
ENERGIZE EASTSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SCOPING MEETING PUBLIC TESTIMONY

2:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 30, 2015
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave Northeast
Bellevue, Washington

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1 (Public comment period commenced at 2:45 p.m.)

2

3 SPEAKER NO. 1: SUZANNE MESTON

4 So first I want to apologize because I wasn't going to
5 speak, and I got these new prescriptive sunglasses and I
6 thought it was such a great idea, but what I didn't realize
7 was that when you come inside, you can't see. So I either
8 need to get right in your faces or I need to wear them, so
9 I'm really sorry.

10 So my name is Suzanne Meston. I live at 13800
11 Northeast 40th Street here in Bridle Trails, and I am proud
12 to say that I have lived in Bridle Trails all of my life.
13 It is a really very special area. And that was my horse out
14 front, Addy. She lives down on 32nd Place and she lives
15 right under the power lines and has for ten years now.

16 And I wasn't going to testify. I've come and I've
17 talked to you guys before, shared my thoughts about new
18 technology. I work for an international network provider
19 and I work with researchers and vendors and I have a team of
20 engineers who do capacity planning, and so I've asked you to
21 really please look at the demand forecasts and the
22 assumptions that are baked into those demand forecasts,
23 triggers and exhausts.

24 I've also talked a little bit about new technology,
25 right, and asked you guys to really look at challenging PSE

1 to lead in the area of green energy. What can -- there are
2 so many different solutions and we're going to this -- there
3 are so many trends and things.

4 But what I wanted to -- I was having a conversation
5 with a gentleman out front and I found myself, it was like I
6 was talking about a child, right? I have a 6-year-old and a
7 10-year-old and we're always walking on the trails and
8 playing outside. Bridle Trails is just a wonderful,
9 wonderful area. But I started talking about the park,
10 Bridle Trails State Park, which is about 500 acres. And we
11 have a ranger there, and there are trails and there are
12 walkers and horses. And growing up, right, it was mainly
13 equestrians that were in the park, but there are runners and
14 walkers and families.

15 I was talking about the field trips that -- my kids go
16 to school right here, right, and so Ranger Mary and -- I
17 forget the new ranger's name -- but talking about the trees:
18 This is this kind of tree and what kind of animal do you
19 think would live in this kind of tree? Just the education
20 that goes on.

21 And so the reason why I wanted to talk a little bit
22 today with you about this project is I would really
23 encourage you to think about the project. Bridle Trails is
24 such a special place with all the trees and all the walking
25 trails, right, and I came back here after going to school

1 because I love the area and I love the community and I love
2 the rural nature of the neighborhood.

3 I was in Newcastle on Tuesday and it's the same thing,
4 right, trees and beautiful things. And I would just really
5 encourage you guys to continue to look for alternative
6 proposals, to look at alternative technologies and ways that
7 we can not devastate entire neighborhoods for the sake of
8 PSE. Thank you.

9

10 SPEAKER NO. 2: MIKE HALVERSON

11 Hi, I'm Mike Halverson, and that was my daughter and my
12 riding partner, and I'm the one with the other horse that's
13 outside. I am here today to read into the record something
14 that a neighbor brought by. He intended to be here but some
15 sudden family situation changed all that so he very quickly
16 gave me some written material to read. His name is Ron
17 Bromwell. He lives at 13650 Northeast 34th Place.

18 For clarification purposes the Olympic Pipeline was
19 constructed in 1973. It is 42 years of age and has received
20 no visible maintenance during the past 30 years according to
21 the residents in the area. It is located within an easement
22 of 100 feet shared with PSE. The pipes are located less
23 than 50 feet from the center of the easement, with currently
24 only a 16-foot setback from the first electrical cable. The
25 combined easement forms a narrow corridor lined on both

1 sides by homes and some very large trees.

2 The pipes are buried in the ground but only at a
3 shallow level of three to four feet. Their location is
4 marked with posts bearing notices not to dig, because even
5 relatively minor excavation activities like landscaping or
6 fencing can cause damage to a pipeline, its protective
7 casing or buried utility lines, as it says in the Olympic
8 Pipeline's safety brochure.

