
ENERGIZE EASTSIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING/OPEN HOUSE

6:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 28, 2015
Newcastle Elementary School
8400 130th Avenue Southeast
Newcastle, Washington

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PANEL MEMBERS

CAROL HELLAND - City of Bellevue SEPA Official
TIM MCHARG - City of Newcastle Project Contact
DAVID PYLE - City of Bellevue Project Manager
MARK JOHNSON - ESA Consultant Team Project Manager
MARCIA WAGONER - 3 SQUARE BLOCKS

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(Public comments commenced at 6:35 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MR. ZIMMERMAN: My name is Barry Zimmerman. I live at 5007 Somerset Drive Southeast in Bellevue.

I'm among thousands who will be seriously affected and not compensated for the very significant and permanent impacts that construction of oversized international regional transmission lines will visit upon the Eastside communities who are being asked to subsidize Alternative Number One for the benefit of PSE's foreign investors. Many of us who are not doing this for a living and don't know what questions to ask are being forced to waste valuable time overcoming the substantial omissions and outright censorship of the data that we are receiving. Therefore, we, the uncompensated public, are raising funds so we can retain our own independent experts to review the draft EIS documents and ensure the quality and completeness of this EIS is achieved, because somebody has to do this.

In a number of similar projects it's a common practice that power utility industries will file draft EIS documents that are incomplete in ways that prevent the kind of detailed analysis that we're going to do, and other stakeholders, that is necessary for an honest EIS product. Therefore, my scoping input is focused on quality and completeness of the EIS, particularly to ensure that the

1 Phase One draft includes all data necessary for stakeholders
2 to conduct detailed analysis of the impacts so we get to
3 having a meaningful Phase Two in this EIS process.

4 It's critical that the SEPA group demonstrate its
5 leadership and demand that at least the following details be
6 presented in the Phase One draft.

7 Number one, provide detailed geographic coordinates
8 for the location of each new tower foundation proposed along
9 the 18-mile route. This is critical to provide for analysis
10 of safety margins and easement adequacy, particularly in
11 those areas next to the dangerous 50-year-old high-pressure
12 pipeline.

13 We want detailed maps of all access roads, drainage
14 mitigation, and other utility relocations along the route.

15 Number three, we want to provide discussion of
16 possible conflicts between the proposed action and the
17 objectives of federal, state and local land use plans,
18 policies and controls. Where inconsistencies exist, we
19 expect PSE will reconcile its proposed action with the plan
20 and the law.

21 Number four, include details on the decision making
22 process regarding the proposed action. We want to see
23 details on how the current four alternatives were derived,
24 or however many there will wind up being, and what
25 alternatives will be put forth for consideration during all

1 phases of the EIS.

2 Number five, we want a detailed discussion of the
3 remainder of the decision process. What happens after the
4 Draft EIS and what happens in Phase Two? What will the
5 criteria be used to confirm the preferred alternative? Who
6 does it? Is this going to happen in this phase or are we
7 going to have to wait for the Final EIS for a lot of these
8 decisions?

9 Number six, what neighborhood evacuation plans will
10 be in place, coordinated with cities, and rehearsed with
11 residents prior to construction, particularly along the
12 dangerous pipeline segments?

13 Number seven, we want to see verifiable details of
14 lightning mitigation plans.

15 Number eight, the Draft EIS must include real risk
16 mitigation measures, not boilerplate and vague references.

17 I need to wrap up, all right.

18 Basically what we're saying is we, the public, will
19 not accept phrases like "to be determined" or "details to be
20 provided in the Final EIS" in the Draft EIS documents
21 submitted for review, as this makes a mockery of the notion
22 that this is a meaningful public review process. Complete
23 EIS content is far more important than the EIS schedule, and
24 the public is going to hold the SEPA panel and PSE
25 accountable for complete and thorough content.

1 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. Please pronounce your
2 name.

3 MS. KURAMKOTE: My name is Sangeetha Kuramkote. I
4 live at 8613 129th Court Southeast, Newcastle.

5 We have been living in our house in the Olympus
6 neighborhood since 1999. When we moved into our house, the
7 power transmission line at the back of our house got us
8 concerned about the long-term effects of having the
9 high-powered line and the resulting radiation. Added to
10 that, we have the Olympic pipelines running along side the
11 power line.

12 The same year we saw the explosion of the gas
13 pipeline in Bellingham and its disastrous effect on the
14 houses, environment, as well as the pipeline, and the loss
15 of precious life.

16 We are always living with the fear of radiation
17 from the power line and an active pipeline in our backyard.
18 It's right behind our house.

19 With the momentum being green energy and recent
20 advancements that are happening in the areas of wind energy
21 and solar energy, Puget Sound Energy should be leading the
22 way towards green energy in this area and setting standards.
23 By increasing the power transmission of the existing lines,
24 we are taking a huge step back in the efficient energy
25 advancement happening in the rest of the country.

1 Our request of Puget Sound Energy is abandon the
2 Eastside energy project and embrace green energy
3 initiatives. We are here to show support for all of those
4 opposing Energize Eastside. There are many more people like
5 us and we want our names to be added to all the positions
6 for the scope EIS made here tonight.

7 We expect that Puget Sound Energy and the City of
8 Bellevue as a lead agency to do an appropriately scoped and
9 responsible environmental impact study, all that are here
10 and not just at city hall. Thank you.

11 MS. WAGONER: I see a number of people come in.
12 There's quite a number of available seats up here if any of
13 you would like to sit down.

14 MR. CHUNG: My name is Randy Chung. I live at 8417
15 129th Avenue Southeast. This is my first time at one of
16 these meetings, so if I go off topic or veer into some area
17 that's not really appropriate for today's scope, sorry.

18 But a lot of what I've seen so far is a lot of PSE
19 saying one thing and a lot of people either with CENSE or
20 otherwise opposed giving counter-arguments, but it doesn't
21 seem as if people are really responding to one another's
22 claims. So, for example, we had the graph earlier about the
23 projected energy needs. Likewise, I saw some other graphs
24 that CENSE had put up with a different graph of alternative
25 energy required. And it's not entirely clear to me as a lay

1 person where exactly these numbers come from, who really has
2 the right information, because I have no expertise in these
3 things.

