changing and updating that law. It
21 was done in the 1800s. It means that any city that wants
22 upgrading to have to do it at their own expense.

23 I want all power lines put underground in a safe
24 manner. Maybe not next to a gas line; maybe on another
25 power line in Bellevue. But in a safe area.

1 So it's the tariff. And there is a woman in a
2 department here. What's her name, Carol? What was the
3 woman's name that we should call?

4 MS. HELLAND: I will get your comments on to
5 the legislature.

6 MS. KAPELA: Okay. So she's in development.
7 This is not the right department, the land department; it's
8 in development. And I put it in my cell phone. I don't
9 know if I can find it right now.

10 Carol, what is the woman's name that you told me to
11 talk to?

12 MS. HELLAND: Betty Lou, we'll forward your
13 comments to the legislature.

14 MS. KAPELA: But I want everybody here in this
15 room to know the name because they can call the woman too.
16 It's the department of development.

17 MS. HELLAND: We are the Department of
18 Development Services; the person you are talking about is
19 Intergovernmental Affairs, that's Joyce Nichols.

20 MS. KAPELA: Joyce Nichols, that's the woman's
21 name that people in this room should call, Joyce Nichols,
22 because she would be the one to go to Olympia and talk about
23 the land, the tariff law done in the 1800s, needs to be
24 updated. The City of Bellevue should not have to pay for
25 undergrounding, any extra expenses.

1 So I hope everybody can write that name down and call
2 that department.

3 MS. WAGONER: Thank for your comments. And our
4 next speaker.

5 MR. HALVERSON: My name is Warren Halverson,
6 and I live at 13701 Northeast 32nd Place in Bridle Trails.
7 I could put this shirt on, but I'm speaking on behalf of
8 myself and other people in Bridle Trails. I've lived there
9 for 40 years, and the major reason I live in Bridle Trails
10 is the environment.

11 I've prepared a statement here, and I'd like to make
12 it. And I apologize for reading it, but maybe it will go
13 quicker and everybody else will have some more time.

14 This is probably no surprise to anyone that the reason
15 we live there is the environment. In fact, the City of
16 Bellevue held their semi-annual neighborhood leadership
17 gathering in October. Thank you.

18 And I thought Mike Humpelman (phonetic) was out here.
19 At that meeting, there were roughly a hundred-plus leaders,
20 and they felt the number one factor in defining neighborhood
21 character was natural environment: trees, open space,
22 natural beauty, views. Sound familiar?

23 In summary, answers to what is important to preserve
24 and protect? The answer: Environment. Second only to
25 safety. But I believe one of the most interesting questions

1 was this: What do you see is the greatest threat to your
2 neighborhood character? By far, the greatest answer was
3 Energize Eastside. Four times greater than even Sound
4 Transit.

5 I would like to submit, and I will, this document from
6 the leadership conference, a hundred leaders who spoke. So
7 what is the impact of eastside on Bridle Trails -- Energize
8 Eastside on Bridle Trails? The loss of several thousand
9 trees, visual blight by 130 metallic poles -- 130-foot
10 metallic poles buried in 30 feet of concrete with 5 inches
11 of line, heavy lines dangling from them. Dangerous
12 installation and safety concerns forever being built on top
13 of two major pipelines. Nowhere in the United States do I
14 think you're going to find that.

15 The immense noise impacts on plants, animals, birds, at
16 a cost of \$204 million, and a reduction in property values
17 of 10 to 30 percent.

18 In all likelihood, Energize Eastside will be the most
19 destructive project that Bellevue and our neighborhoods will
20 ever encounter. It will affect neighborhood character, not
21 just for property owners directly, but for all of us, from
22 miles and miles away. Here are those poles. You can see
23 them up on 152nd for miles. They go way over the tree
24 level. I'll submit that too.

25 This can't be mitigated. The Energize Eastside project

1 as configured is unnecessary and will bring 130-foot poles
2 of industrial 230kV lines through our neighborhood forever.
3 There are better and less costly and more environmentally
4 friendly alternatives. The City recognizes this fact, and
5 even the most recent U.S.E. independent study with its many,
6 many failures recognizes better alternatives exist.

7 This is Bellevue, an environmentally friendly and a
8 futuristically-oriented city. No to PSE's current Energize
9 Eastside project.

10 MR. JOHNSON: Am I next? I'm Larry Johnson. I
11 live at the 8505-129th Avenue Southeast in Newcastle. I'm
12 here because Bellevue is the lead agency. You obviously
13 have a tremendous amount of influence on what's going to
14 happen, and you'll see me again on May 28th in Newcastle. A
15 lot of Newcastlers are here. I want to talk about process
16 first.

17 I don't understand why you'd put a piece of the
18 Internal Revenue code as a criterion of 5 minutes. I
19 request 5 minutes. I'm the president of a nonprofit
20 Washington organization, as Steve O'Donnell is for CENSE,
21 which is also not a 501(c)(3), a 501(c)(4), that's what we
22 are. So I ask right now: Can I have 5 minutes? Because I
23 don't meet the Internal Revenue code requirement, but I am a
24 nonprofit. I'm the president of Citizens for Sane Eastside
25 Energy, and we're 67 people. A lot of them here.

1 MS. WAGONER: We will give you that.

2 MR. JOHNSON: We're there? This is great.
3 We've already got a victory, folks. Bellevue's never given
4 us that. Actually, once, but Ms. -- the mayor says, "I
5 don't recognize you. I don't know who you are." I guess
6 that was the criterion, but she gave me 5 minutes.

7 I want to talk about two things, but on the record --
8 and you'll be hearing a lot from me. I'm going to do a big
9 data dump in the database you got. I'm assuming you have a
10 database for this, right? I mean, this is all going to a
11 database. Does it matter if a lot of people check the same
12 box, or are you going to use the criterion of 50 or more
13 people do it, we'll look at that seriously; if it's ten
14 people, nah? What are you going to do if just one or two
15 people say, "Well, will you look at this?" Are you going to
16 look at everything the same? You can answer me.

17 MS. WAGONER: We're not doing a Q and A.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, we don't get to do that?

19 MS. WAGONER: Comments are great.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Well, in an ideal world,
21 I'd like people to answer questions when they're here to
22 answer them.

23 MS. WAGONER: Just the comments, please.

24 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. If you can't play that
25 game. Why is it every time we get 3 or 5 minutes, and I bet

1 you guys have had many meetings with PSE that have lasted
2 hours? Same with the City of Bellevue. They have lunches;
3 they have weekly meetings, where Ms. Helen is there, and
4 they call it the "core group." They're all in this
5 together, right across the street.

6 Okay. Well, since my time is limited, count me in as a
7 yes for no: Alternative 4. Doing nothing is better than
8 doing anything that is as insane as this project. And on
9 this piece of paper you handed out, on the last page it says
10 preliminary list of elements in the environment. Surface
11 water, land and shoreline use, blah, blah, blah. Nothing
12 here about people. There's nothing here about safety.
13 Isn't safety part of the environment? How about exploding
14 pipelines? How about killing people for a project that's
15 not needed?

16 This pipeline that goes through our neighborhoods had
17 an explosion in 1999 in Bellevue that killed three kids and
18 destroyed dozens of homes. And I don't see safety here,
19 unless we're under plants and animals. You know, I guess
20 we're animals.

21 So consider that. The Olympic Pipeline people came to
22 Newcastle, talked about their preference for not seeing this
23 go through the so-called willow and oak thing that's now
24 there. They said, "We would prefer it in lines that are no
25 longer being considered along L and elsewhere, K, whatever

1 it is. The key thing is this shouldn't go in anybody's
2 neighborhood. But, you know, PSE has this company under
3 control, the Olympic Pipeline company, because when they
4 came to speak, Kim West who is the project director for this
5 pipeline was saying, "We don't want it," in a letter to one
6 of the CHG people. When she was there, there was a big vice
7 president boss standing next to her; he did all the talking
8 and made sure she shut up.

9 So I want an independent assessment of the real dangers
10 of the pipeline. Not by PSE, not by the Olympic Pipeline
11 people, but people like you or people who know about
12 pipeline safety. I don't know if you have that
13 qualification or not. Thank you.

14 MS. WAGONER: Thank for your comments. Our
15 next speaker.

16 MS. MEYER: Good evening. My name is Marlene
17 Meyer, address is 2408-131st Place Northeast, which is near
18 the Bridle Trails area, basically, part of the Bridle Trails
19 area.

20 I will keep it succinct in just saying that I am in
21 agreement with the last three speakers. I feel that they
22 brought up some important points that really need to be
23 taken seriously into account. But I'm going to bring it
24 back up just a moment.

25 To take a look at the history of this area, the whole

1 Puget Sound area, and what we have done in allowing
2 ourselves to be swayed in certain ways towards corporate
3 directions for economic and monetary reasons. And I believe
4 this is starting in that direction, where we are starting,
5 if you will, with an analogy, I might say.

6 If we were to take a look at ghostbusting, we're
7 looking at ghosts that possibly exist that we really don't
8 know for sure based on the report, that I think we have
9 found other parts to show there may not be this real issue
10 that we're trying to resolve. And so if we start looking
11 for ghosts that may not be there, then why even be bothered
12 with what alternatives or what method we're going to find
13 these ghosts?

14 So I'd like us all to step back a little bit and say,
15 "Do we really have this issue, or are we only looking to
16 promote economics? Do we need this right now in the
17 Bellevue area? Can we stop?" And that's my vote. Let's
18 stop a minute and back up and say, "Where did this start
19 from, and is this really the direction that we need to be
20 going in?"

21 And then I add the safety part from a personal
22 standpoint. In my neighborhood with the school systems, the
23 high wires, all of that has not yet been proven to be on the
24 safety side in research that has been shown up, you know, on
25 computer systems in other areas I've looked into. So my

1 vote is let's take a breath here. Let's not feel hurried.
2 Let's stop and really assess where we're going on this
3 situation. Thank you so much.

4 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

5 MR. ADCOCH: James Adcoch, electrical engineer,
6 5005-155th Place Southeast, Bellevue, Washington 98006.
7 Thank you for letting me speak tonight. Something that PSE
8 in its prior meetings has consistently prevented me from
9 doing.

10 I ask that all documents used by the City from PSE in
11 the EIS process be made fully public on an equal basis to
12 all sides, including interested citizens and residents of
13 the area. The website already lists several documents which
14 are only being made available on a partial basis, retaining
15 significant sections as secret, a/k/a redacted.