9 Residents of this area are very much aware of pipeline
10 infrastructure problems such as a local event on May 24th,
11 2004. It was reported that, quote, a pinhole-sized leak
12 caused by wear unleashed thousands of gallons of gasoline
13 that fueled the Olympic pipeline fire and explosion near
14 Bellingham, Washington, end quote.

15 This accident caused three deaths and considerable
16 damage. It was one of many such accidents in recent years.
17 Wikipedia, the free Internet encyclopedia, has documented a
18 list of 503 pipeline accidents and failures which have
19 occurred in the United States in the last 15 years, not
20 including the latest disaster of May 20th, 2015, in Santa
21 Barbara, California.

22 And then he wrote this letter. It is addressed to the
23 CEO of Olympic Pipeline:

24 Dear Sir: The residents of five cities in Washington
25 State have been asked for input in the form of an EIS on the

1 significant environmental issues which will be affected by
2 an 18-mile new energy development being promoted by PSE. We
3 are sharing this information with you as we have not heard
4 or seen representatives from Olympic Pipelines at the
5 various meetings which have taken place. The safety of the
6 pipeline is of vital importance to the many residents of the
7 five cities along the route, as in many cases it runs very
8 close to their homes, less than 50 feet in cases. Therefore
9 we wish to have an opinion from your company concerning the
10 safety of the pipeline considering the major construction
11 which will take place to install many large over-100-foot
12 towers.

13 I bring this matter to your attention in the hopes that
14 your company will understand this development as potential
15 for a disaster in the making and will insist that the
16 Energize Eastside project be subjected to a re-evaluation
17 with particular relevance to pipeline safety.

18 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. Could you leave those for
19 the court reporter?

20 MS. HALVERSON: I will put these in an envelope,
21 yes. He wanted me to leave them with you.

22 MS. WAGONER: That would be excellent, thank you.

23

24 SPEAKER NO. 3: STEVE O'DONNELL

25 Good afternoon and welcome to everybody who came today,

1 and thank you for supporting CENSE, cense.org, Coalition of
2 Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy.

3 My name is Steve O'Donnell. I'm the president and
4 co-founder of CENSE. I live at 13945 Southeast 47th Street
5 in Somerset. I've been in Somerset for over 40 years, and
6 I'm the immediate past president of the Somerset Community
7 Association. We have about 1600 homes, about 6,000 people.
8 The existing 115 lines on approximately 40-foot wooden H
9 structures go right through Somerset about a mile in
10 addition -- inside of that full 18 miles from Redmond to
11 Renton and the 9 miles through Bellevue, couple miles
12 through Bridle Trails, couple miles through Olympus in
13 Newcastle.

14 And thanks to our friends and neighbors and supporters
15 in Bridle Trails and Olympus that are here with us this
16 afternoon and so supportive, and who turned out in big
17 numbers Thursday evening in Newcastle. That was really
18 terrific, so thank you very much. I think there was a
19 tremendous amount of great information and new information
20 from those folks brought forward.

21 I want to continue just on the theme of code
22 deficiencies and trends a little bit. I asked for a show of
23 hands Thursday evening of how many people came in their
24 hybrid or electric car, and there was a dozen or so or more,
25 and that probably wasn't the case even a year or two ago.

1 How many people still use the princess phone? Nobody. Now
2 going back to the car analogy, nobody came by horse and
3 buggy. Just about everybody in the room had a smartphone of
4 one type or another, have converted to LED bulbs, are
5 putting on solar panels.

6 But on the commercial side of things for code
7 deficiencies, I think that that's something that both
8 Bellevue needs to take a really hard look at, all five
9 cities, and ESA in your studies that -- you need to take a
10 look at what the comparison or the delta would be when we
11 build out downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red corridor over
12 the next 30 or 40 years, that all of those new buildings are
13 going to be very energy efficient, and should be and need to
14 be, versus the existing businesses that are there.

15 So it appears that on a national level, a state level
16 and a county level, electric utility use is flat to down.
17 Americans have acquired about 1.2 billion devices -- I just
18 mentioned smartphones -- in the last three years and yet
19 electric utility use is down 12 percent. There's a reason
20 for that and the folks at ESA need to study this. The City
21 needs to be aware of this. That's only going to continue.