4 What I see is I come home one day and I have a
5 bunch of tags sitting in my trees in my back yard. My back
6 yard faces the gas pipeline. And I'm later told that my
7 trees may be getting cut down, my fence may be getting
8 knocked over and moved around for the easement. This, of
9 course, is very upsetting to me.

10 I grew up near some power lines as a kid down in
11 L.A., and the constant hum was very irritating, to put it
12 lightly. And having gotten away from that, having smaller
13 power lines, at least it doesn't seem to draw too much of my
14 attention anymore, but that's another one of those things
15 that affects the quality of my life and what I want my home
16 to be that hopefully gets taken into account with this sort
17 of study, at least at some point it's in the process.

18 Really those are the main things that concern me,
19 at least from an environmental point of view, my trees and
20 the sense of sound and clarity in the air. So hopefully I'd
21 like to see that addressed in some of the upcoming reports.
22 That's it. Thank you for your time.

23 MS. WAGONER: Thank you very much.

24 MR. ZOERB: Good evening. My name is Mel Zoerb. I
25 live at 8408 129th Avenue Southeast. Actually Randy and I

1 are living directly across from each other.

2 The one issue that I want to talk about tonight is
3 the sound level associated with high voltage power lines,
4 and I have a number of questions that I'd like to see
5 addressed. I think most of them should be addressed by
6 response from PSE. At any rate, the thing I'd like to know,
7 first of all, is what sort of sound level predictions are
8 they coming up with for this particular installation. I'd
9 like to know decibel levels versus distance, whether they're
10 talking about a certain number of hum or a certain amount of
11 crackling. And I think any of us that have been out near
12 high voltage power lines know pretty much what I'm talking
13 about.

14 I'd like to know what sound level limits PSE would
15 be willing to agree to never exceed or at least to never
16 exceed very often. I understand that there has to be
17 unusual -- or there will be unusual situations at times.

18 And I'd like to know what levels for the daytime
19 and I'd like to know the levels of nighttime operations,
20 because demands on the power system is obviously different
21 in those two things, and also we care differently about
22 things during the day versus at night.

23 I'd also like to know what would happen if this
24 power line is built and PSE ends up exceeding the limits,
25 perhaps even if they were limits that they agreed to in good

1 faith, what kind of corrective action is even possible and
2 what kind of action would they be willing to take. And I'd
3 like to know if any similar corrective actions have ever
4 been taken anywhere else in their system.

5 I'm a little bit concerned that this is one of
6 those situations where you'll end up with a power line and,
7 once it's built, there's no way out. And that's one
8 particular thing that I'd like to see addressed.

9 I'd like to know also from PSE what are the factors
10 that affect the sound levels. Is it simply the power level,
11 the kVA level, is it weather conditions, all these sorts of
12 things. I think they need to come up with a comprehensive
13 explanation.

14 And I'd also like to know where a representative
15 installation is that we can go and observe. Perhaps it's
16 something in their own system, maybe it's somebody else's
17 system, but we need that opportunity to see what we're
18 possibly getting involved with. Thank you.

19 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

20 MR. HALVERSON: Good afternoon. My name is Warren
21 Halverson. I've lived at 13701 Northeast 32nd Place for
22 over 40 years. The major reason I live there and on the
23 Eastside is the environment. This is probably not
24 surprising to most of you. In fact, at every neighborhood
25 leadership meeting in October, roughly a hundred leaders

1 felt that the number one factor in defining neighborhood
2 character was natural environment, trees, open space,
3 natural beauty, views. Sounds real familiar.

4 In a summary answer to what is important to
5 preserve and protect, the answer was environment, second
6 only to safety. But I believe the most significant question
7 of the whole session that we had of a hundred people was
8 what did you see as the greatest threat to neighborhood
9 character. By far the greatest answer was Energize
10 Eastside. Four times greater than even Sound Transit.

11 So what is the impact of Energize Eastside on
12 Newcastle? The loss of several hundred trees. Visual
13 blight by 130-foot metallic poles buried in 30 feet of
14 concrete with five lines, five-inch lines dangling from
15 them. And please remember that in most neighborhoods you
16 can't have a four-story building. These are 13-story poles.
17 Please remember that in most neighborhoods your trees are
18 probably 60 to 80 feet high. These poles are 40 to 60 feet
19 over them. The people that live on that property are not
20 the only ones that are going to see this blight forever.

21 In all likelihood, PSE's first alternative of
22 Energize Eastside will be the most destructive project that
23 any of our neighborhoods will ever encounter. It will
24 affect neighborhood character, not just for property owners
25 directly impacted, but for all of us for miles around to

1 see. It cannot be mitigated.

2 Just as important, the Energize Eastside project as
3 configured is unnecessary. It will blight so many
4 neighborhoods forever. There are better, less costly, and
5 more environmentally friendly alternatives. The city
6 recognizes this fact. And even the recent U.S.E.
7 independent technical analysis with its many failures, with
8 its many flaws, with the many things that went wrong with
9 that study, suggest there are many better alternatives. We
10 can do better. Newcastle can do better.

11 Like yourself, I have difficulty understanding
12 exactly what scoping is. I think I'm getting around to it
13 because I'm not familiar with this kind of subject that
14 much, but I appreciate very much that you're going to look
15 at alternatives. And it isn't just going to be the four
16 alternatives that were presented, the four that were up
17 there. I hope that you will really look at creative
18 solutions and the many, many talented people that you have
19 in these neighborhoods that deserve a lot better. Thank
20 you.

21 MS. WAGONER: I'm going to ask you gentlemen who
22 are sitting up front, if you would return to your seats so
23 we can have a spot for the next batch of speakers. Thank
24 you very much.

25 MR. STARKS: My name is William Starks. I live at

1 8452 128th Avenue Southeast in Newcastle here. I've lived
2 over there for 24 years and we've enjoyed our home, and we
3 can say that we've tolerated the power line and the pipeline
4 in the easement and it's been part of our lives. And to see
5 it possibly evolve into something that can be characterized
6 as nothing more than a blight to the community is a scary
7 situation.

8 What I wanted to speak to, and I didn't have any
9 prepared remarks, is when I saw the graphs up here, two
10 things that I wanted to ask questions about was: One, in
11 the growth that they projected for the Eastside, again
12 somebody else pointed it out, where those numbers come from,
13 and why it's not one of the alternatives in addressing this
14 so-call problem that is projected is where is conservation
15 as an alternative? You listed four alternatives and
16 conservation of energy was not one of them. Neither was the
17 green energy alternative that the other young lady spoke of.
18 It was not one of the alternatives.