16 Similarly, the City's consultants claim that the
17 documents they referenced are available to the public, but I
18 have attempted to obtain these documents as an electrical
19 engineer; for example, from ColumbiaGrid. And ColumbiaGrid
20 has not been responsive. Thus, in practice, these documents
21 are not being made available on an equal basis to all
22 interested parties. Rather, they are being kept secret from
23 us citizens.

24 I believe that an EIS is required to be a public
25 teaching. Documents used in an EIS must be made fully

1 public. Anything else is grossly unfair and inappropriate.

2 In addition, the EIS should actively identify any
3 living residents within 100 feet of the cervical shadow of
4 the proposed transmission lines. The original TetraTech
5 analysis simply assumed that there were no homes within
6 100 feet, and if there were homes within 100 feet, PSE and
7 TetraTech simply modified the GPS locations of any such home
8 in their TetraTech analysis software to pretend that they
9 were at a distance of 100 feet. We need to actually know
10 about any homes within 100 feet as part of the EIS.

11 Destruction of scenic views. PSE continues to
12 trivialize the destruction of scenic views, calling this not
13 even an EIS issue, but rather, simply an issue of
14 aesthetics. I disagree. Destruction of scenic views is a
15 well-known environmental impact issue for utilities,
16 including PSE, who have to deal with the issue of reasonable
17 haze, for example, which destroys scenic views.

18 I suggest that the EIS must use a truly independent
19 expert in order to quantify the economic loss due to the
20 scenic-view destruction. King County Assessor assigns lower
21 property values to homes with obstructed views compared to
22 homes with unobstructed views.

23 PSE could have accessed these assessor records, but PSE
24 refused to do so. Homeowners collectively stand to lose
25 tens of millions of dollars because of the needless

1 destruction of scenic views by this project. I'm going to
2 skip ahead.

3 Reading the existing literature lists many innovative
4 ways/techniques to increase the look about the existing
5 120-volt kV lines without going to gigantic 130-foot tall
6 230-volt kV lines. Getting up to 120, 250 percent increase
7 using existing low-volt technology by using such techniques
8 as upconductoring, installing high-temperature conductors,
9 software modeling of weather conditions to control the
10 lines, installing gauge dynamics that measure line behavior,
11 et cetera.

12 There's technical options. I'm out of time. I will
13 not --

14 MS. WAGONER: Do you want to leave us with your
15 written comments?

16 MR. ADCOCH: This is simply a project of
17 opportunity that Puget Sound Energy is making a profit on.
18 That's the only reason they're doing it.

19 MS. WAGONER: Thank for your comments.

20 So the next batch.

21 MS. BRADFIELD: All right. Up next we have
22 Bruce Williams, Peter Saunders, James Sweet, Kathleen
23 Sherman, and Suzanne Mekson.

24 MS. WAGONER: We'll listen for the absolute
25 correct pronunciation when you come forward.

1 Thank you, Casey.

2 So our first speaker: Bruce Williams.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Bruce Williams,
4 8564-129th Avenue Southeast, that is in Newcastle in the
5 Olympus neighborhood, 98056.

6 I thank you for kind of setting the tone, but you made
7 a mistake a bit ago when you were speaking. 8,000 trees is
8 not theoretical; it's real. It's not just that sight lines
9 are going to be messed up; it's that the mental health of
10 the people are going to be screwed up not being able to look
11 at them.

12 Just some time ago, I was sitting in our kitchen having
13 breakfast, and that's about 10 feet from the easement that
14 PSE is going to use on this project. And I was looking out
15 the window. I was looking across the way at some
16 magnificent old fir trees, and they stand on just the other
17 side of this right-of-way. And I noticed a large bird -- it
18 was some species of raptor -- that was perched on the very
19 top of one of those large firs.

20 That tree is one of those 8,000 that we're talking
21 about tonight. And that tree is one of the trees that PSE
22 intends to butcher for the sake of profit. Where will that
23 bird sit to hunt when that tree's destroyed by PSE? I've
24 not seen any wildlife of any kind choose to live on the
25 transmission poles that are there.

1 That bird and all the other species that live in and
2 hunt from those fir trees, where will they live? Where will
3 my granddaughter and yours have to go to see -- they'll have
4 to go to a zoo to see a hawk or an eagle if we don't stop
5 this thing from happening.

6 The person that wrote these lines, was she a song
7 writer or a prophet: They took all the trees and they put
8 them in a tree museum and they charged the people a dollar
9 and a half just to see 'em?

10 You live here and you can make a difference. This has
11 got to stop. It's up to you right now, or you can pave
12 paradise and put in a parking lot.

13 MS. WAGONER: Thank for your comment.

14 Peter?

15 MR. SAUNDERS: My name is Peter Saunders. I
16 reside at 14001 Southeast 45th Court on the west slope of
17 Somerset and just east of the PSE's 150 -- or 115, rather,
18 kV Somerset easement. And before I get to my subject, I'd
19 like to suggest that the preliminary list of elements of the
20 environment include, as the other people said, view and
21 public safety.

22 What I'd like to talk about today -- because I will be
23 one of those people seeing the poles and the wires.
24 Hopefully through Somerset, there'll be single poles, but
25 most of this 18 miles is going to end up as ugly pylons just

1 like down in Factoria.

2 What I want to suggest is that we don't -- we enhance
3 or we will continue to enhance the five cities and beautify
4 them. And this project of putting a 230kV line through the
5 middle of these five cities is just terrible in the 21st
6 century.

7 Electricity is essential. And I got a feeling that
8 this 230kV line will go through; it's going to be needed
9 50 years from now. I remember 60 years ago when 405 was
10 designed and went in, and they put the speed limit at 70
11 because hardly anybody used it. Today it's
12 bumper-to-bumper. And we can thank those people for
13 thinking forward. So I hope you will think forward.

14 Is there an alternative to this line aboveground?
15 Undergrounding isn't feasible, whether we like it or not,
16 except in the center of cities, where it could be afforded.
17 And not only that, the cable life is not very long because
18 of the heat problem. It's much less length of life than the
19 cables. So from PSE's standpoint, it's obviously the
20 cables.

21 Is there an alternative? There is. For us on this
22 18-mile stretch, we're lucky enough to have an alternative
23 right on our doorstep. It's been brought up several times
24 with PSE, and they just brush past it. I want you guys to
25 really look at it. And that is Lake Washington.

1 The technology to put cables underwater is good because
2 there is built-in cooling, number one. The water in that
3 lake is very friendly; its level stays pretty constant. No
4 tides; absolutely no currents, hardly; no freighters with
5 big anchors; no salt water. Laying of cables there is a
6 really practical way to go.

7 MS. WAGONER: All right, sir. Your time is up.
8 Do you have written comments you would care to leave with
9 us?

10 MR. SAUNDERS: I will turn them in, yes.

11 MS. WAGONER: All right. Excellent. Thank you
12 very much.

13 So our next speaker: Kathleen.

14 MS. SHERMAN: Hello. My name is Kathleen
15 Sherman, and I live at --

16 MS. WAGONER: If you could speak into the mic,
17 please. Thank you.

18 MS. SHERMAN: My name is Kathleen Sherman, and
19 my first comment is about this PowerPoint, which was very
20 helpful on how to send an online comment, but I can't tell
21 if it goes to the City of Bellevue or Energize Eastside, if
22 it's the power company or both.

23 MS. WAGONER: It goes to the City of Bellevue
24 and the consultant team. It does not go to PSE.

25 MS. SHERMAN: Okay. Because you have the logo

1 for one side of this issue but no one else, and that looks
2 kind of biased.

3 MS. HELLAND: I can just respond to that very
4 quickly, if I had my microphone on.

5 We actually have a responsibility to maintain public
6 records. So we created that email site, the website, so
7 that it would be easily identifiable and people could find
8 it and they could comment on it, and we would be keeping
9 everyone's comments collected in one location so we could be
10 very transparent and we can hand those records over.

11 With respect to the branding, we also want to let
12 people know that we're doing something different than our
13 typical project that would just require a permit, and that
14 we're doing an EIS to draw attention to it. So this is,
15 essentially, a branding for all five cities to be
16 collaborating on this issue. So we hope it will help people
17 see the signs and create visibility so that we get
18 commenters like you.

19 MS. SHERMAN: Well, it kind of brands the City
20 with the power company too; it may be unintentional.

21 And my other comment is, I was told that this issue, or
22 this meeting was -- or whatever study was done did not
23 involve property values or things like that. And I think
24 the property owners have just -- have the right to maintain
25 the value of their property as the energy company does to

1 make a profit.

2 And it also, by excluding that issue, it makes the City
3 of Bellevue look like it's not interested in at least
4 residential property values, which I don't think is a good
5 idea. That's my comment.

6 MS. WAGONER: Very good. Thank you.

7 And next: Suzanne Mekson.

8 MS. MEKSON: Hi. My name is Suzanne Mekson,
9 and I live at 13800 Northeast 40th Street. And I am happy
10 to say that I have lived in the Bridle Trails area of
11 Bellevue nearly all of my life. And I'm going to make this
12 a little bit personal.

13 I absolutely love this area of Bellevue. It's unique
14 in that it's rural, kind of a horsey area with walking
15 trails and parks. I have a horse named Addy (phonetic), a
16 yellow Lab named Bo; I have two little kids. We hike, we
17 play, we use the trails in the outdoors all the time. But,
18 yet, it's minutes from shopping centers and office
19 complexes.

20 I also have more than a full-time job, and I'm 10
21 minutes from the office. So like many of my neighbors, I
22 simply don't have enough time to do all the things I want to
23 do. But as I watched what's unfolding and happening with
24 the Energize Eastside debate, I felt compelled to come down
25 and kind of share my thoughts today.

1 So professionally, I work in the network of planning
2 and engineering organization of a major international
3 network provider, and I lead a team of about a hundred
4 engineers whose sole purpose is to introduce and implement
5 new technology -- so architecture and design -- into our
6 network. And relevant to the Energize Eastside debate is,
7 as you can imagine, we have found that it's not economically
8 viable to build whole new infrastructures and networks to
9 meet forecast demands and reliability; it's just simply not
10 affordable.

11 However, and I saw it in your presentation, there are
12 alternative solutions to rip and replace and overbuild.
13 There are solutions that are less invasive, less costly, and
14 quite frankly, more effective. And I know this because I
15 work directly with researchers and vendors and people in the
16 network. And we do this every day, right? Capacity
17 planning, forecasting, looking at triggers and exhaust,
18 looking at assumptions and validating data. And looking for
19 opportunities to be creative as we go about meeting the
20 demands of our customers.