22 To the point of trends, and continuing, I just had the
23 distinct honor and privilege two weeks ago to spend three
24 days in Washington, D.C., with the Honor Flight Program as a
25 guardian and chaperone for two 93-year-old World War II

1 veterans. It was quite an experience. But I will tell you
2 that they too have smartphones, they too are driving
3 hybrids, they too are putting solar panels on their homes at
4 93 years old up in La Conner at Shelter Bay and in Lake
5 Stevens.

6 They're a part of the greatest generation, and if
7 they're doing these things and the young people are doing
8 these things, I think we could forecast in just a matter of
9 several years there would be absolutely zero need for PSE's
10 EE, what I termed a year and a half ago as industrial
11 blighting of 18 miles above the tree canopy of 40
12 neighborhoods or more in an unnecessary project.

13 And if what Jens Nedrud and Gretchen Aliabadi and the
14 PSE people say is true, this is a local project, well then,
15 by golly, make it a local project. Study it as a local
16 project. Require that it's a local project. Require that
17 all the new buildings in downtown core, in the Bel-Red
18 corridor, create and generate distributed generation and
19 batteries and solar and utilize all the new technology at
20 our disposal, because that's the trend in the future.

21 And so I would just say in closing, especially to all
22 of you young people at ESA and you young people in the city
23 of Bellevue: Be visionary, be innovative, be creative. I
24 started my investment career over 40 years ago. I didn't
25 want to do the old stuff. I didn't want to go backwards. I

1 didn't want to do legacy stuff. What these guys are
2 proposing is something that's 20th century, 19th century.
3 It's junk. Anybody could do it and --

4 MS. WAGONER: Okay, wrap up your comments.

5 MR. O'DONNELL: -- I didn't want to embarrass some
6 of the young people. At a meeting we had somebody took me
7 to task for challenging them, but a young person just
8 joining PSE --

9 MS. WAGONER: If you can wrap up your --

10 MR. O'DONNELL: I will. Was that five minutes?

11 MS. WAGONER: You're through your five.

12 MR. O'DONNELL: Such a thin crowd, I think we have
13 quite a bit of time.

14 But anyway, that's my point is look to the future,
15 let's embrace technology. That's what it's for, okay?

16 And the last point I'd like to make is --

17 MS. WAGONER: A short point.

18 MR. O'DONNELL: -- DC Hydro is bringing on Site C
19 Dam on the Peace River, and there isn't going to be any need
20 for north -- south to north flow to Canada in just a matter
21 of maybe eight years or so, however long it takes for them
22 to get that dam building on line, and so it will be north to
23 south flow. And who's going to be the gatekeeper? Well,
24 maybe PSE wants to be the gatekeeper, maybe Seattle City
25 Light. These guys need to work collaboratively together --

1 MS. WAGONER: Okay, I think you've got your point
2 made.

3 MR. O'DONNELL: -- handle that power.

4 MS. WAGONER: Thank you very much.

5 MR. O'DONNELL: So thank you very much and I look
6 forward to you doing the right thing.

7

8 SPEAKER NO. 4: BRIAN ELWORTH

9 Hello, I'm Brian Elworth. I live at 8605 129th Court
10 Southeast in Newcastle in the Olympus neighborhood. This is
11 my fifth three-minute sound bite. It's very hard to
12 communicate messages in little tiny sound bites, but I'll
13 continue that approach.

14 Importance of vetted data. Compare PSE's demand
15 forecasts during the CAG process versus the new EIS version,
16 the one you guys show. Per the PSE CAG graph, power demand
17 was 650 megawatts in 2012. The EIS version shows less than
18 600 megawatt demand in 2014. So more than 50-megawatt
19 reduction in two years. We apparently saved 50 megawatts by
20 doing nothing but talking about it. That's pretty amazing.
21 If we just have these meetings routinely, the problem will
22 go away. In fact, in 20 years we will not need power lines,
23 based on that projection.

24 So my point is, you could say -- you know, politely you
25 could say the PSE data is a bit squishy. Realistically, you

1 could call it Ouija board pseudoscience, because that's what
2 it is.

