



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR  
450 110<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
BELLEVUE, WA 98009-9012

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PHASE 2 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(EIS)**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/OPEN HOUSES**

---

**PROJECT NAME:** Energize Eastside

**PROponent:** Bradley Strauch, Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

**LOCATION OF PROPOSAL:** Portions of Bellevue, Newcastle, Redmond, Renton, and unincorporated King County between the Sammamish Substation at 9221 Willows Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052, and the Talbot Hill Substation at 2400 South Puget Drive, Renton, WA 98055.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:** Construct approximately 18 miles of new 230 kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission lines and add a new substation (Richards Creek) at the Lakeside substation in Bellevue to connect two existing bulk energy systems (one to the north in Redmond and one to the south in Renton), supply future electrical capacity, and improve electrical grid reliability for Eastside communities. Project details and plans are available in the project file and on the project website at [www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](http://www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org).

**FILE NUMBER:** 14-139122-LE

**PROJECT PLANNER:** Heidi Bedwell

**EIS REQUIRED:** On April 30, 2015, the Environmental Coordinator for the City of Bellevue, serving as lead agency, published a Notice of Determination of Significance, indicating that this proposal could have a significant adverse impact on the environment and required preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030(2)(c). On January 28, 2016, the lead agency issued a Phase 1 Programmatic Draft EIS, which evaluated alternative methods to achieve PSE's project objectives. A Phase 2 Draft EIS has been prepared to analyze PSE's proposal and alternatives proposed by PSE. The EIS is not a permit - it is one of many sets of information permitting agencies will consider as they decide whether to approve the project and issue necessary permits.

**AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT EIS:** The Draft EIS may be viewed online or downloaded from the project website [www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](http://www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org). Copies of the EIS on CD are available at no charge. Printed copies are available to purchase for cost of reproduction (\$300). Email [info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](mailto:info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org) for more information.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the Phase 2 Draft EIS which will be available on May 8, 2017. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and permits or other approvals that may be required. An extended comment period of 45 days is being provided pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-455, and will include three public hearings at the times and locations listed below.

**PUBLIC HEARING/OPEN HOUSE DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS:**

**Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:00 – 8:30 PM:** Oliver Hazen High School - 1101 Hoquiam Ave NE, Renton, WA 98059  
**Thursday, May 25, 2017 6:00 – 9:00 PM:** Bellevue City Hall - 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004  
**Saturday, June 3, 2017 2:00 – 4:30 PM:** Rose Hill Elementary - 8110 128th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98033

Comments may be submitted orally at the public hearings or in writing. Written comments may be submitted:

Online at: [www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](http://www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org)

By email to: [Info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](mailto:Info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org)

By mail to:

City of Bellevue  
Development Services Department  
Attn: Heidi Bedwell, Environmental Planning Manager  
P.O. Box 90012  
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

For questions about public hearings or commenting, email [info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](mailto:info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org) or contact: Heidi Bedwell, Environmental Planning Manager/Energize Eastside EIS Program Manager, City of Bellevue Development Services Department, 425-452-4862.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** The comment period opens May 8, 2017. The deadline for submitting comments is Wednesday, June 21, 2017. All comments related to the Draft EIS must be received by this date. Mailed items that are postmarked by Wednesday, June 21, 2017 will be accepted. Comments may be submitted orally at the public hearings or in writing. A valid physical mailing address is required to establish status as an official party of record.

**LEAD AGENCY:** The City of Bellevue is the SEPA lead agency under WAC 197-11-932, and issued a letter of lead agency status to the Partner Cities (Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond, and Renton) on September 15, 2014. Bellevue is the nominal lead and each Partner City is a co-lead agency for the proposal as permitted pursuant to WAC 197-11-944.