21 Technology advancements are occurring at such a rapid
22 pace, it's really an exciting time. The ideas, the
23 opportunities, it's absolutely mind-boggling. And I know
24 that this can happen in the electrical industry. I saw a TV
25 show, KIRO, headline just a couple of weeks ago titled,

1 "Self-healing power lines could shorten outages." And it
2 was about the introduction of new technology by Seattle City
3 Light that realtime detects outages. So it isolates the
4 circuit, and then instantaneously reroutes the traffic when
5 there's an outage, which I thought was pretty cool and very
6 innovative.

7 So I guess, in my 3 minutes or less, what I want you to
8 take away is that these ideas and my logic about innovation
9 is not really futuristic; they're here today. These ideas
10 can be implemented into current networks and provide growth
11 and reliability, and I would simply ask that you have your
12 staff or an unbiased consultant please look into these and
13 other viable solutions as you move forward in your EIS
14 process, and certainly before you approve millions in
15 expense to ratepayers and devastating irreparable damage to
16 our neighborhoods.

17 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. And I believe I
18 missed -- are you Mr. Sweet, James Sweet? Yes, my
19 apologies. Yours was stuck under one of the others.

20 MR. SWEET: Does this move? Can I pull this
21 around? It's makes me nervous having my back to the
22 audience. I can't duck if they throw something at me.

23 MS. WAGONER: I would really like you to keep
24 it forward and talk to our SEPA officials and those
25 involved. Thank you.

1 MR. SWEET: My name is Jim Sweet, and I'm a
2 retired engineer. I live at 4400-139th Avenue Southeast,
3 and I've lived in and around south Bellevue on and off since
4 1960. And this is a shortened -- abbreviated version of a
5 research paper that I'm going to be submitting to the EIS
6 team in the next couple of weeks. I've been doing about
7 6 months of research on it.

8 And the bottom line of all this is both of these power
9 line routes share a common flaw; it's a geophysical flaw.
10 And I'm glad to see other alternatives up here that you're
11 going to be looking at because this is screaming for an
12 alternative to a power line route.

13 And the basic problem is both of these routes follow
14 the Olympic gasoline pipeline where it crosses the Seattle
15 Fault. And that's bad news, folks. The Seattle Fault is
16 bad news; we should all learn more about it. If you're ever
17 driving on I-90 in Bellevue, you're basically on top of the
18 Seattle Fault. And the problem, one of the biggest issues
19 with the Seattle Fault is, that unlike most of the other
20 earthquake faults we have in this area, is the Seattle Fault
21 is very near the surface. And what that means is when it
22 cuts loose, which it does about every thousand years -- and
23 it's been 1,100 years since the last one -- when it cuts
24 loose, you often have surface fault. And specifically what
25 happens is the south side of the fault rises relative to the

1 north side of the fault, that's why we have Somerset, Cougar
2 Mountain.

3 So when it cuts loose, when that happens, what you get
4 is often what's called an earthquake scarf, an instant cliff
5 that's 10-feet high, 20-feet high. And examples of all
6 these scarfs can be found all the way along the fault line.

7 So the problem is that we've got these Olympic gasoline
8 pipelines which moves 13 million gallons of gasoline a day
9 at a thousand psi. Pipelines don't like earthquake faults;
10 they tend to break. There's examples from all over the
11 world of earthquakes that have happened, surface faults that
12 have broken pipelines.

13 And so with all that gasoline -- and there's going to
14 be a big leak. And we know it happened in Bellingham in
15 1999: big fire, 200-foot flames, 2,000 degrees.

16 So both of these routes, the amazing thing about both
17 of these routes is that they both follow the pipeline. The
18 pipeline was first installed in 1965. The first phase went
19 over Somerset, Eastgate. The second phase went in in 1973.
20 For some reason they didn't use that first route; they went
21 around it. They must have found something wrong with the
22 Somerset-Eastgate route because instead, they went through
23 Factoria. Well, both of the proposed power line routes
24 follow the pipeline, these two pipelines. So they're both
25 subject to the Seattle Fault.

1 So what's going to happen when you have 200-foot flames
2 underneath a power line? Well, the Bonneville Power
3 authority is very specific about saying you don't want to
4 have big fires underneath power lines because what can
5 happen -- numerous things can happen, and they're all bad.
6 Probably the worst one in my mind is what's called
7 "flashover."

8 Flashover is where the power in the power line can
9 follow the smoke and use this smoke and the flames as a
10 conductor and fault into the ground. So think about this
11 power line. It's going to be able to move as much power as
12 the city of Seattle uses. What's going to happen when we
13 have a 230,000-volt spike that faults into a metal pipeline
14 that's 300 miles long that's full of gasoline? Let me say
15 that again: 300 miles long, full of gasoline gets a
16 230,000-volt spike from a power line. I don't want to be
17 anywhere near it.

18 Folks, either find a different route or find a
19 different approach. These are bad routes. That's all I
20 have to say.

21 MS. WAGONER: All right. Our next speakers.

22 MS. BRADFIELD: All right. We have Mike Abel,
23 Wolfgang Sixl, Brian Elworth, Steve O'Donnell, Sue Stronk.

24 MS. WAGONER: All right. If you'd come up,
25 please. So Mike Abel, first.

1 MR. ABEL: Thank you.

2 I don't want to, in any way, minimize what Jim just
3 said. I'm going to speak, basically, about similar things.
4 Let me get a little closer here.

5 MS. WAGONER: Yes, if you could tilt the mic.

6 MR. ABEL: Is that better?

7 My name is Mike Abel. I live 4401-138th Avenue
8 Southeast in Bellevue. I'm an engineer who has resided n
9 the Eastside for over 30 years. I'm a past member of the
10 Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. I've had
11 frequent involvement with the U.S. National Science
12 Foundation-funded network for earthquake engineering
13 simulation. And in my work, I frequently communicate with
14 key members of the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research
15 Center at UC Berkeley and the John Blume Earthquake Center
16 at Stanford.

17 In my discussions with researchers at both Berkeley and
18 Stanford, two key points have emerged. What Jim says is
19 absolutely correct. A seismic event combined with the
20 colocation of the Olympic Pipeline route and PSE's new 230
21 kilovolt power line would have catastrophic effects with
22 significant loss to both life and property.

23 Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, these Berkeley
24 and Stanford researchers went on to advise me that a more
25 likely scenario would be damage to the pipeline causing

1 similar loss of life and property due to the construction
2 activity associated with the installation of the new
3 230-kilovolt power line. As a result, I have spent several
4 weeks studying the materials available from the U.S. Federal
5 Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Material
6 Safety Administration.

7 I will be submitting a more complete report of my
8 findings, including references on the EIS comment page;
9 however, I'd like to take a moment to share a few key bullet
10 points resulting from my research.

11 Number one, as Jim says, the existing Olympic Pipeline
12 consists of two parallel pipes: a 16-inch pipe with an age
13 of 50 years, and a 20-inch pipe with an age of 42 years.

14 U.S. DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety
15 Administration lists 2,700 pipeline incidents having
16 occurred in the 20-year period from 1990 to 2009, with
17 approximately 3 percent of those incidents, or approximately
18 81, that were considered to be serious, where serious is
19 defined as involving fatality and/or injuries requiring
20 hospitalization.

21 For all pipeline incidents, for the 2,700, the
22 predominant failure caused for flammable liquid pipelines
23 are corrosion, material-weld failures, both related to aging
24 pipelines, and excavation damage. For incidents classified
25 as serious, those causing death or hospitalization, the

1 leading cause was excavation damage.

2 PSE is proposing to construct along 18 miles of Olympic
3 Pipeline route, assuming that they stay the course of
4 800-foot intervals, would result in at least 120 excavations
5 adjacent to a gas pipeline. The potential for damage is
6 very high.

7 Olympic Pipeline has not been involved in PSE citizens'
8 advisory group process. Olympic only published comments
9 resultant from an Olympic Pipeline representative's
10 attendance at an Olympus Homeowners' Association meeting.
11 At that time, Olympic expressed preference for routes that
12 did not share their easement, citing safety, impact to
13 landowners, future maintenance, and customer impacts as
14 reasons.

15 In conclusion, I would urge the City of Bellevue to
16 include as part of the EIS, a complete and thorough analysis
17 of the risks associated with the construction of the
18 Energize Eastside along the existing Olympic Pipeline route.
19 This analysis should include, but not be limited to, a
20 complete examination of Olympic Pipeline's past safety
21 records and compliances with previously mandated safety
22 processes, procedures, and reporting requirements.

23 Additionally, I feel it would be important for the
24 Olympic Pipeline to be required to be an active participant
25 in the process to demonstrate transparency by disclosing and

1 all communications they may have had with PSE regarding this
2 project to date. Thank you.

3 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. No clapping, please.
4 This is great.

5 Wolfgang Sixl. Thank you.

6 MR. SIXL: My name is Wolfgang Sixl. I live in
7 Bellevue. I have three points to make.

8 Point No. 1: I want to express my gratitude to CENSE
9 and CSEE because their great work of the volunteers and the
10 expert and their dedication, they truly get behind the
11 Energize Eastside to understand the agendas written and
12 everything around. Together with actually the chart that
13 has been up again today, where you -- they show forecasted
14 just as kind of today's back data, which is typically
15 something where I smell that something is being maybe a
16 setup on the back of the people, citizens. That actually
17 made me engage into looking closer into those things and
18 being very close to the process. So thanks, again, to that
19 great work. And that's, I think, also kind of the rally cry
20 that you're seeing so many here because it resonates so
21 much.

22 My second point is the opposite of that; it's actually
23 the disappointment. I want to express my disappointment on
24 the leadership and the diligence of the City of Bellevue on
25 the Council side, as well as on the staff side. By having

1 so many great inputs and so many great questions -- which I
2 do not know if the things are right and wrong, but they seem
3 so credible the impurities, that the staff and the City of
4 Bellevue takes it up and puts that into the process.

5 And another speaker referred to how things are done in
6 business. I think the best practice that would've been done
7 was to pressure-test the assumption from PSE to play the
8 devil's advocate in a positive way to make sure if it's
9 approved, that it's approved because it's the right thing.
10 Also, maybe they identify better things. And I'm not seeing
11 that.