3 This really looks -- this project looks to me like
4 Chicken Little saying: The sky is falling and we must build
5 more power lines. You said that you have to figure out
6 which alternatives to bring forward. The one that's most
7 draconian in its solution and in its impact is Alternative
8 1. I recommend you not bother pulling that one forward.

9 Alternatives. We have a huge opportunity here.
10 There's a lot of negativity. Everything I've said has been
11 pretty much negative and everybody who's been up here has a
12 lot of negative feelings about this and data to prove their
13 points. This could be a catalyst for a new mindset. Think
14 about embracing a vision of becoming a world leader in power
15 management and distribution in Bellevue, Kirkland,
16 Newcastle, Redmond and Renton. Experts from around the
17 world would come to see how the technology leaders are doing
18 it: Clean, renewable, affordable, reliable energy. We
19 could do that. We could be the world model.

20 The Puget Sound region has a very high concentration,
21 population, of scientists, engineers, mathematicians and
22 technology experts. You know, a typical day at the office
23 for people around here, they're solving problems no one else
24 in the world can solve. We actually do that here. You may
25 be numb to that, but that's what we do here in this area.

1 A previous generation of engineers that work in the
2 neighborhood that I work in, they left a bunch of
3 electronics in an abandoned vehicle. Maybe they shouldn't
4 be too proud of that, but they left the vehicle on the moon.
5 They did it 44 years ago. In contrast, why is their
6 electric power utility just this side of the dark ages? It
7 doesn't need to be. That's my vision statement.

8 Quality of the EIS. This is a little bit disappointing
9 to me, from what I heard last time. The EIS should be a
10 complete and unbiased impact assessment based on the best
11 information available. The value of the EIS is based solely
12 on the integrity of the process and the integrity of the
13 responsible participants. The mere perception of bias or
14 conflict of interest will taint the EIS and prompt
15 consequent challenges.

16 I don't know if the City of Bellevue has standards for
17 fairness in treatment of its residents codified or whatever,
18 but there's an implied standard of fairness that the lead
19 agency is obligated to follow with respect to the other
20 impacted cities of Redmond, Kirkland, Newcastle, Renton, and
21 all their residents. These other cities have nothing to
22 gain by this proposed project, but they have a lot to lose.

23 So I ask that all participants involved in directing or
24 authoring the EIS who have or will promote and advocate on
25 the behalf of the proposed PSE project recuse themselves. I

1 also ask that, further, all participants who are under those
2 people's directions also recuse themselves. Thank you.

3 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. Do you care to leave your
4 notes or --

5 MR. ELWORTH: I would like to leave something else.
6 I again drew the draconian chart. The rectangle is the
7 magnitude of the energy capacity of their solution. This
8 little teeny, tiny circle inside it, this little teeny, tiny
9 rectangle, that's the magnitude of the energy shortfall they
10 claim. So I'll leave you that, I'll leave you an 800 zoom
11 of that corner there, and I'll also leave you my assessment
12 of how those numbers are derived, including PSE's data and
13 statements.

14 MS. WAGONER: Their methodology, okay. Thank you.

15

16 SPEAKER NO. 5: SARA BRANNMAN.

17 MS. BRANNMAN: Hope you don't mind if I bring my big
18 'ole laptop up here.

19 MS. WAGONER: No.

20 MS. BRANNMAN: Hello. My name is Sara Brannman and
21 I actually live in Bothell at 24115 1st Place West, but I've
22 been involved in the Redmond community for a long time.
23 I've worked here for about six years and consider myself an
24 involved stakeholder, so to speak.

25 First, let me say that I really appreciate and agree

1 with everything that's been previously stated, and I feel as
2 though it has made my job much easier. And as a double
3 major in environmental studies and public policy, as well as
4 a member of this community, my concerns regarding any large
5 construction project are numerous. Therefore, I'll try to
6 keep it short and just keep it to three key points that I
7 have. But I'm not here to necessarily voice an opinion on
8 the project itself, but rather to encourage certain aspects
9 to be considered within the EIS report. And I apologize if
10 any of these concerns have already been voiced.