19 Also the growth that is projected, where is
20 mitigating the growth and where is -- one of the things that
21 PSE has talked about from the beginning in choosing the
22 alternative that they've chosen is the cost, and they're
23 looking at the most efficient alternative and the most cost
24 efficient alternative. And what I'm asking is: Cost to
25 who? Cost to them or cost to the homeowners in the area,

1 cost to the community?

2 There's other ways of mitigating costs. You can
3 pass the cost on to the growth and spread this effort out to
4 other areas by spreading the cost out over to where the
5 growth is, much like Cities have to do with roads. They
6 have road impact fees and require the developers to pay for
7 the roads. So when they talk about cost and this is the
8 most efficient way to deal with the cost by putting this
9 infrastructure in where they're speaking of, I think it's
10 just a cost savings for them. It's not a cost savings for
11 the community, it's not a cost savings for the homeowners,
12 and it's not -- and if that's what it is, then it should be
13 passed on to who the cost will benefit. Thank you.

14 MR. CLIFF: Good evening everyone. My name is Gary
15 Cliff, 8435 128th Avenue Southeast in Newcastle.

16 My comments are directed to the Newcastle City
17 Council.

18 Dear City Council: Please schedule a community
19 meeting to inform the citizens of Newcastle where you stand
20 on the Energize Eastside project. If you agree with PSE,
21 then just tell us. If you disagree, tell us what you have
22 done and what you are planning to do to stop this project.

23 I hope I am wrong, but it appears our City Council
24 is sitting on their hands while delegating the heavy lifting
25 to other cities. Even the tiny City of Newcastle will be

1 impacted to a far greater degree than the other identified
2 cities.

3 City Council, you are either part of the problem or
4 you are part of the solution. There is no middle ground
5 here. It is time for you to stand up and be counted.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Larry Johnson and I live
8 at 8505 129th Avenue Southeast, Newcastle. I'm the
9 president of Citizens For Sane Eastside Energy, and I assume
10 that gives me five minutes.

11 MS. WAGONER: Yes, you have five minutes.

12 MR. JOHNSON: And then you're going to sick these
13 cops on me; right?

14 I want to say one thing that the previous speaker
15 said. I really want to say that my feeling is the City
16 Council people in Newcastle have given CENSE and our
17 organization and the homeowners association for Olympus half
18 hour presentations each on our opposition of this project.
19 That's never been matched by Bellevue or any other city.
20 And Tim McHarg sitting here has done a very courageous thing
21 as the only representative of any of the cities to dissent
22 to the phony so-called citizen advisory group, which is a
23 stacked deck with only PSE's agenda, and he has signed the
24 dissent saying this was not adequate. Thank you, Mr.
25 McHarg.

1 And I'm so proud of Newcastle. Look at all of you
2 here. This is 5,000 times the number of people that show up
3 for council meetings. Look at this. And I thought we were
4 going to get a new movie tonight.

5 CSEE started with just two or three people. It's
6 now grown to sixty-seven. Most of us are from Newcastle,
7 but we've gone in the background. We started an
8 organization first, but when CENSE started with Steve and
9 Don and others with their tremendous energy, we didn't want
10 to even be considered competition. So there's not a bit of
11 daylight between us and CENSE and we support everything they
12 do and I'm proud to wear this orange.

13 Now, what's going on here? This seems so
14 Kafkaesque. Every time you talk about Energize Eastside,
15 oh, this is the project, and then we're going to look at
16 this thing and we're going to look at that thing and we'll
17 talk underground, and blah, blah, blah, blah. And then
18 it's, oh, well, we've got this transmission capacity problem
19 and so on.

20 I would have liked and I would have believed the
21 credibility of the Puget Sound people if Kimberly Harris,
22 CEO of PSE, got on TV and announced the project in this way:
23 We plan to spend \$200 million to tear up and blight 18 miles
24 of densely populated Eastside residential neighborhoods with
25 huge, dangerous 13-story steel towers that we will drop on

1 top of two aging gas pipelines pumping jet fuel under a
2 thousand-pounds-per-inch pressure. Those towers will go
3 right on the Seattle fault where a future earthquake risk is
4 the greatest. And, oh, while we're doing that, we'll be
5 cutting down 8,000 trees.

6 Now that's the project. That's what they're
7 talking about. What are we doing talking about
8 alternatives? This is insane. That's why we call ourselves
9 For Sane Energy.

10 And look at the process you're putting on here.
11 It's a sham. It's just another CAG. You talk in this piece
12 of the paper -- I was here May 12th in Bellevue and I said,
13 You know, you're deciding -- you're picking and choosing
14 what areas of the environment you want to talk about. And
15 I'll quote from your own thing here: Preliminary list of
16 elements of the environment lead agency has preliminarily
17 identified as the following elements for EIS. And you know
18 what? You picked about eight or nine things. Where is
19 safety? Where is safety? You don't have it here.

20 I'm a lawyer. And I used to call myself a retired
21 lawyer but, you know, that's over. I'm out of retirement.
22 And I'm out and we're going to do something here.

23 Now, these criteria that you cherry picked, you've
24 cherry picked illegally because WAC 197-11-444 has all the
25 things you have here, but it's got two dozen more. And let

1 me read you a couple. You are supposed to be including, and
2 you don't get an option on these elements of the environment
3 defined by law, scenic resources, environmental health, risk
4 of explosion. There's a good one. Releases or potential
5 releases to the environment affecting public health, such as
6 toxic or hazardous materials. I'd say jet fuel is pretty
7 hazardous. And then, of course, you did bring in
8 aesthetics. Well, good for you.

9 How can you even be talking about alternatives for
10 a project when you don't even understand the project that
11 PSE is trying to sell? You say, Mr. Pyle, well -- and you
12 sent me this in an e-mail yesterday and you said it here
13 tonight, and I want to quote you. You said: The project is
14 intended to address an electrical transmission capacity
15 deficiency that could begin in 2017.

16 That is not true. This project, when they talk
17 about it among technical people, it's about a thing called
18 reliability. What happens in a perfect storm? What happens
19 when all these lines go down and we suddenly have generators
20 not working? And there's a thing called NERC, it's the
21 National Energy Reliability Commission, that says you have
22 to design for this very rare dangerous moment. It is not
23 about the increasing population and economic growth in the
24 Eastside. That is bologna.