12 I'm rather shocked that what we just learned from the
13 disclosure of the records that the preference is to rather
14 have the weekly meals with PSE instead of dedicating the
15 time and putting that in the process.

16 So my expectation is actually a new step up of the
17 leadership of the Bellevue part of that in making sure that
18 the process with the consultants is running the right way,
19 the right questions are asked, have the diligence kind of
20 versus the benefits of the people of Bellevue in mind.

21 And so my last thing is actually -- and this is what
22 I'm reading here from my legal advice, so to say, is that I
23 support all the comments that are made here tonight,
24 especially comments on the neighborhoods' character, on the
25 8,000 trees, on the destruction of the wildlife habitat, on

1 the pipeline safety, the earthquake fault zone.

2 And also, maybe let me do another comment on the
3 property value. So I'm not putting that on the context of
4 the personal property value, but there's one thing that I
5 also learned, is that there's property tax. And the
6 property tax is an amount which is set at a certain rate,
7 and so if the property values of some property decrease to
8 make the total property tax, the property tax rate needs to
9 increase for everybody.

10 So this is not a property tax topic for individuals;
11 this is a property tax topic for all citizens of Bellevue
12 because they have to pay, then, a higher rate to make up
13 that. So's the comment that -- the transparency I want to
14 provide here.

15 So, again, I support all comments made here tonight,
16 and want my name attached to them and to the record so if
17 need be, I will have standing to sue in court about the EIS
18 sufficiency of scope. Thank you very much.

19 MS. WAGONER: Brian Elworth, please.

20 MR. ELWORTH: For the record, I'm putting eight
21 pennies on a stack on the table here. Do you all see that?
22 I thought about that. I just put a stack of eight pennies
23 on the table, for the record. I just want to point that
24 out.

25 My name is Brian Elworth. I live at 8605-129th Court

1 Southeast, Newcastle. That's the Olympus neighborhood. I'm
2 part of the Olympus Homeowners' Association. I did file for
3 incorporation about 25 years ago. I did that personally. I
4 can't remember the paperwork, so I don't remember if I'm a
5 501(c)(3).

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak into the mic.

7 MR. ELWORTH: This proposed project will pass
8 directly through the middle of my neighborhood. It will
9 pass through the backyards of dozens of my neighbors; it
10 will pass through my backyard. Our association has three
11 basic concerns: aesthetics; safety; and fundamentally, the
12 need for the project.

13 Aesthetics: Newcastle is a city in a park. You've
14 heard that term before. We are truly a city in a park. It
15 is a treed environment; it is a small suburban community,
16 not an industrialized commercial environment. We are the
17 best small town -- we made the best-small-town list in Money
18 magazine in 2013. There's a reason for that: We are a nice
19 place to live; it's not an industrialized area. And it is
20 not an appropriate place for international power line
21 corridors.

22 The current utility we have hidden by trees, I know
23 it's there because it's my backyard, but you stand away from
24 it, it sort of fades away. You go down to Newcastle Park,
25 it's kind of invisible. Those towers will be able to be

1 seen from miles around. It will definitely be a permanent
2 scar and a permanent legacy.

3 Safety: We're coming up on the anniversary of the
4 Bellingham explosion. That project had very intense
5 scrutiny and a high degree of oversight; 5 years later, it
6 blew up. I think that if we have the same diligence in this
7 situation with a hundred volts, what are the chances?
8 That's something I think you need to consider: What are the
9 chances?

10 By my calculation, there's about 240,000 gallons of
11 petroleum fuel underneath Newcastle in those two pipes. To
12 the best of my knowledge, there's one shut-off valve on one
13 pipe. What's the other pipe going to do? What's that pipe
14 going to do when there's a rupture? Does anybody know? I
15 think that needs to be looked at very, very, very carefully.
16 That pipe is under about a thousand-psi pressure. I mean,
17 that's no small potatoes when you're talking about
18 high-pressure petroleum. Every single jet that they've got,
19 takes off out of Sea-Tac Airport, fuel comes through that
20 pipe.

21 Am I going to be allowed the five?

22 MS. WAGONER: I will give you 2 minutes. I see
23 that you weren't certain whether you were a 501(c)(3), so
24 I'll give you that one.

25 MR. ELWORTH: So I'll move ahead.

1 MS. WAGONER: So I'm going to watch the clock
2 for the other 2 minutes.

3 MR. ELWORTH: The corridor is a hundred-foot
4 wide. A lot of utilities, the prudent rule of thumb is when
5 you put in 230 kilovolts, you have 150-foot-wide easements.
6 In this case, since there's a corridor down the middle of
7 50-foot wide, you can't put infrastructure where the pipes
8 are, so you've got to put it out in 25-foot margins. That
9 puts the utility about 12-feet from the edge of this
10 corridor. That's not a sufficient margin. That is
11 completely an unacceptable location for those types of power
12 lines.

13 End justifies the means, or does it? The stack of
14 pennies there, that represents -- you know, it's Energize
15 Eastside, not tolerate eastside. So let's talk about energy
16 instead of power.

17 That stack of pennies represents the amount of energy
18 based on PSE's claimed need for the 55 megawatts; it turns
19 out if you look at the data, that about 28 hours average per
20 year. You do the math, you come up with like 15-,
21 20-megawatt hours, something like that.

22 Now, look at what PSE wants to do to solve that
23 problem. Take that stack of pennies, compare it to the
24 height of the Space Needle. That is the difference between
25 the problem PSE states we have, that stack of pennies, and

1 the height of the Space Needle. That difference is the
2 difference between the problem we have and the way PSE wants
3 to solve it.

4 There are a whole bunch more solutions than what's out
5 there on the board. PSE has found probably the worst way
6 possible, the most expensive way to underground wires. A
7 simple solution is let's switch DC. You have three sets of
8 conductors, DC, 40 percent increased capacity, better
9 reliability. There's many solutions. Those boards don't
10 even touch the tip of the iceberg. Thank you

11 MS. WAGONER: Thank you very much. Thanks.

12 MR. ELWORTH: You can have the pennies and use
13 it as part of the study that's going to fund it.

14 MS. WAGONER: Is this Steve?

15 MR. O'DONNELL: Steve O'Donnell. Thank you.

16 My name is Steve O'Donnell. I've been in Bellevue and
17 Somerset since the early '70s. I'm the immediate-past
18 president of the Somerset Community Association, and I
19 continue to serve on that board. And I'm the cofounder of
20 CENSE, the Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible
21 Energy, that's cense.org, along with many of our supporters
22 and along with Don Marsh, our cofounder, and I hope he'll be
23 speaking shortly.

24 Of course I agree with all of the comments that have
25 already been made. I want to add a few.

1 What about vision? What is our vision for Bellevue for
2 2035, 2050? Bellevue has a 2035 planning vision. The PSRC,
3 Puget Sound Regional Council, is just coming out, working on
4 2050 vision.

5 Let's all look at this from a bigger picture. Yes,
6 Bellevue is -- does mean "Beautiful View." Bellevue is a
7 city in a park. Lately recently, Bellevue's added a motto
8 of one Bellevue, where people want to come; where people
9 want to be.

10 But are we going to be like Dickens' tale, the Tale of
11 Two Cities? Are we going to be one Bellevue, or are we
12 going to be two Bellevues? Are we going to be the Bellevue
13 west of 405 with few to no poles and wires? Or are we going
14 to another Bellevue, another city east of 405 that looks
15 like some sort of tangled spaghetti mess in Pakistan? I
16 hope not.

17 Let's not go backward in our vision. This is a time to
18 not add more above-wired solutions two to three to four or
19 five times greater scale than what is needed on poles that
20 are 135-foot tall, that are three times the size of existing
21 poles running 18 miles from Redmond to Renton, including
22 Kirkland and Bellevue; 9 miles through Bellevue, maybe 2
23 miles through Bridle Trails, major neighborhoods, some 40
24 neighborhoods, a mile or more through Somerset and a mile or
25 more through Olympus and Newcastle.

1 Why would we make a 100-year-or-longer mistake like
2 that when we have advancing technology coming at us like
3 drinking through a firehose? Dean Kamen, the inventor of
4 the Segway, the portable kidney dialysis machine, a
5 brilliant man, has invented the Stirling engine. Now comes
6 Elon Musk of Tesla to help us disconnect from the grid. Why
7 we would not embrace these new technologies? Why would we
8 add wires to Bellevue instead of seeking and adopting new
9 technology and start to begin to eliminate the mess?

10 I want to talk about the pipeline franchise just for a
11 second. The City of Bellevue just extended for 6 months; it
12 needs to be evaluated. I agree with everything that
13 everybody said. But we need to have more valves, both
14 manual and automatic, and closer together. We're told
15 on their own website it could take 1 to 2 hours to turn off
16 a manual valve, maybe 5 to 8 minutes or 10 minutes to turn
17 on an automatic valve. This is a thousand to 1,600-psi jet
18 fuel. If we had a catastrophe, we would probably, in any
19 one of the major neighborhoods, lose perhaps hundreds and
20 hundreds of homes, who knows how many lives.

21 Why would we subject ourselves and allow ourselves to
22 be poked in the eye with a sharp stick? Would anybody enjoy
23 that? We'd have immediate and permanent loss of our
24 property values, 10 to 30 percent. We have to live with the
25 mess during the construction phase, live with it for the

1 rest of our lifetimes, and pay for it. And pay for it for
2 40 years or longer. And then the guys that perpetrated this
3 whole mess get to collect 10 to 15 percent in a guaranteed
4 return for 40 years. And the project of 200 million turns
5 into a half a billion dollars, all so some offshore foreign
6 hedge fund can make a bundle of money on our backs. Every
7 single person in this room is going to pay for this. I say
8 no. What do you say? Thank you.

9 And by the way, one last thing: I see I got a couple
10 of seconds. Like Columbo, I guess.

11 I'm going to move -- I'm going to file with the
12 Washington Utilities Commission to not allow the gag money
13 to be -- all the marketing and spin, everything that PSE
14 spent not to be rate-based. We should not have to pay for
15 that.

16 Secondly, Jefferson County converted to PUD. 33 out of
17 36 counties in the state are PUDs, Public Utility Districts.
18 We can do it, too, on the Eastside, east King County.
19 Public Utility District, folks, for either Bellevue or the
20 five cities or all of King County.

21 PSE spent millions of dollars to try to thwart the
22 Thurston County effort, and they did it. But that doesn't
23 mean they're done in Thurston County. And we can have a PUD
24 here and get rid of these guys. These guys need to go back.