11 First, the greenest thing that we can do in almost any
12 case is to use what we already have. If we assume that this
13 project must be completed, I encourage the project managers
14 to strongly consider alternatives to newly built lines such
15 as double-circuiting lines that already exist, if the
16 existing lines provide a viable opportunity to do so.
17 Improving current lines will dramatically reduce land
18 disturbance and could potentially cut costs. If possible,
19 the improvement of existing lines could prove to be a
20 worthwhile investment in our energy efficiency, our local
21 aesthetics and the health of our natural environment.

22 I have noticed that Alternative 3 as listed on the
23 project's website speaks of some similar alternatives, but I
24 simply hope that the potential benefits of such a plan will
25 be more closely examined, and I show my support for such an

1 alternative.

2 Second, if the new lines must be built, I hope that the
3 EIS will include an assessment of how the land disturbance
4 may exacerbate the spread of invasive species, such as the
5 Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, and butterfly bush, to
6 name a few. While this project is focused around
7 already-developed areas, there are many urban green spaces
8 that may be affected. We had someone talk about the park,
9 and that is a large area of concern for someone as invested
10 in parks as myself. Invasive species take advantage of
11 disturbed lands by rapidly spreading into newly cleared
12 soil, and these species compete against our native plants
13 with great success and often displace animal species,
14 forcing them into new and possibly more fragmented areas,
15 which puts them at further risk.

16 I hope to see that the effects of such disturbances
17 will be considered with regard to invasive species
18 specifically. If a risk exists, I propose a monitoring
19 requirement that would routinely check on potential
20 advancement of invasive species, as well as removal or
21 restoration stipulations.

22 And finally, my last concern is one that I'm sure has
23 been brought up before, and that is construction waste. If
24 this project has to happen, there needs to be a
25 comprehensive assessment of the type of construction waste

1 that this project would produce, where that waste will go,
2 what that waste could potentially do to our water and soil
3 in a release event. This includes an assessment of nearby
4 surface water such as rivers, lakes, streams, and assessment
5 of groundwater, as well. And I'm sure everyone in here
6 agrees that runoff is a huge issue in this area, the Puget
7 Sound, Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish. It's a large area
8 of concern, and I hope that that will be very closely
9 examined in this project.

10 Those are my foremost concerns regarding the pursuit of
11 this project. Thank you for hearing me.

12 MS. WAGONER: Thank you very much.

13

14 SPEAKER NO. 6: JENNIFER KELLER

15 Hello, my name is a Jennifer Keller. I live at 115
16 146th Avenue Southeast, which is Lake Hills, and I've lived
17 on the Eastside, some in Seattle, a lot on the Eastside for
18 many years, and I thank you for this opportunity to speak.

19 We're in a changing time when our energy infrastructure
20 must be built not just for the kinds of goals and plans that
21 might have been created in the past, even the recent past,
22 you know, 2010, 2012. What has become clear is that the
23 climate issues that we face are extremely serious, and the
24 national and international bodies that could have stepped up
25 to the challenges so far haven't done much. So we need to

1 step up at a local level in every way we can as soon as we
2 can. We have to choose a direction we're going to head in.

3 We can choose the self-destructive option of assuming
4 that consuming and distributing energy in the same old ways
5 as we have been is just fine. That's a choice where we
6 don't change our thinking, don't investigate alternatives
7 like Alternative 2 here. We don't give alternatives their
8 full value and weight in that scenario.

9 Or we can choose to give the climate issues our full,
10 serious attention, you know, thinking about around here
11 things like having enough snowpack in the mountains during
12 the winter, that we don't suffer serious droughts and
13 devastating forest fires in the summer. So we need to think
14 about all that.

15 This project is being proposed at a time when it's
16 crucial that we ask serious questions about the things that
17 are needed right now and that I've been talking about.
18 Energy efficiency measures are better understood now and we
19 have better technology, like LED bulbs. That's important.
20 Solar power is becoming more and more affordable. Batteries
21 for storing solar power are getting better and more
22 affordable. Smart grid technology and the kinds of feedback
23 devices that help customers conserve energy are all becoming
24 more and more available. So now is the time to open up the
25 doors for all of that and not invest in the old kind of

1 infrastructure.