25 Despite those things, the flat line is there for

1 energy usage for the last eight years all over the county
2 and the rest of the world because we have efficient
3 appliances, we have conservation. This has nothing to do
4 with growth. It has everything to do with capacity for
5 reliability.

6 MS. WAGONER: Mr. Johnson, if you could wrap up
7 your comments?

8 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I'll get there. Thanks for
9 starting 40 minutes late so now you want to push our time.

10 MS. WAGONER: No, we started early with the public
11 hearing.

12 MR. JOHNSON: The meeting said it would be from
13 6:00 to 8:00. That's what you said. But I'm not going to
14 waste my last minute arguing with you about that.

15 The point is, this thing is being sold wrong.
16 Those so-called four alternatives are made up by PSE and
17 they just went, okay, we'll do what you say. How about what
18 we say? I'll tell you, you put a new generator right across
19 from the Lakeside substation right next to the Factoria
20 Waste Management Transfer Station, you put in a peaker there
21 that creates 550 kilowatts at \$50 million and this problem
22 is solved. We don't need 18 miles of transmission. You
23 need generation at the source of the load. Look it up. And
24 you know what? We will tell you more.

25 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

1 MS. MESTON: Good evening. My name is Suzanne
2 Meston and I live at 13800 Northeast 40th. I am a soccer
3 mom and I have more than a full-time job working for an
4 international network provider and I've been to a couple of
5 these meetings. But like so many of my neighbors, I simply
6 don't have enough time to do all the things that I want to
7 do. But as I watch what's happening with Energize Eastside
8 and the debate, I felt compelled to come out and share my
9 thoughts.

10 So professionally I lead a team of engineers, about
11 a hundred engineers, whose sole purpose is to introduce new
12 technology, some new architecture and new design into our
13 network. And relevant to the Energize Eastside debate is
14 that, as you can imagine, we've found that it's not
15 economically viable to overbuild or a build a whole new
16 infrastructure in our networks to meet forecasted demand and
17 reliability. It's just simply not affordable.

18 And, perhaps more importantly, is that there are
19 alternative solutions to the rip-and-replace alternatives
20 that are less invasive, less costly and, quite frankly, more
21 effective. And I know this because I work directly with our
22 vendors and our network people and we do this every day,
23 write capacity forecasting, looking at triggers and
24 exhausts, validating assumptions and demand forecasts, and
25 making sure that the information and the assumptions that

1 we've made that have gone into those curves are really
2 valid, looking for opportunities to be creative, and do what
3 we need to do to stay competitive, and what's best for our
4 company and our customers.

5 And I think that the woman who spoke first said it
6 really eloquently. We need to press -- I would ask that you
7 press PSE to really lead in this area. It's really an
8 exciting time. The technological advances are occurring at
9 such a rapid pace, the ideas and the opportunities, it's
10 really mind boggling, and I think PSE could really lead in
11 this area.

12 And it's interesting, a few weeks ago I saw a KIRO
13 TV story titled "Self-Healing Power Lines Could Shorten
14 Outages," and it was about the introduction of new
15 technology by Seattle City Light that real time detects
16 outages and isolates the circuits and then instantaneously
17 reroutes the electricity. So I'm sure that this is just one
18 example of opportunities and alternatives for innovation in
19 the electrical industry.

20 I guess what I want you to take away is that these
21 ideas and my logic about innovation is really not
22 futuristic. They are here today and these ideas can be
23 implemented into our current networks to provide for growth
24 and reliability. And I would simply ask that you have your
25 staff or an unbiased consultant look into these and other

1 viable alternatives as you move forward in your EIS process,
2 and certainly before you approve millions in expense to rate
3 payers and devastating irreparable damage to our
4 neighborhoods.

5 MS. WAGONER: Thank you very much.

6 MR. ELWORTH: I haven't changed my name or moved
7 since the last three meetings, but for the record my name is
8 Brian Elworth. I live at 8605 129th Court Southeast in
9 Newcastle in the Olympus neighborhood. I represent the
10 Olympus Homeowners Association.

11 So the proposed project passes right through the
12 center of my neighborhood, it passes through dozens of homes
13 of my neighbors' back yards. I'd like to reiterate things I
14 brought up in the first meeting. Three concerns:
15 Aesthetics, safety, and fundamentally the need for the
16 project.

17 Today you guys are at ground zero. This is my home
18 town. This is the town that is impacted very deeply by this
19 construction, proposed construction project. This is one of
20 the best small towns in the entire U.S. This is a city in a
21 park. I'd like you to take an opportunity sometime and look
22 west and look at the rolling hills and the view. And I hope
23 if you come back in ten years, you see rolling hills and the
24 trees and the view, and not this testament to ignorance and
25 stupidity of this power line project. 230-kilovolt

1 transmission lines do not belong here.

2 So last time I was talking about scope. I want to
3 finish a point I brought up last time. If PSE is not
4 legally required to be truthful and flat out does not
5 comprehend the safety issues, I believe part of the EIS
6 needs to include the impact of all the mitigation of all the
7 safety issues. If they are not legally bound to be truthful
8 or they just don't get it, then I ask that you base your
9 impact on the Bonneville Administration, the BPA safety
10 standards, and I quoted you last time what their safety
11 standards are with respect to pipeline and power line
12 distances.

13 Scope. Another issue I'd like for you to identify
14 are the alternatives that are consistent with WAC
15 480-100-238, which is the integrated resource planning.
16 Show how those alternatives are consistent with an
17 integrated plan.

18 Remember Earth Day a couple weeks ago? That's
19 where everybody wonders what somebody is doing about the
20 environment and who's fixing the problems? It's all of you.
21 It's me. It's all of us. The scope of this EIS should
22 include the positive environmental impacts from some of
23 these alternatives. Some of these alternatives are better
24 than doing nothing at all.

25 PSE is the dirtiest electrical utility in the

1 entire state of Washington. You can go and look at the fuel
2 mix reports and see that for yourself. This proposed
3 solution of PSE does nothing, nothing to address that
4 problem. Their dependency on coal strip is not impacted by
5 this alternative that they're proposing.

6 Many of the alternatives we are looking at do help
7 reduce the dependency on dirty energy sources. So I think
8 the scope should include the benefit of some of these
9 alternatives to the environmental condition.