25 MS. WAGONER: Thank you for your time.

1 All right. Next speaker: Sue Stronk; is that correct?

2 MS. STRONK: I'm Sue Stronk. I live at 12917
3 Southeast 86th Place in Newcastle. And I'm a direct
4 neighbor of Brian Elworth that just spoke. I live a hundred
5 feet from his house on the other side of the easement,
6 across the two 115kV lines that are now on 60-foot poles and
7 the two gas pipeline. So I'm going to cut mine short
8 because we've talked about heavy equipment and earthquake
9 fault, so I just want to tell a story about what happened to
10 me a few years ago with PSE.

11 They were going to replace a wood pole beside my house.
12 And the contractor came to my door a few days prior and told
13 me of the work that they were going to do and suggested that
14 I not be home the day that they were going to change out
15 that 60-foot pole. I got up that next morning and I thought
16 about what he said: Should I stay or should I go? I
17 decided to leave that day just in case. So that is PSE's
18 testimony of what safety concerns we should have with either
19 larger construction, heavier equipment, and digging this
20 close to gas lines. Safety should be the number one
21 criteria.

22 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

23 MS. BRADFIELD: All right. If we could have
24 the next five come up. We have Loretta Lopez, John Merrill,
25 Betty Lou Kapela.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She already spoke.

2 MS. KAPELA: I already spoke.

3 MS. BRADFIELD: Bob, did you want to speak?

4 MR. KAPELA: My wife spoke for me.

5 MS. WAGONER: Okay. Great. Thanks.

6 MS. BRADFIELD: So Adrian Ilieson, Floyd
7 Arnesen. Thank you. And I guess I should grab one more
8 name: Kelly Boch.

9 MS. LOPEZ: I'm Loretta Lopez. I'm the
10 president of the Bridle Trails Community Club. We are a
11 501(c)(4). Still, I think, constituting the 5 minutes.

12 MS. WAGONER: We are giving you 5 minutes.

13 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you very much.

14 I want to raise our objections.

15 Objection No. 1: PSE did not provide meaningful or
16 adequate notice with respect to this project and, in
17 particular, to all of the scoping meetings. The basis for
18 my objection, for our objection is this: The scoping signs
19 which set forth and advertised this series of meetings only
20 sets forth and refers to reliability. There is no reference
21 to the effects of this, the massive construction that will
22 need to be -- will need to be done. There is no statement
23 with respect to alternatives. There is nothing. Our
24 request is that Puget Sound Energy make meaningful, adequate
25 notice of this entire project. If that means a delay, then

1 we want to delay.

2 Objection No. 2: We have asked, I specifically have
3 asked before this EIS even started, that the City delay the
4 EIS. The basis for that request is that the U.S.E. report
5 was delayed, and the U.S.E. report and the discussions of
6 the results of that report was not made public. That
7 discussion was at the -- the discussion was not public until
8 May 4th, at the City Council meeting.

9 I requested before this went on, before April 30th,
10 that the City delay the EIS; Carol Helland responded no. I
11 requested again; she responded for the second time no.
12 CENSE requested, made a formal request to the City Council,
13 that we delay, that the City delay the EIS; the City's
14 response was no.

15 I object to the denial of the request to delay this
16 EIS, to delay the start of it. Once again, the basis is,
17 not adequate time for us, as citizens who are paying for all
18 of this, to address the issues in the U.S.E. report. Not
19 even enough time to get answers to the questions that we
20 presented before the report was even produced.
21 Unacceptable. And this should not have proceeded.

22 We should not be here tonight, given that we do not
23 have all of the information. It is unacceptable. And I
24 request that this EIS, we put this on pause until we have
25 the information that is necessary.

1 In addition, I object, the Bridle Trails Community Club
2 objects, that there is no reference to the economic impacts
3 and the effects of this project on the citizens of all five
4 cities. We object that there is no reference to the seismic
5 element and the geotechnical elements of the project.

6 We object to the fact that we are going to, if PSE has
7 its way, ruin the entire Eastside, all of our cities, with
8 this unacceptable and unnecessary project.

9 And furthermore, I want to know, who is going to assess
10 the alternatives? Is it the staff of the City? Is it the
11 consulting company? And that statement, that answer should
12 be posted on the website. And I thank you very much.

13 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

14 John Merrill.

15 MR. MERRILL: Hi. John Merrill, 4800-134th
16 Place Southeast in Bellevue. I've been a Bellevue resident
17 for 25 years, and I've got to say at the outset that CENSE,
18 and most of these good folks here tonight, do not want to
19 stop this project. We want to support a project that allows
20 growth to happen in Bellevue in a smart way, not in a way
21 that is designed primarily to make PSE's foreign
22 shareholders a profit.

23 This situation we find ourselves in is that there's
24 huge information in asymmetry, meaning that PSE has all the
25 information that it says showed that there is a need for

1 this project, and they alone know the best way to solve this
2 supposed problem.

3 I would ask that economics be introduced into the
4 criteria for evaluating each one of the alternatives. The
5 issue of property values is not trivial; it's not something
6 that can be ignored. It's the elephant in the room that PSE
7 is trying very, very hard to ignore. They really can't
8 ignore if this is going to be a fair process. And I know
9 that there is law that governs this process, but I also know
10 that there are other SEPA processes that have happened on
11 analogous projects that have included economics as one of
12 the criteria.

13 So property values, the impact on ratepayers from the
14 half a billion, 500 million dollars, that this is going to
15 cost us; the impact on the tax base that another speaker
16 mentioned. When our property values go down, and which they
17 will very significantly, the rate, the property rate, tax
18 rate, is going to have to go up for all of us again,
19 everybody else. It's not just people that are living near
20 the lines that are going to be impacted.

21 And the other piece of the economic equation that needs
22 to be looked at is PSE's profit for each one of the
23 alternatives. Part of the information of asymmetry that I
24 was talking about, that needs to be public knowledge. If
25 this is really a transparent process, we need to know. And

1 that is a process that any economist worth their salt can do
2 in a very, very short time. And the numbers are pretty
3 black and white. We know that PSE will borrow money for a
4 low interest rate; we know that the Washington Utilities
5 Commission has approved a 10-percent-or-more return on PSE's
6 investment for 40 years. That needs to be introduced in the
7 process.

8 I'll finish up just by saying please go to the
9 cense.org and donate. We are going to hire some
10 professional help, because for all of the thousands,
11 literally thousands of hours that so many of you have put
12 into this project, the City really has not stopped this
13 freight train that PSE started. So we are going to hire
14 professionals to help us do that. So please, please go and
15 donate to support this. Thank you very much.

16 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

17 John Merrill? Oh, that's who just spoke. Sorry.

18 MR. MERRILL: I'll speak again.

19 MS. WAGONER: Adrian Ilieson?

20 MR. ILIESON: Yes. I live at 4930 East 43rd
21 Street. I want to start by saying that I represent living
22 proof of the public not being informed when this was set up.
23 I came to ask to put my name in the bowl because I had a
24 question, and assigning this format asked for testimony.

25 Mine is just a question to how your process is going.

1 You have, there, four options about people providing their
2 testimony and feedback to you. But how do you elicit that
3 input from the people? I haven't seen any outreach. I
4 happened to come a week ago, walking on a street which I
5 wasn't regularly circulating, and I see there's a post
6 talking about the EIS and then about the power lines, so I
7 started looking into it. I just happened to be curious
8 about that and find about all this stuff. But none of my
9 friends knew.

10 You can say that I am maybe some outcast; I live in the
11 woods. But that's not the case. I listen to radio; I watch
12 my fair amount of local TV. I haven't seen anything. I
13 started researching on the local media; nothing about this
14 stuff. But then there was something in Bothell, a report
15 about it. But Bothell.

16 So I want to see from your committee, your EIS, what
17 are you doing to elicit the public's opinion? You have here
18 a hundred people, but this is affecting a hundred thousand
19 people in Bellevue at least, right? So your reaching out
20 should be in their face because that thing is going to be in
21 their face, and it's going to be in their pockets. So you
22 need to really respond to this in a very consistent manner.

23 I notice my time is up. I want to donate the remaining
24 time to somebody else who has more -- but I want to leave
25 you with one thought that came, which is, here we have --

1 this is maybe a riddle for you.

2 So you have this thing, which is sequestering carbon
3 dioxide. Okay? It's in the soil; it's contributing to
4 eliminating pollutants from the soil. It's creating a
5 microenvironment there for plants, other animals, right?
6 It's contributing to visual welfare for those people. And
7 it's doing all this with 100 percent green energy: power
8 from the sun.

9 The question is: Is this the power of 130-foot power
10 grid, or is it the humble tree? And this stuff, what
11 somebody else said, what is the vision for the city? Do we
12 want to go back a hundred years and hold plans, make up
13 highways for the electricity, or do you want to choose a
14 city, not a park?

15 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

16 Lloyd Arnesen?

17 MR. ARNESEN: I'm Lloyd Arnesen, 6515-128th
18 Avenue Southeast, Bellevue 98006. We have lived in Bellevue
19 now for over 40 years. My wife and I have been out of the
20 country for 18 months, and when we returned, a few weeks
21 after that, we found out about this project. And so we
22 became concerned about it. But this is the first meeting
23 now that we've attended, so I'm basically a neophyte in all
24 of this. But in any event, I just wanted to address,
25 briefly, some of the safety and construction aspects that

1 have been referred to here.

2 We had an experience in our home about 4 years ago,
3 where one of the structures of the current existing power
4 lines broke and the line came down; 12-foot-tall tree, hit
5 the tree, came down right over the pipeline, petroleum
6 pipeline, and transmitted, of course, electricity down into
7 the pipeline and damaged the pipe.

8 So what happened after that, of course, is that Olympic
9 Pipeline came out; they had to dig up the backyard, ours and
10 the neighbors', had to replace a section of the pipeline
11 that was damaged. My concern is mixing power with petroleum
12 pipelines is not the best idea in the world. And I would
13 say that we were very concerned, of course, at that time,
14 that we would have a similar situation that had occurred in
15 Bellingham some years ago.

16 So I, in that light, and along with many of the other
17 points that have been made, I would just mention that as a
18 particular problem and an experience that we have personally
19 known in our own residence. Thank you.

20 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

21 Kelly Boch.

22 MS. BOCH: Hi. I live at 12519 Northeast 29th
23 Street in Bellevue. My name's Kelly Boch, and I'm a
24 second-generation Bridle Trails homeowner. I've lived in
25 Bellevue for 35 years. And public speaking isn't really my

1 thing, so forgive me when I read my notes.