**PHASED REVIEW:** The Phase 1 Programmatic Draft EIS was completed and subject to public comment. Under WAC 197-11-060(5) the purpose of the Phase 1 Draft EIS is to evaluate, at a more general level, the environmental impacts of alternative methods to address the electrical transmission capacity deficiency identified by PSE. The Phase 2 Draft EIS has been completed and evaluates project-level alternatives, as described below.

**EIS ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS:** WAC 197-11-440(5)(b) states that a reasonable alternative means an action that could feasibly attain or approximate a proposal's objectives, but at a lower environmental cost or decreased level of environmental degradation. Reasonable alternatives may be those over which an agency with jurisdiction has authority to control impacts, either directly or indirectly through requirement of mitigation measures.

Following receipt and consideration of public comment on the Phase 2 Draft EIS, a Final EIS will be issued that incorporates the information from both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Draft EISs.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Descriptions of the alternatives analyzed in the Phase 2 Draft EIS follow:

#### **No Action**

This alternative is required under SEPA as a baseline against which the action alternatives can be compared. Under this alternative, maintenance, conservation, and certain other activities that do not require state or local government approvals could continue. No new 230 kV line or substation would be built.

#### **Action Alternatives (PSE's Proposal and Alternatives)**

##### **New Substation at Lakeside (Richards Creek) and New 230 kV Transmission Lines**

PSE has proposed to route new 230 kV transmission line, to the extent feasible, within PSE's existing Sammamish-Lakeside-Talbot Hill 115 kV transmission line corridor. At the existing Lakeside distribution substation (13615 SE 26<sup>th</sup> St in Bellevue) a new substation (Richards Creek) would be developed on the vacant parcels to the south (parcel numbers 102405-9083 and 102405-9130) to accommodate a new 230 kV transformer and associated electrical equipment.

For the Phase 2 Draft EIS, the proposed transmission line corridor is divided into six segments (Redmond, Bellevue North, Bellevue Central, Bellevue South, Newcastle, and Renton segments) with alternative alignments applying to two segments (Bellevue Central and Bellevue South segments). PSE has proposed three alternative alignments for the Bellevue Central segment and four alternative alignments for the Bellevue South segment. PSE has not identified alternative alignments for the other four segments. See attached figure for a map that delineates the six segments and alternative alignments.

The Olympic Pipeline is located adjacent to the transmission line in some segments along the corridor. None of the alternatives proposed by PSE require widening of the existing electrical transmission corridor easement. Additional easements may be necessary along alternative alignments located outside of the

existing corridor. Vegetation clearing for both the construction and maintenance of the proposed transmission line is necessary and varies based on segment. The following table presents transmission line alignment lengths, common pole types, and typical pole heights by segment and alternative alignment.

<b>Segment</b>	<b>Approximate length of new transmission lines</b>	<b>Most common pole type</b>	<b>Typical pole height</b>
Redmond	2 miles (all within existing corridor)	Double-circuit steel monopoles	95 feet
Bellevue North	2.2 miles (all within existing corridor)	Double-circuit steel monopoles	95 feet
Bellevue Central	2.8 to 4.5 miles depending on option	<i>Existing Corridor Option</i> Double-circuit steel monopoles  <i>Alternative Alignment Options</i> Single-circuit steel monopoles and double-circuit steel monopoles	<i>Existing Corridor Option</i> 95 feet  <i>Alternative Alignment Options</i> 90 to 100 feet depending on pole type
Bellevue South	3.3 to 6.7 miles depending on option	<i>Existing Corridor Option</i> Pairs of single-circuit monopoles, double-circuit steel monopoles  <i>Alternative Alignment Options</i> Double-circuit steel monopoles, pairs of single-circuit monopoles, and single-circuit H-frames	<i>Existing Corridor Option</i> 85 to 100 feet depending on pole type  <i>Alternative Alignment Options</i> 65 to 100 feet depending on pole type
Newcastle	1.5 miles (all within existing corridor)	Pairs of single-circuit monopoles	100 feet
Renton	4.5 miles (all within existing corridor)	Double-circuit steel monopoles	90 feet