10 Alternatives. I think I've demonstrated the
11 Draconian scale of this solution compared to the real
12 problem. A stack of pennies/Space Needle/little sheet of
13 paper. I don't know if you took the magnifying glass to
14 actually read it, but that was the amount of energy we
15 needed versus that huge board which is related to the size
16 of the energy capacity of their solution.

17 What I'm getting at is that we really need to
18 cultivate right-size alternatives, and the best ones haven't
19 even been thought of yet.

20 Cooperate with Seattle City Light. PSE wouldn't
21 admit this publicly, but we found out privately and I
22 actually tasked the City of Newcastle to find the data. I
23 asked, Where is it documented where they formally wrote the
24 request to Seattle City Light for the specific following
25 points: If we have a major transmission light failure and

1 temperatures falls below 23 degrees, we need 55 megawatts.
2 That's 28 hours a year. We'd probably be able to pay it
3 back in the same day or probably within a week. By tying
4 those two together, we could actually improve the
5 reliability of both. Little impact in either case.

6 Make regional power requirements the highest
7 priority for regional power utilities.

8 MS. WAGONER: If you could wrap up your comments?

9 MR. ELWORTH: Okay. One more.

10 Conversion to a PUD. Puget Power long ago fought
11 this about 70 or 80 years ago to allow the state to create
12 PUDs. They failed and PUDs are allowable. A PUD would
13 allow us better forecasting, better management, better
14 service, better efficiency, better environmental stewardship
15 and better value. I'll end right there.

16 MS. BACH: My name is Kelly Bach. I live at 12519
17 Northeast 29th Street in Bellevue. Some of you have heard
18 this before, but I feel so strongly about the message that
19 I'm sharing that I would like everybody to hear it and to
20 keep hearing it.

21 I am a second-generation Eastside homeowner. I've
22 lived on the Eastside for the past 35 years, and public
23 speaking, as I've said before, isn't my thing, so bear with
24 me.

25 When my husband and I looked at purchasing houses

1 about ten years ago. We looked at a lot of neighborhoods
2 all on the Eastside. We both work in Seattle, but we're so
3 taken with, despite the commute, and it's only getting kind
4 of worse, we're just drawn mostly to, not just the schools
5 because we knew we'd have children, but the space, the
6 trees, the trails. All of this really spoke to us.

7 When I learned of the proposed project by PSE there
8 were a handful of things that concerned me. One of which is
9 how much this is going to forever change the landscape of,
10 not just my neighborhood, but all neighborhoods. People
11 will say, well, plant more trees. But do you really
12 appreciate how long it takes for the trees to grow to the
13 height of which ones you're going to take down? It takes a
14 very long time. The ecological benefit of these trees, the
15 animals that live in these trees and those environments.
16 The City has a documented goal of trying to increase its
17 canopy, yet PSE will be cutting down about 1,000 trees in my
18 neighborhood and 8,000 overall with this project. The total
19 number is truly unknown until they do the actual count, so
20 that number could actually even be higher. This takes away
21 from our City's goal.

22 My neighborhood will also be changed by the size of
23 the utility poles, like everybody else's will. The poles,
24 as we've heard, are about 135 feet tall. Our current poles
25 are 40 to 50 feet tall. These new poles are potentially 30

1 to 40 feet taller than our mature trees that will be cut
2 down. They will stand out and be obvious, not just to the
3 people whose yards that they sit in or are nearby, but to
4 everyone. They'll be visible from far away. And is this
5 really the vision that they want for our city?

6 The proposed plan not only decreases the value of
7 my home and others that are here, but it also has me paying
8 for a bunch of this, probably through taxes or increasing my
9 energy bill from PSE for years to come. So I would just ask
10 who's actually benefiting from this plan? Because it's
11 definitely not our community.

12 My biggest concern actually has to do with health
13 impacts. I am a pediatric ER nurse. I have cared for a lot
14 of families whose children have suffered from a lot of
15 different illnesses. And I would like to look at whoever
16 the CEO of PSE is in the eyes and ask him or her, Can you
17 tell me with a hundred percent certainty that this will not
18 negatively impact the health of our youth with the increased
19 EMF? Because I know, I know that you can't.

20 PSE says there's no impact on that. That answer is
21 really to be expected. Even with current research, the hard
22 thing about cancer or cardiac conditions or seizures or
23 other health problems is that scientists work hard, but it
24 takes decades or sometimes actually even generations to find
25 out the negative impact that it has to them. EMF is a

1 documented concern for over 30 years. And the reason why
2 there's still research on it is because they know there's a
3 problem, they just can't quite find that answer.

4 My oath, if you will, is to help combat childhood
5 illnesses and to care for those in need. I've been in many
6 a room where parents learn of a cancer diagnosis. It is
7 heartbreaking. It's a horrible place to be. I would like
8 PSE to say with a hundred percent certainty, a hundred
9 percent, that they can guarantee that there are no adverse
10 health effects by this added EMF.

11 I'm asking as a homeowner, a mom, a nurse, a
12 second-generation Eastside resident to have PSE, the City of
13 Newcastle, Bellevue, Renton, Kirkland, everybody look at
14 other options. They're out there. PSE might not be willing
15 to find them. We will find them. And I will not stop
16 coming to these meetings and talking about EMF because it is
17 so important and yet somehow it is getting overlooked.

18 MR. MARSH: My name is Don Marsh. I'll be speaking
19 for CENSE.

20 My comments tonight may have some bearing on the
21 EIS, but I would really like to address the good people of
22 Newcastle and other Eastside cities who have made attendance
23 at this meeting a priority tonight. I think you deserve to
24 know what's really going on with this project and how CENSE
25 is going to challenge it.

1 I don't need to describe to you what a terrible
2 project this is or how it would never have been proposed if
3 PSE weren't going to make a lot of money off of it. We are
4 used to dealing with corporations whose primary objective is
5 maximizing shareholder value, no matter who or what gets in
6 the way. What is disappointing to me, and probably to many
7 of you, is how badly we have been served by city
8 governments. Bellevue in particular seems to have swallowed
9 PSE's marketing pitch hook, line and sinker. Even today I
10 got an e-mail from a city staff employee working on this EIS
11 that describes Energize Eastside as needed to address a
12 capacity problem in 2017. Even PSE now says the date is
13 later than that.