2 James Hansen, climate scientist, himself has emphasized
3 that what's necessary right now is not just a transformation
4 of our energy infrastructure. We also need to create ways
5 to absorb CO2, including wetlands, changing farming
6 practices and planting billions of trees around the world.
7 Many, many, many trees we need. And this project proposes
8 cutting eight thousand trees, which is going the wrong
9 direction completely. It's a serious action to cut a large
10 tree. The large tree is making a layer of wood all over
11 that big trunk and big branches every year.

12 So I urge that the scoping of this EIS take in the
13 actual situation we're in today in relation to greenhouse
14 gasses and climate. This is a time to turn our attention
15 not toward the old-style ways, but towards the new, what we
16 need for the future, which is shown the best in Alternative
17 2. Thank you.

18 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. That is our last signed-up
19 speaker. It looks like we have two additional. Who would
20 like to go first? All right, sir.

21

22 SPEAKER NO. 7: WARREN HALVERSON

23 MR. HALVERSON: Thank you very much.

24 MS. WAGONER: And again, if you will --

25 MR. HALVERSON: This is the growth on this tree

1 (indicating), five years old.

2 MS. WAGONER: If you will state your name and
3 address, please?

4 MR. HALVERSON: My name is Warren Halverson. I live
5 at 13701 Northeast 32nd place. I'm here representing the
6 Canter Green Association, so I assume that I get five
7 minutes, correct?

8 MS. WAGONER: Yes.

9 MR. HALVERSON: Thank you. I would just like to
10 comment on three things, first on the EIS, second on
11 alternatives, and third on the evaluative factors.

12 It is such a pleasant day outside. It really is. We
13 live in such a beautiful area that it's hard to say some
14 things that you really do mean constructively. They may not
15 sound that way but let me say them. And I mean them, in all
16 sincerity, constructively.

17 I do think that we all need to firewall ourselves a
18 little bit. We need to firewall ourselves from ourselves
19 and from some of our biases and some of our relationships.
20 It would be my expectation in any organization, any
21 corporation, that when you have a customer or a client or a
22 vendor, you have a close relationship with them. And I
23 think that's great. And I think the City has a wonderful
24 relationship with Puget Sound Energy. At the same time, I
25 have on occasion asked people a question and I've asked

1 myself: How do you firewall yourself? How do you firewall
2 yourself from potential biases?

3 As you know, this group here and you, the City, hired
4 an independent technical analysis to be done. As you know,
5 one of the chief authors has a -- had a contract with Puget
6 Sound Energy, had conflicts of interest. The study turned
7 out to be not very useful, only useful from the standpoint
8 of it educated all of us about a very complex matter.

9 However, Puget Sound Energy has now found that it
10 endorses Energize Eastside in that 18 miles. How they came
11 to that conclusion is beyond me, but I ask you to take a
12 look, then, at yourselves and make sure you do firewall
13 yourselves, that there are not conflicts of interest.
14 Please don't do that, because people will recognize --
15 people are smart, they'll see that kind of thing.

16 So I didn't want to bring up a negative topic, but I do
17 think you need to look at the EIS process. See that
18 customer demand chart over there? It is not a customer
19 demand chart. It's a peak chart. It's the peak. And even
20 Mr. Wappler, the vice president for Puget Sound Energy,
21 could not explain that chart, and I'll bet half of you in
22 this room cannot explain that chart. It is for a peak
23 situation, and we are trying to solve that peak situation
24 with a mammoth project. A mammoth project. So the problem
25 and the solutions aren't coming together here.

1 So let me just comment now about alternatives. I think
2 it's really, really important that you look at other
3 alternatives. I know there's been recommendation to the
4 City that they hire an engineer to have on your staff, an
5 electrical engineer. We don't have one. I'm not an
6 engineer, nobody here is an engineer, and yet we have four
7 alternatives that have been selected up there by somebody to
8 be the four alternatives. I don't know where they came
9 from. Where did those alternatives come from? Should they
10 even be in there?

11 You will get a whole set, I'm sure, of other
12 alternatives. I request, then, that when you get those
13 alternatives and they are substantiated, that you take the
14 evaluative factors, the same ones you've used for PSE's
15 18 miles, those evaluative factors, and run them against the
16 new recommendations and alternatives that are going to be
17 made. You really need to do that. It's going to be a lot
18 of work, because I know what Puget Sound Energy has done on
19 that 18 miles. They've done a lot of work, a lot of work in
20 proving their alternative. So your evaluative factors need
21 to do that.

