

PHASE 2 EIS PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS SUMMARY

Oliver Hazen High School, Renton • May 10, 2016 • 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Rose Hill Elementary School, Kirkland • May 14, 2016 • 2:00 – 4:30 pm
Bellevue City Hall, Bellevue • May 17, 2016 • 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Overview

The City of Bellevue (and Partner Cities) hosted a series of three public scoping meetings on the Phase 2 EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) for the Energize Eastside project proposed by Puget Sound Energy (PSE). The meetings were held to present preliminary information on project-level alternatives and mitigation measures to be considered in the Phase 2 EIS, and to solicit input on the scope of the EIS. The meetings were intentionally designed to be identical in structure, content, and purpose. The meeting materials are provided in appendices attached to this summary. Appendix I includes notification materials, Appendix II includes the meeting agenda and exhibits, and Appendix III includes the presentation slideshow.

Scoping provides an opportunity for agencies, Tribes, and members of the public to identify and comment on the scope of the EIS, including alternatives to be considered, topics to be studied, possible adverse impacts, and potential mitigation measures.

A court reporter recorded verbatim oral testimony given during the public comment period of each meeting. Participants could also provide comments by completing a paper comment form distributed at the meeting, or by providing feedback through e-mail or a web-based comment form found at www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

The Phase 2 scoping period was intended to assist in identifying reasonable alternatives that address PSE's identified project need and objectives. The Phase 2 EIS will address project-level construction and operation level impacts of PSE's proposal and identified reasonable alternatives.

SEPA Lead Agencies must meet the basic requirement of WAC 197-11-408 to provide public notice and conduct scoping for an EIS. Every Lead Agency adopts its own specific scoping procedures, consistent with this state requirement and including additional measures as desired. The City of Bellevue as the SEPA Lead Agency for the Energize Eastside project identified and met all of the legal scoping requirements for each of the Partner Cities (legal notice in Seattle Times and Renton Reporter, specific electronic postings such as Bellevue's Permit Bulletin, mailings to specific properties and parties of record, and posting notices or signs as required in Renton, Redmond, and Newcastle). Bellevue then engaged in expanded scoping under WAC 197-11-410 to enhance public and agency participation in identifying the EIS scope. Expanded scoping involved an extension of the public review and comment period to 45 days from the standard 21 and working with the Partner Cities to host three public meetings at different locations to talk about the project and accept comments, along with disseminating public notice of scoping and the scoping meetings more widely than required via electronic postings, mailings, signs, and paid advertisements in community papers.

Phase 2 Scoping Meeting Notification

The official Scoping Notice and the announcement of the 45-day scoping period and the 3 public scoping meetings were distributed via project signs, legal notices, display ads, postal mail, email, social media, and websites as outlined below.

Date	Notification	Distribution
April 1, 2016	Project signs announcing scoping meetings and comment period	Installed along 26 arterial roads in the cities of Bellevue, Newcastle, and Renton
April 14, 2016	Official scoping notice	Posted on EnergizeEastsideEIS.org and official websites of Partner Cities
April 14, 2016	Official scoping notice	Sent via email and postal mail to the official SEPA mailing lists of Partner Cities
April 14, 2016	Legal notice	Placed in City of Bellevue's Weekly Permit Bulletin and the <i>Seattle Times</i> — newspaper of record for the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Newcastle, and Redmond
April 14, 2016	Message about the legal notice	Sent via email and social media outlets of Partner Cities — the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond, and Renton
April 15, 2016	Legal notice	Placed in the <i>Renton Reporter</i> — newspaper of record for the City of Renton
April 26 & May 3, 2016	Display advertisement announcing scoping meetings and comment period	Placed in the <i>Seattle Times</i>
April 29 & May 6, 2016	Display advertisement announcing scoping meetings and comment period	Placed in the <i>Bellevue Reporter</i> , <i>Kirkland Reporter</i> , <i>Redmond Reporter</i> , and <i>Renton Reporter</i>

Meeting Overview

Each meeting began with a 30-minute open house. Exhibits provided an overview of PSE's proposal and phased EIS process with schedule, general information about regional electrical infrastructure; an overview of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review process; and descriptions of the preliminary project-level alternatives with details showing various pole types, pole heights, and line configurations for each alignment segment. The exhibit materials and presentation were posted to the project website on May 10, two hours prior to the first public meeting. City staff and their consultants were available to answer questions from meeting attendees. PSE representatives staffed a table with exhibits and materials explaining PSE's stated need and proposed solution.

The informational exhibits addressed the following topics, organized by station.

Station 1: Project Overview

- Welcome & Agenda
- What is the Energize Eastside EIS?
- Phased Review Process & Schedule

Station 2: Electrical System Overview

- Power Delivery 101
- Electrical Energy Infrastructure
- Purpose & Need

Station 3: SEPA Review

- What is an EIS?
- What is Phase 2 Scoping?
- Phase 1 Highlights
- Reasonable Alternatives

Station 4: Alternatives

- No Action Alternative
- Alternative 1, Segment 1
- Alternative 1, Segment 2 with 4 Route Options
- Alternative 1, Segment 3
- Non-Transmission Alternative
- Pole Height & Span Length
- Pole Types

After the open house, the formal public comment portion began with a short presentation giving a project overview and the purpose of the meeting. Next, attendees were able to provide comments verbally to the City of Bellevue SEPA Official, Carol Helland. The order of individuals who signed up to testify was randomly selected. To ensure that all who wanted to speak were given the opportunity, individuals were allocated 3 minutes each, while those representing non-profit or community organizations were allocated 5 minutes each. In cases where speakers were not yet finished when their allotted time expired, they were encouraged to briefly conclude. Some people spoke more than once at a given meeting after all others who wanted to speak had the opportunity. To ensure the court reporter could hear clearly, clapping was discouraged while speakers were

commenting. To show support and appreciation to those providing comments, participants raised and waved their hands, held up signs, and clapped.

Meeting attendees were also offered the opportunity to provide their comments by completing a paper comment form or by providing comments through a web-based form located at EnergizeEastsideEIS.org. To facilitate this option, two internet-connected computers were available at each meeting for public use.

Meeting Characteristics

Each meeting began with participants viewing the open house exhibits, talking with staff and other attendees, or preparing to testify. A few people attended and testified at all three meetings. By far, attendance was highest at the Bellevue meeting, where many attendees wore orange to show support for CENSE (the Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy). Attendance at each meeting was as follows:

Renton	18 sign-ins	~23 attendees
Kirkland	8 sign-ins	~12 attendees
Bellevue	140 sign-ins	~165 attendees

The transcripts of oral comments provided at the meetings were collated and are summarized, along with email, mail, and website comments submitted during the 45-day scoping comment period, in a scoping summary report. For the *Scoping Comment Summary Report for the April 14-May 31, 2016 Scoping Period*, and the full packet of submitted comments and testimony, see the City of Bellevue EIS project website at www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.