14 And it's not a capacity problem at all. The
15 project is addressing a theoretical peak load problem under
16 circumstances so rare that they will mostly likely never
17 occur during our lifetimes. This isn't just something we're
18 making up for dramatic effect. Our statements have been
19 verified by experts that include the former vice president
20 of Power Planning for Puget Power, which became PSE. We
21 would love to educate both the staff and council members on
22 what we know that they don't seem to have grasped, but we
23 are never allowed to speak for more than a few minutes at
24 council meetings. We have been denied the opportunity to
25 give a presentation outside of council meetings.

1 I'd like to contrast that with the apparently cozy
2 relationship PSE enjoys at city hall. For example, Carol
3 Helland, the Bellevue official right here who is exercising
4 enormous power in determining what is included in the EIS,
5 sent an e-mail to a PSE employee on the eve of PSE's
6 presentation to the council. She said she was still working
7 on the packet that council members receive before their
8 meeting, but that, quote, The council packet will align well
9 with your presentation, end quote. PSE even asked for
10 advice. Quote, Please let us know if you have any
11 recommendations of what would resonate most with council,
12 end quote.

13 This kind of access and cooperation is way beyond
14 anything that citizens have enjoyed throughout this process.
15 For this reason we are skeptical that the outcome of this
16 EIS will be in our favor.

17 But I want to reassure my good neighbors. Even if
18 the cards are stacked against us in this forum, we have
19 other ways to challenge this project. We have recently
20 drawn inspiration from the citizen action group in West
21 Virginia that was successful in killing a transmission line
22 that crossed three states. That group had considerably less
23 technical expertise and resources than we have. We are
24 going to follow their path and widen it considerably.

25 We have information that we believe will halt this

1 project in its tracks. This information shows collusion
2 between civil utilities and the planning process that went
3 off the rails. Our case is strong, but we just need the
4 financial resources to bring it to a successful conclusion.
5 So I ask you tonight, if you love your city and your
6 neighborhood, please consider a donation of any size to
7 CENSE.org. We will make good use of your money and defend
8 your property, your city, and our collective environment.
9 Thanks for your help.

10 MS. NEWING: Good evening. My name is Linda
11 Newing. I live at 7912 115th Avenue Southeast in Newcastle.

12 I hear a lot of passion in this room about various
13 issues related to this pipeline and I completely understand
14 that it's an aesthetic issue. We have an Olympic pipeline
15 going through the route of the proposed high voltage lines
16 and these are huge concerns. We have no guarantee of safety
17 of driving pilings near that pipeline. We have residents
18 that are worried.

19 I grew up in this area. And as long as I can
20 remember, the Eastside was considered a pretty influential
21 area with higher level property desires, and people are
22 truly interested in living on this side of the lake, and the
23 high voltage power line could totally take that away from
24 this community.

25 And I'd really like some feedback about the

1 additional safety issues with the pipeline and maybe review
2 alternative energies. We're completely encouraged in
3 everything we do to look at alternatives for more energy
4 efficient, more cost efficient, just be responsible stewards
5 of the environment. And I think it's a project that
6 qualifies to do that type of -- be a responsible steward of
7 the environment.

8 MS. STRONK: My name is Sue Stronk. I live at
9 12917 Southeast 86th Place in Newcastle.

10 Olympic Pipeline Company was pumping gasoline from
11 Ferndale to SeaTac Thursday evening, June 10th, 1999,
12 through the same 16-inch gas line that is currently in use
13 just a half mile west from the school. The same pipeline
14 dividing the Olympus neighborhood, as well as other
15 neighborhoods along the Energize Eastside route.

16 A pressure release valve failed at 3:25 p.m. in
17 Bellingham which led to a catastrophic rupture in the line.
18 An hour and a half later the gasoline vapors exploded,
19 creating a river of fire one-and-a-half miles down the creek
20 to Interstate-5. The massive fireball sent a plume of smoke
21 almost six miles high in the air visible from Anacortes to
22 Vancouver, B C. Dense black smoke caused closure of I-5 for
23 more than an hour. Gasoline migrated into the City's sewer
24 system. The vapors were at explosive levels for an hour.
25 The victims were three boys, two of them age ten and one

1 eighteen. Four hours later the major blazes were under
2 control. Fortunately the fire did not travel west, as that
3 saved downtown Bellingham.

4 The inferno, estimated to have reached 2,000
5 degrees, caused a high voltage power line in two substations
6 to be shut down. Most of the property damage was broken
7 windows in homes and businesses and a house leveled near the
8 creek. The fuel spill occurred 150 feet in front of a water
9 treatment plant. The explosion shattered all the windows
10 and blew the doors off the building. The brick-and-concrete
11 shell were left standing, but the control systems and even
12 the fire extinguishers melted in the fire.

13 Many of our homes are only 50 feet from the gas
14 lines, not 150 feet away.

15 After a three-year investigation, it was found the
16 damage to the pipe was caused five years earlier in 1994 by
17 a construction company doing excavation work. PSE
18 repeatedly said safety is no problem working along the gas
19 pipelines, we work around them all the time. Yet in 2008
20 the UTC fined PSE one-and-a-quarter million dollars for
21 intentionally falsifying their own gas line safety
22 inspection records over a four-year period. That was the
23 biggest fine ever imposed on a utility in our state.

24 277,000 gallons of highly volatile gas escaped the
25 pipe in Bellingham that day. Safety in our neighborhoods is

1 the first priority. Not PSE profits.

2 MR. SCHMIDT-PATHMANN: Good evening. I don't need
3 too much time. My name, and that will probably take most of
4 the time, is Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann. S-c-h-m-i-d-t,
5 hyphen, P-a-t-h-m-a-n-n. My address is 12623 Southeast 83rd
6 Court in Newcastle, Washington 98056.

7 I'm also representing the Vineyards Homeowners
8 Association, which is the Division 4 of the Olympus. And
9 I'm hearing a lot of things tonight and I'm interested --
10 I'm representing all the homeowners trying to figure out
11 what kind of noise are we going to have in our homes.