22 I'm going to run out of time so I'm going to move a
23 little bit faster. I think there are two evaluative factors
24 you really need to have, and it's been brought up several
25 times in every one of these meetings. Puget Sound Energy

1 does not want these alternatives -- or these evaluative
2 factors. They are economics. What are the economics of
3 these alternatives that you're looking at? How much are
4 they going to cost? What is the opportunity cost on the
5 money that could be saved? What are the property costs?

6 I can guarantee you that it's 10 to 30 percent
7 reduction in your property value when you put in these
8 lines. When we talked to the Eastside multiple listing
9 agency with about 20 members, we asked them about power
10 lines. Do you know what the woman said? Huge. That is
11 what happens when you put these in. The impact is huge.

12 Another person said: If I have kids that are buying a
13 house, I will not try to sell them that house because of
14 leukemia. Another one said: It's the last thing I'll
15 offer. Another one said: I won't offer houses where there
16 are power lines. So we can't just deny that there are no
17 economic impacts. There are. I think that should be part
18 of the evaluative factors.

19 The last one -- and I'm running out of time -- is one
20 that's been brought up, and that's that geoscience thing.
21 Puget Sound Energy, one of your experts here that was
22 talking over here was -- one of their experts they brought
23 in before, I think Lowell something was the guy's name,
24 looked me right in the face and said: Doesn't make any
25 difference. You can put these things right on top of

1 pipelines.

2 MS. WAGONER: If you could, wrap it up.

3 MR. HALVERSON: I'll wrap it up, okay.

4 I belong to a water association. These pipes in the
5 water association are the same age as that pipeline. We
6 have two breaks usually, maybe -- we had two this year --
7 one or two a year. I ask people when they dig it up: What
8 caused that? They say: I don't know. I don't know. It's
9 a pinprick. It's a pinprick that goes in that old pipe and,
10 bam, there it is, water out. In this case, an explosion.
11 You're going to get explosions.

12 So please take into consideration these two other
13 evaluative factors. Please look at the alternatives and
14 make sure they're vetted right against them, and let's have
15 really a good EIS process, please. Thank you.

16 MS. WAGONER: Thank you. We have our speaker here
17 and then we have one more speaker who's also asked.

18

19 SPEAKER NO. 8: LORETTA LOPEZ

20 My name is Loretta Lopez. I'm president of the Bridle
21 Trails Community Club, and therefore I request five minutes.

22 Number one, with respect to whether this project, this
23 particular project, constitutes an essential public
24 facility, at the Newcastle meeting I requested, I pointed
25 out, that whether or not this project constitutes an

1 essential public facility must be addressed by all five of
2 the cities. And what I want to add here is that I would
3 like -- no, I request that in the DEIS that there is a
4 review of all five jurisdictions and whether or not this
5 particular project constitutes an essential public facility
6 for each of those jurisdictions.

7 Number two, with respect to the type of data and
8 studies that should be included in the DEIS, there should be
9 load forecasting and the data that is used to do those
10 forecasts should be transparent. The citizens have not been
11 able to determine how the load forecasting by PSE has been
12 done, and that is not acceptable.

13 Number three, with respect to the need for this
14 project, the City, after much -- after many requests by
15 citizens, finally hired a consultant, and in that study,
16 that study set forth some information about the needs.
17 However, that study was not complete. The citizens had many
18 questions about that study; those questions were never
19 answered, and therefore it is our position that that needs
20 assessment has never been established by the U.S.E. report.

21 Number four, I requested at the Newcastle meeting that
22 the comp plan and the zoning codes for each jurisdiction be
23 reviewed. I request further that that review be set forth
24 in the DEIS so all citizens can review the exact basis upon
25 which the determination of whether or not this particular

1 project is consistent with the comp plan and zoning codes
2 for each jurisdiction.

3 Number five, the EIS -- the DEIS should set forth the
4 distinction between phase one and phase two of the EIS
5 process. Currently it is not clear. Most citizens would
6 not know the distinction between phase one and phase two.
7 And it is important -- no, it is essential that this
8 distinction be made clear in the EIS so that citizens can
9 review and comment appropriately and with knowledge.