2 When my husband and I looked at purchasing a house
3 about 10 years ago, we looked in a lot of really great
4 neighborhoods; we looked at Enatai, Mercer Island, along the
5 West Lake Sammamish, over in Somerset. But what neither of
6 us could deny was our natural draw to the Bridle Trails
7 area, not just because of the schools, which is important to
8 me, but mostly because of what Bridle Trails is truly
9 defined by -- the space, the horses, the trees and trails.
10 It really spoke to us.

11 When learning about the proposed project by PSE, there
12 were a handful of things that concerned me; one of which is
13 how dramatically this will forever change the landscape of
14 my neighborhood. People might say, "Well, we'll just plant
15 more trees." But do you really understand how long it takes
16 for trees to grow to the height of the ones that will be cut
17 down? That won't happen in my generation or even my
18 children's generation, the animals that live in those trees
19 and the ecological benefit of those trees.

20 The City has a documented goal of trying to increase
21 the canopy in the city, yet PSE will be cutting down nearly
22 a thousand trees in my neighborhood alone and perhaps up to
23 8,000 trees in total. But the number's actually not even
24 known until they do their actual count of the trees. This
25 takes away from our city's goal.

1 My neighborhood will be changed, also, by the size of
2 the utility poles that are 135-feet tall, as we've all
3 heard; our current poles are 40- to 50-feet tall. That
4 makes these poles 30- to 40-feet taller than the trees
5 themselves that, hopefully, will still be around, but most
6 will be cut down. They'll stand out, not to just be obvious
7 for the people in the neighborhood, but visible from far
8 away, as well. And is this really the vision we want for
9 our city?

10 The proposed plan not only decreases the value of my
11 home, but also has me paying for it through my taxes for a
12 number of years. So who is really benefiting from this
13 plan? Is it Bridle Trails, Somerset, Newcastle? No. Does
14 Bellevue benefit from it? I would argue no to that, as
15 well.

16 Another concern of mine has to do with the health
17 impact of these poles. I'm a pediatric ER nurse. I have
18 cared for many families whose children suffer from a variety
19 of illnesses. Can you tell me with certainty that the plan
20 will not increase or negatively impact the health of our
21 youth and our other citizens with the increase in EMF? PSE
22 says that there is no impact, and that's an answer that I
23 actually expect from them, even with current research. But
24 here's the thing about it: The hard thing is about cancer,
25 cardiac conditions, seizures, and other health problems is

1 that although our scientists work really hard, we don't have
2 the answers. These answers generally come decades later,
3 after a lot of work of trying to find and identifying a
4 common thread in the patients, and sometimes it doesn't
5 happen until subsequent generations.

6 So I would just ask: Can PSE, with a hundred percent
7 certainty, guarantee that there's no adverse effect? And as
8 a homeowner, a mom, a nurse, a second-generation Bridle
9 Trails resident to ask PSE and the City of Bellevue to look
10 at other options. The devastation from the neighborhoods,
11 from the trees, the wetlands, the health implications are
12 really solid reasons why this current plan is definitely not
13 what is best for our city. It might be best for PSE, but
14 what about Bellevue? What's best for us?

15 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

16 MS. BRADFIELD: All right. We are ready for
17 the next five. We've got Don Marsh, Kris Guerquin, Kelly
18 Boch -- oh, maybe she signed up twice. Ronald Chatterton,
19 and Ben Sharpe. And that is all.

20 MS. WAGONER: So, Mr. Marsh.

21 MR. MARSH: I think I mismarked that. That
22 should be a 5-minute thing. I was classifying ourselves
23 exactly as a 501(c)(4), but I think that is probably what
24 you meant. So I'll take the 5 minutes.

25 MS. WAGONER: So we will give you five.

1 MR. MARSH: And I just want to say I am so
2 impressed with the quality of the testimony that I've heard
3 tonight. You've got massive brainpower in this area, and I
4 think that it's really extraordinary just to sit back and
5 watch all the great reasons and great research that people
6 have come up with.

7 So anyway, I'm Don Marsh. I'm speaking for many
8 hundreds of residents who support CENSE, the Coalition of
9 Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy. We have opposed
10 the Energize Eastside project for over a year. During this
11 time, we've frequently been stymied by the way PSE is gaming
12 our system of government, and we want to be sure this EIS
13 project isn't similarly tainted.

14 For example, we are very concerned that this EIS leaves
15 out extremely important evaluation factors, such as the
16 impact on earth, housing, and economic vitality of our
17 communities. Let me illustrate.

18 Suppose a resident is worried that the safety of her
19 family is jeopardized by the huge poles and high voltages
20 envisioned by this project in close proximity to the aging
21 petroleum pipeline that has already claimed lives in our
22 region. Supposed she is worried about the increased danger
23 that this poses during a large and probably inevitable
24 earthquake in the Pacific Northwest. Could she ask for this
25 to be studied in the EIS? No, since the earth element is

1 currently excluded from the study. Her question is not
2 considered relevant. This makes no sense.

3 Suppose a resident is concerned that the huge poles
4 that need to be excavated to install these poles will change
5 the flow of underground water springs in his neighborhood.
6 As a result, his basement might begin to flood at certain
7 times of the year. This question involves movement of the
8 earth, and it will be ruled outside the scope of the EIS.

9 The fact that housing is excluded from the study during
10 this EIS is a concern for many of us. Those living close to
11 the poles will find that potential buyers for their homes
12 may not qualify for FHA loan guarantees. That's because FHA
13 disallows homes within striking distance of a falling pole,
14 and the increased height of these poles will expand the
15 danger radius by a factor of two to three. Many home loans
16 are based on FHA criteria, so this will disqualify a lot of
17 buyers, decreasing the value of the home.

18 In fact, the exclusion of economic effects is extremely
19 worrisome to us. This transmission line takes a direct
20 route through dozens of neighborhoods. We have an estimate
21 from the King County Assessor that this could decrease the
22 value of these properties by at least 10 percent and
23 probably more. If you add up the total economic impact
24 along the 18-mile route, we are talking about permanently
25 destroying tens or hundreds of millions of dollars on top of

1 the hundreds of millions of upfront costs for the project.
2 If you don't account for this impact, you can't properly
3 judge the value of alternatives that don't destroy property
4 values.

5 It is hard for us to understand how these important
6 factors were left out of this EIS. Let us be clear about
7 this: Residents of the Eastside cities will insist that
8 earth, housing, and economic impact are studied in this EIS.
9 If these factors are not added, this whole effort will be
10 subject to litigation, wasting everyone's time and money.
11 It will delay the ultimate decision and prolong the agony of
12 residents who won't know what the future holds for their
13 families and their neighborhoods. No one wants this
14 outcome.

15 In closing, I want to assure all my neighbors who are
16 gathered here tonight that CENSE will continue to vigorously
17 oppose this project by every means possible: in the EIS, in
18 the City Council in local elections, and if we have to, in
19 court. Thank you.

20 MS. WAGONER: Thank you, Mr. Marsh.

21 Kris Guerquin.

22 MR. GUERQUIN: Thank you very much for allowing
23 me to speak. I live in 3421-167th Avenue Southeast. It is
24 Weowna Park area. And in spite of the fact that I am not
25 affected directly by this line, I don't like it, and I think

1 it is big mistake to put it. To support my claim, I have
2 three points and one small question on that for the end.

3 First of all, health impact: How the electromagnetic
4 field created by these power lines will affect us. We don't
5 know. Scientists say, "Oh, there is no proof that it is
6 dangerous." Yeah, okay. But do you remember years ago DDT,
7 so wonderful, miracle means to destroy pests which are
8 taking away our fruit? They are killing all these pests,
9 and it was fine. It appears it was not so fine because
10 people were dying also. And we are sorry after it.

11 Similar stuff was with Agent Orange. People in Vietnam
12 are dying till today for it. We are sorry, yes, but why are
13 we using it? Because it was safe, it was good? Fine.

14 Do you remember lead in the paint in our apartments, in
15 our homes, in our offices? It was safe, everything was
16 fine. And after it, we are sorry. Scientists make
17 mistakes. I'm sorry.

18 The same with asbestos. The same as with -- today with
19 GeoMol, with Roundup, with vaccinations, you name it. We
20 have to stop this chain of bad decisions because we are
21 killing ourselves. It is bad. It is one point. I don't
22 like it.

23 Next, I traveled in other places in the world. I know
24 some cities in Europe, big cities, like Paris, like
25 Brussels, like Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, Warsaw. And I

1 haven't seen a power line so strong in the neighborhoods
2 where people are living.

3 And now I have a question: If this project is so smart
4 and good, are these people in Europe idiots? They don't
5 know what's going on; it is dangerous? Look, we have access
6 to the Internet, right? We can call them for free and ask.

7 Do they need electricity inside of the city? Of
8 course, yes, they need it. How are they supporting this
9 energy: with power lines, with high voltage? No. Ask them
10 how they are solving this problem. Maybe they have some
11 secrets which are preventing them, maybe. I don't know.
12 But that's easy.

13 And the third thing: The base of this presentation was
14 that there is a need for increased growth of Seattle. The
15 growth from the previous years was interpolated. But look,
16 today, growth of United States average is below 1 percent.
17 Maybe Bellevue is a little above. How long, I don't know.
18 Do we see the light at the end of the tunnel? No. There is
19 nothing like that. It will stay that way, stagnation.

20 The growth which was 10, 15, 20 years ago in Bellevue
21 cannot be interpolated and put into the future, oh, we need
22 so much energy. Maybe we don't need it at all. It means
23 maybe this case is dead.

24 And I have another question.

25 MS. WAGONER: If you can wrap up.

1 MR. GUERQUIN: I am sorry. I need to wrap up.

2 Yeah, trees, cut trees. We know that trees are
3 beautiful co2 eaters. If you cut the trees, we will have
4 more co2, and there are some very strong people, by the way,
5 but very strong voices to tax everybody for producing co2.
6 It means we'll produce more co2 in Seattle. Who will pay
7 for this co2 that's not eaten by these trees, cut trees?