12 We're talking about views, we're talking about
13 safety. But what is unacceptable to me is wanting to build
14 an infrastructure that will be outdated before it's even
15 built. The problem is or the key words here are sustainable
16 infrastructure. I do not believe that this kind of system
17 proposed will really look at what is called a smart grid
18 system. Smart grid system means if we want to do this in
19 Olympus, and I'm speaking probably for both associations, if
20 we want to put solar panels on our homes, this is coming,
21 this is done in many other countries around the world, it's
22 just a fact of time when this is going to come, we want to
23 maybe put solar panels on our roofs, whatever it should be,
24 and we want to feed that back into the system. The current
25 system will not support that. Because a smart grid system

1 is a challenge that everybody faces today, so why should we
2 incur a cost that is outdated which we have to pay for
3 without having a smart grid, a future infrastructure in
4 place? We're paying for things that are outdated. We need
5 something in the planning process that will address this.
6 And I think until then, this discussion should be over.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. O'DONNELL: Thank you, Philipp. We can almost
9 all go home after that.

10 I'm Steve O'Donnell. I've been in Somerset for
11 40-some-odd years in Bellevue. I'm the immediate past
12 president of the Somerset Community Association. There are
13 other past and current presidents here with us from Somerset
14 to support all of you in Newcastle, our friends and
15 neighbors. And I can't thank Larry Johnson and all of the
16 leaders of the Olympus Homeowners Association and good
17 people like Tim, and thank you all. Thank you for taking
18 your time and your energy for coming out and thank you for
19 supporting CENSE. I think we're on the right track.

20 What I want to share with you tonight is a couple
21 of things that -- of course I agree with everything that's
22 been said so far and really don't have anything new to add
23 in terms of alternatives. We've covered a wide range and
24 thank you all for doing that. You've done so well.

25 Tuesday night in Kirkland I kind of ran out of

1 time, but I did ask -- I direct some comments to both the
2 City and to ESA to study the deficiencies in the building
3 codes. I think that that's really critical moving forward
4 into the future because we have had comments about don't go
5 backwards, don't build something that's legacy that's
6 a-hundred-year-old technology.

7 And to illustrate that, I mean, how many of you
8 came here tonight by buggy with a horse whip? No one. How
9 many people came by hybrid or electric car? Wow, look at
10 that. How many people no longer use a princess phone and
11 have a land line? How many people have a smart phone or an
12 iPhone? Just about everybody. Isn't that amazing how the
13 advancements of technology and trends are?

14 That's going to be my next thing to ask you guys to
15 look at. We don't have all these old things of the past.

16 How many of you have taken advantage of
17 conservation and converted your light bulbs to LED bulbs?
18 Wow. How many of you in the last year have installed solar
19 panels? How many of you are going to plan to install solar
20 panels, had a contract or a bid or a proposal? Look at
21 that.

22 If we do that along the 18 miles from Redmond to
23 Renton over the next few years, that wipes out the need for
24 Eastside Energy. Wipes it out, okay? I've had two
25 proposals for solar panels on my house and have converted to

1 LED, thanks to the inspiration from Don Marsh and others
2 that have been so helpful.

3 The Bullitt building in Seattle is not only a zero
4 footprint that was built and came online a few years ago,
5 it's a standard for the nation, if not the world, and it
6 puts power back into the system. So not only is it not
7 using any, it's producing power. And more and more of our
8 homes are going to be doing that. But, more importantly, so
9 are all of these commercial buildings.

10 We support growth and the job machine that helps
11 contribute to Bellevue and our five surrounding cities in
12 east King County because that is part of a vibrant and
13 healthy community that we all want to be part of. But we
14 don't want to see the degradation that this kind of
15 industrial blighting project that anybody could have put up
16 a hundred, a hundred and fifty years ago. Anybody could do
17 that. But it's really something to come up with an iPhone
18 or an electric car and solar panels and LED bulbs, something
19 that's the new version of Einstein.

20 So I think it's really important that we encourage
21 all the new buildings in downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red
22 corridor where the load is, where the need is, whatever that
23 growth number is, we've got all kinds of fuzzy numbers, but
24 those guys need to be doing the right thing. And if we have
25 to do it in codes, that's where it should be.

1 Now, in trends, what I just talked about, no more
2 horse and buggy whips. I think that Mark and ESA, I hope
3 you will study trends. Because what you just saw from the
4 hands that people raised is there's a movement going on,
5 man. It's huge. And it's only just started. So again it's
6 going to wipe out the need for Eastside energy.

7 Lastly, I would just say that we are willing to
8 meet and sit down with officials at PSE, namely Kimberly
9 Harris, the CEO, any time, anyplace, anywhere. We'll go to
10 Australia, we'll go to New York City. We'll meet them
11 anywhere, any time, and we'll talk about what is the right
12 thing to do. Nobody should be doing what their current
13 proposal is. Nobody. Thank you.

14 MR. BEERMAN: Hi. Gary Beerman. 12051 Southeast
15 76th Place, Newcastle. I've lived in this area for 48
16 years, went to Newport High School. I know I don't live
17 here because I'm in dermatology, right?

18 A couple things. Everything was said, pretty much.
19 The industrial blight is the thing that worries me the most.
20 The pipeline runs right through our backyard, I mean
21 literally in our back yard, and so do the power lines. I
22 have a 14-year-old son and 10-year-old pit bull and my wife
23 is here, too. And I don't know if people realize this, but
24 it was a nick in the pipeline up in Bellingham that made
25 that explosion. And that's all it takes is a nick in that

1 pipeline with that many pounds per square inch pressure.

2 And I don't know what the exact depth they're going to drill
3 these pilings are.

4 The blight, though, that changes our entire
5 neighborhood is what bothers me. I don't think people
6 realize this, but PSE is now owned by a Canadian company
7 which is owned by an Australian holding company. In the
8 dermatology profession, Valeant is a Canadian company and it
9 just bought out a whole string of generic drug companies.
10 If you're wondering why your drugs are more expensive now,
11 they immediately raised up all the prices of the drugs.
12 Doxycycline used to be \$9.00 for 30 pills, now it's \$150.00.
13 It's because of Valeant, a Canadian company, bought out all
14 the generic companies.

15 So I was told in an e-mail from PSE that they're
16 going to sell power to Canada. And I have found out from a
17 patient, which will go -- because I don't want to break the
18 HIPAA rules, is that they said that they're also going to
19 sell to California, too. So how much really do we need
20 these pipelines?

21 Basically that's it and thank you for letting us
22 talk.

23 MR. CRISPO: My name is Rich Crispo. I live at
24 14406 Southeast 89th Place here in Newcastle. I am a member
25 of Newcastle City Council, but I am not speaking for them.

1 This is my comments purely.

2 EIS. I would like to talk impact and mitigation.
3 And before I start that, I really think that the name of
4 this project ought to change. It ought to change from
5 Energize Eastside to Energize Downtown Bellevue and the
6 Bel-Red Corridor. Because when you look and you talk to
7 some of the people from the Bellevue City Council, that's
8 what's on the plate. We're expanding downtown across 405 to
9 the Eastside, we're going to rip up all the buildings in the
10 Bel-Red corridor, rebuild them, we're going to put in a
11 Sound Transit station, we're going to put in a yard, a work
12 yard down there. They do have a requirement for increased
13 electricity. Whether that generates the need for this line,
14 I really can't tell you. I'm not smart enough. I'm an
15 engineer, but electricity is not my area. Don Marsh knows a
16 lot more than I ever will. And I believe that everything
17 that he said is going to be looked at and reviewed as part
18 of the analysis and that needs to happen.

19 But what I'm really looking at is no pain, no gain.
20 If the gain is in Bellevue, and I'll say downtown Bellevue,
21 not South Bellevue, so the Somerset people, you're not going
22 to see it, Renton is not going to see anything, Newcastle
23 doesn't see anything, Kirkland doesn't see anything. So the
24 real benefit is in a very small area. Well, then the
25 majority of the pain should be in that area. What are we

1 getting out of this?

2 So we talk about impacts, we talk about mitigation.
3 I would really like to see as part of this scoping exercise
4 when you're looking at the impacts, that you consider where
5 the mitigations really ought to be. If we're talking about
6 Energize Eastside, then any kind of an alteration that might
7 work in your options should be covered by the entire
8 Eastside.

9 Now, I'm sure you're aware that within the state
10 the UTC has powers that say PSE has the right to design what
11 they want and, if you want to make a change to that, you pay
12 for it locally. Well, I don't see Newcastle being required
13 to pay for undergrounding, if that came to pass, or to pay
14 for putting a line in Lake Washington, if that came to pass,
15 when we don't see the gain for it. And I think Kirkland
16 would say the same thing, I think Renton would say the same
17 thing, and certainly South Bellevue would say the same
18 thing.

19 So as part of your analysis, your EIS, the impact
20 portion, look at the mitigation. Look at the ways that if
21 there is going to be something done and you're going to
22 mitigate for the residents, that we spread that out so that
23 we don't put it in a situation where we can't do anything
24 and we are stuck with the design from somebody who really
25 didn't care about the residents and the quality of life

1 where we are. Thank you very much.

2 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. Thank you all. That was
3 the last speaker.

4 MS. LOPEZ: I'd like to speak.

5 MS. WAGONER: All right. You can have the podium.

6 MS. LOPEZ: I am Loretta Lopez. I'm president of
7 the Bridle Trails Community Club. I've spoken at the
8 Bellevue EIS scoping meeting, so I will try to address some
9 of the other issues, different from the ones I addressed in
10 the Bellevue meeting.

11 Number one, on the issue of the essential public
12 facility. The EIS should address whether this project, this
13 particular project constitutes an essential public facility
14 for each city that it passes through, not just for Bellevue.

15 Number two, the EIS should address the issue of
16 each permitting process, each comp plan, each zoning issue,
17 all the zoning issues that need to be addressed in each
18 city, not just Bellevue.

19 Number three, the EIS should address the issue of
20 why the citizens in these five cities were not properly
21 noticed with respect to what this project is. Not only do
22 the EIS scoping signs that are placed not state any
23 alternatives, the notice only states that this project is to
24 assess and for the purpose of reliability. There is no
25 mention of any opportunity to present alternatives on those

1 EIS signs that are posted in various places. And in
2 addition to that, the signs -- the print on those signs is
3 so small that even at a four-way stop at 60th and Northeast
4 132nd in the Bridle Trails area, there is no way to read
5 those adequately without stopping, getting out of the car
6 and going about two feet from the sign. And our position is
7 that that is an unacceptable way to notify people of this
8 massive project which will change forever the entire
9 Eastside, and something must be done to address that.

10 I've asked the city council to put a pause -- the
11 Bellevue City Council to pause this project. I've asked
12 Carol Helland twice to stop this process while the City
13 addresses these issues.

14 Number four, the EIS should address whether all the
15 cities along this route are in agreement, whether all the
16 cities believe that there's a need for this, not just
17 Bellevue. Thank you.

18 MR. ARNESEN: I had spoken at the Bellevue hearing.
19 Lloyd Arnesen, 6515 128th Avenue Southeast in Bellevue.

20 Like some of you, the pipeline and the power lines
21 run right through our yard, so we've had first-hand
22 experience with seeing all of the dynamics that are created
23 as a result of those two passages through our property
24 easements.

25 I would just relate an experience that I'd had that

1 I related when we were in the Bellevue hearing. About four
2 or five years ago an incident occurred where the power line
3 broke, came down, the line hit a tree in our neighbor's yard
4 right between our yard and his. The tree caught on fire,
5 went down through the ground and impacted the pipeline.
6 Olympic Pipeline came out and they, of course, dug up the
7 pipeline, they excavated it, put in a new section of pipe,
8 basically. It took several days for that to happen.

9 The thing that concerned us was that had that
10 little impact on the pipeline maybe penetrated the pipeline,
11 that there would have been a terrible thing happen, an
12 explosion.

13 And so my point is that power lines and pipelines,
14 petroleum pipelines really don't mix. Thank you very much.

15 MS. JUDKINS: I'm Kathy Judkins, 4324 136th Place
16 Southeast, Bellevue. I am the current president of the
17 Somerset Community Association.

18 But what I wanted to bring up tonight is something
19 that hasn't been brought up at any of the meetings. I live
20 on the easement. It's a dead-end. So the only way, if they
21 should choose to go through the easement in Somerset, for me
22 to get in and out of my driveway is on the easement. And I
23 have seen pictures of these massive -- are they six feet in
24 diameter? I don't know how long it's going to take for them
25 to place these things in, but it looks to me like it could

1 take weeks. I will have no access to my driveway and to get
2 into my house.

3 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. Are there any other final
4 speakers? Thank you very much.

5 (Public comments concluded 7:57 p.m.)
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