8 MS. WAGONER: All right.

9 MR. GUERQUIN: Okay. Thank you very much.

10 MS. WAGONER: All right. We appreciate your
11 comments.

12 All right. Ronald Chatterton.

13 MR. CHATTERTON: My name is Ron Chatterton. I
14 live at 8449-129th Avenue Southeast in Newcastle,
15 Washington. And the gas lines are right outside my back
16 fence. And every day I think about those gas lines: What
17 if one of those things blow up? All the jet fuel that flows
18 from Bellingham down to Sea-Tac that was mentioned earlier,
19 is going right in my backyard. And there's power poles out
20 there now. A little earthquake, just a little one, those
21 power poles are going to shake a little bit. Maybe one of
22 those gas lines will blow up and kill somebody in our
23 neighborhood, like they did in Bellingham.

24 I was waiting for the comment about electromagnetic
25 frequencies. There was a gentlemen back here earlier that

1 said they worked for Puget Sound Energy 20 years ago, and
2 that was a big deal. But still, they don't know what those
3 do. Do they cause cancer? What health effects do those
4 really have? And why, at this point, can't we figure that
5 out and get some clear-cut answers?

6 It's interesting, one of the meetings we went to with
7 the power company, the lines go around schools. They get
8 higher, and they go around the schools. I found that pretty
9 interesting, why they're lower at most points, but when they
10 get to a school, they go up and around.

11 And on the board out here, there were things that we've
12 heard from Puget Sound Energy, what they put on the board,
13 but there wasn't safety on the board. That's just kind of
14 blatant, isn't it, that safety isn't one of the main things
15 that are on the board out here that we should all be
16 concerned about that? That was all I had. Thank you.

17 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

18 Ben Sharpe.

19 MR. SHARPE: Yeah, I'm Ben Sharpe. I live at
20 13622 Southeast Fifth Street in Bellevue. I guess I'm the
21 last commenter, so I'll keep it quick so we can all go home.

22 MS. WAGONER: There's actually one more.
23 Someone else signed up.

24 MR. SHARPE: So I want to thank everybody here,
25 the two here specifically that I've been sitting behind, for

1 all their effort in putting together comments. I thought it
2 was great and really educational. So thank you, thank you
3 everybody for your time that you've put into this. I
4 appreciate that, as does my family.

5 I have a couple of comments to add. I support and
6 appreciate all the commentary on the safety consideration
7 that have been raised tonight. I think that's a very
8 important part of this process that needs to be considered.
9 And I echo the comments of the last gentleman about why
10 that's not been in the paperwork out on the boards or in the
11 paperwork that we see on the boards that we drive by. It
12 should be.

13 I'm also concerned about the environmental concerns and
14 the destruction of the public property, of our property.
15 These are parks. A lot of these areas -- I live by Kelsey
16 Creek Park; it's a park. And I think putting these things
17 in a park is destruction of public property. Destroying our
18 views is a thing that I don't think makes sense. I think
19 that needs to be considered.

20 The earthquake safety and the macroeconomic property
21 tax increase that has been raised tonight, I think are also
22 worthy of consideration of this process.

23 On a particular note, I found that the advertisements
24 for public comment have been inadequate. All I've seen or
25 heard about is the signs. I have several neighbors that

1 don't drive; they're elderly. I don't know how they'd know
2 to be here, so I think that that needs to be improved on the
3 part of the City.

4 I'm also concerned that a 2012 report cites a need,
5 capacity issues by 2017; however, this process isn't going
6 to be completed until 2018, according to what I saw earlier.
7 So there has to be a better way that gets us to mitigate the
8 outage concerns faster, right? I mean, if we're not even
9 going to get there with all the dissatisfied potential power
10 outage or capacity issues, it doesn't make sense why we'd go
11 down that route in the first place.

12 I'm concerned about the implicit bias on the part of
13 City of the Bellevue being in charge of making this
14 determination, where, you know, the cost increase, if they
15 decide not to favor this route, as the first commenter said,
16 we, the City of Bellevue, would be responsible for the cost
17 increase. I'm concerned that that's kind of like the fox
18 watching the henhouse. If the City does, indeed, decide
19 that this isn't the best solution and there's another
20 solution that may be more costly, that they may not favor
21 that because they would have to bear the cost, and that
22 could increase the budget deficit for the City.

23 So I'm concerned with that process. And I think that
24 there needs to be a bit more information and transparency in
25 the whole process, but it sounds like others have commented

1 on, as well, about just how this works and how we, as
2 citizens, can be assured that there truly is no bias in that
3 process.

4 Lastly, I'd like to just ask as part of that, has the
5 City's risk management department looked at this and the
6 cost to us as citizens if there is an accident or something
7 does happen, what -- you know, what the City's risk
8 management department has done in terms of analyzing the
9 cost and the impact of that on the City of Bellevue and us,
10 its residents. Thank you.

11 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

12 We've had three more people request to speak. So we
13 have Nancy O'Brien-Abel, Todd Andersen, and Jan Arnesen.

14 So, Nancy, please.

15 MS. O'BRIEN-ABEL: Thank you for adding me on.
16 My husband, Mike Abel, spoke earlier, the engineer that
17 works with the Berkeley and Stanford sciences. My address,
18 4401-138th Avenue Southeast, Bellevue. And I just had an
19 addendum to add to what he said, and I think it's important
20 because there's been several comments today about the 1999
21 explosion in Bellingham, which everybody knows about. But
22 there's another one that occurred in Renton 4 years later, 5
23 years later, in 2004, and the PI article -- people can pull
24 it up and look at it, the May 24, 2004. And I just want to
25 read a few paragraphs because, otherwise, I'll keep this

1 really, really short.

2 The heading is: "Wear caused gas leak in Olympic
3 Pipeline. But source of spark that triggered the fire
4 remains unknown."

5 And a couple quick paragraphs: "A pinhole-size leak
6 caused by wear unleashed thousands of gallons of gasoline
7 that fueled the Olympic Pipeline. Fire and explosion near
8 Westfield Shopping Center, Southcenter, early Sunday,
9 investigators said yesterday, but the source of the spark
10 that ignited the gas remains unknown. The accident in
11 Renton triggered an immediate shutdown of the pipeline that
12 carries more than 11 million gallons of fuel a day in
13 Western Washington."

14 It goes on and says, "Some critics said the accident
15 demonstrated that Olympic" -- in other words, Olympic
16 Pipeline -- "which sought protection from creditors and
17 bankruptcy court last year, can't be trusted when it comes
18 to safety. The company's spokesman responded that Olympic's
19 safety procedures have been beefed up considerably since the
20 oil giant BP, British Petroleum, began operating the company
21 4 years ago, but that no pipeline is risk free.

22 The leak occurred in a half-inch-wide tube of stainless
23 steel that Olympic operators occasionally used to extract
24 fuel samples from the system's 16-inch-wide main line. The
25 flames erupted 20-feet high, engulfing a small building and

1 sending three firefighters to the hospital. A mile square
2 area, which included a nearby fire station, was cordoned
3 off. Olympic president, Bobby Talley, general manager, said
4 the metal electrical conduit line apparently had been
5 rubbing against the stainless steel sampling tube to open
6 this pinhole leak that leaked 3,300 to 10,000 gallons of gas
7 from the Renton pumping station on Lind Avenue Southwest."

8 And there's a little bit more to it, but I will end
9 there.

10 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What could possibly go wrong?

12 MS. WAGONER: Todd Andersen.

13 MR. ANDERSEN: Hi. Todd Andersen, Bellevue
14 resident. I was a little surprised that this effort is
15 being done as a state Environmental Impact Statement when it
16 needs to be a national Environmental Impact Statement. And
17 there's several criteria for this, but this would allow a
18 lot more scope to increase. So all of you should be greatly
19 in favor of that.

20 If you go into PSE's Needs Assessment document, and you
21 look at all the failures for the need for this project, all
22 of them are Bonneville Power authority except for two.
23 Those two that are PSEs, which are less than 5 percent of
24 the entire failures, there's only two of them that are PSEs.
25 And you go look at the conditions that they result under,

1 they are for high north-south flows, that's a euphemism for
2 high Canada-U.S. flows. So when you have power flows that
3 go across an international border, you have to have a
4 national Environmental Impact Statement.

5 When you have a hard-head Jew who is the head planner
6 for Puget Sound -- used to be the head planner for PSE, he
7 knows that he can't get this power, the new power that's
8 coming on from dams -- Site C dams that's coming online in
9 about 8 years -- down to California without -- by doing it
10 through his planning process, because he would be forced to
11 do an international -- do a national Environmental Impact
12 Statement.

13 And then the last reason that this needs to be done, a
14 national EIS, is that the U.S. government determined in a
15 report in June 2014 that the Southern Resident Orcas
16 that the reason why they're on the endangered species list
17 is for hydrodam power operations. And any time you have an
18 endangered species that crosses international borders, it
19 has to be a national EIS.

20 So there's a plethora of reasons why this needs to be
21 done. And that's why I'm here.

22 And then the last reason, the PSE needs to consider
23 peaking generators. They claim that they looked at it, but
24 the EPA wouldn't let them do it. But they never submitted
25 any documentation to the EPA, to the state ecology to have

1 that done. And the environmental impact of that is in order
2 of magnitude.

3 So it looks like I got some more time here. Is there
4 anything else I could say?

5 You have 10,000 kilowatts of incandescent power just in
6 this City Hall.

7 MS. WAGONER: And you are out of time.

8 MR. ANDERSEN: You have 250 kilowatts over at
9 Whole Foods. If you add it all up using NIA -- write that
10 down, Mark -- nia.org. When you use all the lightbulb
11 demographics from nia.org and you take into account the
12 Department of Energy's failure rate for compact fluorescents
13 across 300 models, you will find that the remaining
14 incandescent load that is just in the Puget Sound area, is
15 600 megawatts. And that's the entire usage right now that
16 we're getting ready to go over.

17 There's a bunch more. I'll be submitting written
18 testimony. So thank you for your time.

19 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. Thanks for that.

20 Jan Arnesen.

21 MS. ARNESEN: Hi. My name is Jan Arnesen. I
22 live at 6515-128th Avenue Southeast in Bellevue. We live
23 right on the pipeline. My husband spoke earlier and told
24 you about the incident.

25 Our power lines and the pipeline both go through our

1 backyard. They are, what would you say, 15 feet apart at
2 the most?

3 Also, in addition to that, there's a trail that goes
4 there, and on the other side of the trail is wetlands, which
5 could be a problem.

6 So we have a daughter who is a city planner. She says
7 that power lines of this voltage normally, if they're
8 anyplace else, they would be now put underground, which has
9 not been even -- I don't know. Has it been addressed
10 because of the cost, I'm sure? But then when you look at
11 the cost of building all this and you have one accident, can
12 you imagine the liability that you would be responsible for?

13 Anyway, the other thing that I wanted to comment on was
14 when we had that little accident in the neighbor's backyard,
15 I was talking to the fireman that was there that came. He
16 said, "We just kind of, you know, put the tape out and block
17 it off, and, you know, we can't go in and do anything
18 because we don't want to get near that," because he said
19 before he had worked out -- you know, where there were not
20 residents, but he said that there was a similar situation
21 where it hit a tree, the power went down -- and this is the
22 high voltage, I'm talking about, not what we have now that's
23 twice as much -- came down. And when they looked at it the
24 next day, they found that the ground around the tree was
25 petrified because of the high voltage. So I thought that

1 was important for you to know.

2 I just want to applaud the expertise of all of you and
3 wonder why somewhere way back in the planning stages, our
4 Bellevue expertise hadn't been asked to give some input that
5 would've probably saved you much, much, much money and
6 gotten us to a place where we could all come together and
7 really press for a good project for our area. Thank you.

8 MS. WAGONER: That is our last speaker this
9 evening. I want to thank you all for your thoughtful
10 comments and, also, your courteous behavior.

11 And then I would like to see, would any of you like to
12 say anything in closing?

13 MS. HELLAND: I would like to thank all of you.
14 And thank you so much for waiting and being courteous; we
15 really appreciate it because we do want to hear from you,
16 and the lack of disruption, obviously, helps us have a
17 better understanding of what your concerns are.

18 I do want to -- in my notes, I have taken many, but
19 dispel two bits of misinformation. The first is the
20 taxpayers are not paying for this EIS. The EIS, the City of
21 Bellevue will be recouping those funds from PSE. The reason
22 why we are operating this project is because we are the
23 objective -- what did I say?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (Several speaking at one
25 time.)

1 MS. HELLAND: Well, okay. But the point being
2 made was that the City of Bellevue was paying for this. We
3 are recouping those expenses from PSE, so I don't want you
4 to think that there weren't -- anyway.

5 This second question/issue is, I don't want to leave
6 anyone with the impression that any topic has been excluded
7 from discussion, which got some -- just commented on by a
8 couple of people. And we have more of the information
9 packages, if anybody wants them, which we will -- I can hand
10 out at the end here, too.

11 But especially with regard to the elements in the
12 environment, the point of the scoping meeting was to hear
13 from you about those elements of the environment. And this
14 was a preliminary list to get people's kind of creative
15 juices going. We've heard, clearly, tonight safety is an
16 issue on people's minds that warrants analysis.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We don't want to die.

18 MS. HELLAND: So what I want to say to you this
19 evening is, your participation helps scope the nature of
20 this analysis and your feedback is helpful.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The point was that the
22 initial research in this area wasn't there. Not that it
23 wasn't here tonight. We thank you for listening to us
24 tonight.

25 MS. LOPEZ: But, Carol, does this mean that we

1 will have this -- does this mean -- does your comment mean
2 that we will have those elements which we've set forth, Don
3 and a few others, that they will be accepted as elements in
4 the EIS? That is the question.

5 MS. HELLAND: I can't answer it because we're
6 going to list --

7 MS. LOPEZ: Who decides that, and when we will
8 know? Will we know before the June 15th cutoff period?
9 Because after June 15th, we cannot -- we do not have
10 anything to say; they will not listen to us.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We were told that you were
12 the ultimate arbiter. Are you or are you not?

13 MS. HELLAND: So first of all, there are five
14 cities involved.

15 MS. LOPEZ: I understand that.

16 MS. HELLAND: We will all agree jointly to the
17 elements of the environment, and we will keep everyone
18 informed. Your opportunity to comment does not stop on
19 June 15th, and I don't know where you felt like you got that
20 information.

21 MS. LOPEZ: It's the website --

22 MS. HELLAND: Can I finish?

23 MS. LOPEZ: Yes, you can.

24 MS. HELLAND: Can I finish?

25 MS. LOPEZ: But please explain carefully

1 because most of us, many of us, it is not clear. And we
2 know from the 148th problem, and you know that was a
3 problem, that all the council members and all the staff
4 said, "We cannot do anything. The record is closed," and
5 all of that. That has caused a lot of confusion.

6 Now, that may be a mistake, but your responsibility is
7 to explain that to the citizens.

8 MS. HELLAND: I will explain that. In an
9 effort to get out of here by nine o'clock like we said, that
10 is how we will end the meeting.

11 With respect to this topic, the EIS is an evaluation
12 process; it is not a permitting process. So I do want to
13 make that completely clear. There will be a separate
14 opportunity when those permits come in to comment on the
15 permits based on the information that is disclosed on the
16 EIS.

17 So the process right now is, we're at the very front
18 end; we just started, just started putting up signs, just
19 started, essentially, doing outreach. 45 days this process
20 will be open. This is just for the scoping. This is just
21 to say, "What do we include in the EIS?" And your feedback
22 has been valuable this evening. There have been a lot of
23 issues raised that don't necessarily fall neatly into the
24 boxes that we described in these handouts. And for that, we
25 appreciate your feedback.

1 The next step will be we will analyze issues in the
2 Phase 1 piece of the EIS, which is, how are the various
3 different alternatives being aligned to meet a problem that
4 an applicant has said needs solving? And the City of
5 Bellevue, in collaboration with the other four cities, will
6 be doing that.

7 At the end, then we will look at preferred
8 alternatives. There will be other comment periods as part
9 of the preferred alternatives at our project levels, and
10 then there will be permits. As Mark said earlier, it's
11 about a 2-year process just for the EIS.

12 MS. LOPEZ: And I've followed many EIS
13 processes --

14 MS. HELLAND: I understand that.

15 MS. LOPEZ: -- in the City of Bellevue, so I'm
16 aware of that.

17 The June 15th deadline that is on the website, please
18 explain what that means. On June 16th, can we come in here
19 and tell you what we think about the status of the EIS, and
20 will it mean anything?

21 MS. HELLAND: There will be plenty of times to
22 comment. This comment period that's open right now is, how
23 do we scope the first phase of the EIS?

24 MS. LOPEZ: And what does it mean how -- what
25 does it mean by the first phase of the EIS? Because most of

1 us don't know that because we're not reading the WACs or the
2 RCWs.

3 MS. HELLAND: And we're not trying to do that.
4 And you know what? Like I said, in an effort to get out of
5 here by nine o'clock, I'm going to actually --

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you answer the
7 question? Because your answer was not the answer to the
8 question. It was a very simple question. There are
9 additional elements for the scoping that came in today. And
10 what I tried to hear in answer tonight was there was 45 days
11 where you would consider all additional elements for the
12 scoping. So my very simple question is, when will be the
13 final decision: 45 days, or what elements are part of the
14 scoping, and who is deciding? Very simple question. Please
15 answer that question.

16 MS. HELLAND: Ultimately, I will decide. So if
17 you want to come to me and talk to me about it, you may
18 contact me.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. Because I think it's
20 good elements. So you're going to decide in 45 days. Is
21 that what I hear?

22 MS. HELLAND: It won't be specifically at the
23 end of the 45 days because we will be accepting comments and
24 then we will have to, essentially, review all those
25 comments.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. Within those 45 days,
2 you're going to decide which elements you're going to
3 consider, right?

4 MS. HELLAND: Not within the 45 days. We will
5 be in-taking comments.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. So after the 45 days
7 you're going to decide. Okay.

8 MS. HELLAND: And then we'll move on.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So then how will this be
10 communicated?

11 MS. HELLAND: The website. We have the
12 website. The website is probably the very best way. And
13 that information is included in this documentation.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. Thank you.

15 MS. LOPEZ: And, Carol, once you or you all
16 decide this, once that decision is made, assume for example,
17 you decide no, we're not going to allow the housing element
18 or the economic impact, if you decide that, then do the
19 citizens have the meaningful right to comment on the record
20 that will be reviewed in the entire scope of this EIS?

21 MS. HELLAND: You have the draft EIS, which
22 will be --

23 MS. LOPEZ: And that draft EIS, that comment
24 period, is it 30 days or 45 days?

25 MS. HELLAND: Usually it's a 45-day comment

1 period.

2 MS. LOPEZ: But we will only be able to
3 comment -- assume you omit that, assume you decide no. We
4 will only be able to comment in a draft EIS; is that
5 correct?

6 MS. HELLAND: I actually don't understand your
7 question, Loretta.

8 MS. LOPEZ: All right. I'll say it again.

9 MS. HELLAND: It's 45 days.

10 MS. LOPEZ: No, no, that's not my question.

11 Assume you do not -- you decide that you're not going
12 to include the element -- the economic element in the EIS,
13 assume that's your decision, okay? Then we get to the draft
14 EIS in issue, and you said it is at that point that we can,
15 then, comment on, in this case, the omission of the economic
16 element; is that correct?

17 MS. HELLAND: That is correct.

18 MS. LOPEZ: And that means that at the time
19 that draft EIS is issued, we have that 45-day period, and
20 only that period, to comment that you -- we object that you
21 haven't allowed that.

22 Okay. I think that's what people need to know because
23 then it makes it clear.

24 MS. HELLAND: And I think Mark actually put up
25 a slide that --

1 MS. LOPEZ: But it's really difficult -- and I
2 thank you for trying, and I thank you for answering the
3 questions. But it's really difficult to look at that and
4 know what it means on the ground because most of the people
5 here do other things than plan. We're the ones who are
6 working so that we can pay for all of this. And so it has
7 to be -- how shall I say?

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Digestible.

9 MS. LOPEZ: Yeah. So that we know, All right.
10 Well, what does that mean? Because that 45-day-comment
11 circle up there doesn't mean anything to us.

12 MS. HELLAND: Well, Loretta, we'll work on our
13 graphics.

14 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you.

15 MS. HELLAND: Thank you for the feedback. It
16 is now nine o'clock. I do want to thank you and give you
17 all my appreciation for coming, and have a nice evening.
18 Drive safely.

19 (EIS hearing concluded at 9:01 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Brandice L. Pivar, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that I reported by stenographic machine shorthand the proceedings hereinbefore contained on the subject matter on the date set forth, and that the foregoing 75 pages constitute a full, true, and correct transcript of said proceedings to the best of my ability.

Witness my hand this 21st day of May 2015.

BRANDICE L. PIVAR
License No. 3089
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