10 Number six, upon completion of phase one, it is our
11 position that the City then should pause and have the city
12 councils of each jurisdiction make a final decision after
13 phase one of this process. Why? Because then it is clear
14 exactly what is being decided, who is deciding it, and what
15 the decision is. If we do not -- or if the City decides not
16 to do this, then it's very unclear. Where does phase one
17 end? Where does phase two start? Who's making the
18 decision? When is that decision made? How is that decision
19 made? What are the factors that are taken into account to
20 make the decisions? And all of that should be transparent.
21 The citizens should not be wondering how this major decision
22 is going to be made. We should know that. It should be
23 transparent. We should know it now. Thank you.

24 MS. WAGONER: Thank you.

25

1 SPEAKER NO. 9: SEBASTIAN HELM

2 I am Sebastian Helm. I live at 6052 137 Place
3 Northeast, which is in the Sixty 01 complex, and I'm on the
4 board of directors for the Citizens and Neighbors for a
5 Sustainable Redmond, but I am not speaking on behalf of the
6 organization, so I only claim three minutes.

7 I moved here for a big software company but also
8 because of the really nice, green landscape which allows me
9 to ride my bike between the cities and to commute between
10 Redmond and Bellevue. And I am afraid that part of this
11 green commute along 116th Avenue will be gone. That's one
12 private concern that I have.

13 Another concern I would like to -- that came up in the
14 speeches that I've heard here is the concern about
15 transparency. I have made my experience with PSE myself. I
16 was an energy auditor for two years and I applied for the --
17 to do audits on the Eastside with PSE. PSE got the money,
18 taxpayer money, from the federal government. And the reply
19 that I got from PSE was: Sorry, you are -- we already gave
20 our -- we already filled our energy and auditor positions.
21 You're not going into the program. We got so many
22 applications that we had to go on a first-come, first-served
23 basis.

24 There was no accountability, no transparency there. So
25 now hearing these different concerns really raises a red

1 flag for me. So that's what I wanted to say. Thank you.

2 MS. WAGONER: Thank very much.

3

4 SPEAKER NO. 10: MARIA VLACHOPOULOU

5 My name is Maria Vlachopoulou. I live in Bellevue at
6 14708 Southeast --

7 MS. WAGONER: May I ask you for the spelling of your
8 last name, please, so the court reporter can take that down?

9 MS. VLACHOPOULOU: Okay. V-l-a-c-h-o-p-o-u-l-o-u.

10 MS. WAGONER: Thank you very much.

11 MS. VLACHOPOULOU: So I was not planning on speaking
12 today because I've not done my full homework. However -- so
13 this is going to be a little bit rough around the edges.

14 But I kind of -- I wanted to speak in more broad terms since
15 this is phase one, so hopefully everything will make sense.

16 So I am actually an engineer. I am an electrical and
17 computer engineer and also an operations researcher. I work
18 for the Pacific Northwest National Lab in Richland,
19 Washington, and the work that I do is basically a physical
20 analysis of data. And in particular, when I worked at the
21 Pacific Northwest National Lab, I worked in the energy
22 infrastructure group so we did a lot of research. I
23 developed algorithms and did research on how to integrate
24 renewable technologies. And not just that. We did also
25 research on load forecasting, peak shaving of energy demand

1 and distributed generation. So I know quite a lot about
2 this topic.

3 So I don't want to take a specific -- I don't want to
4 say it's a good or bad project because, as I said, I want to
5 read all the facts that are out there. However, from a very
6 quick glance, it really didn't seem very reasonable to me.
7 But I will get back to that at some point. We have until
8 June 15th to comment, so hopefully I'll finish all my
9 research by then.

10 The thing that's surprising is that -- so research
11 national labs are -- there are nine energy research labs in
12 the United States, and our funding was coming from the
13 Department of Energy. So a lot of taxpayer money went for
14 research on renewable energy, and not just renewable energy,
15 but helping to improve our conversion. Surprisingly to me,
16 after all this money spent for research, utilities are very
17 reluctant and very stubborn in adopting these suggestions
18 that the researchers, the engineering researchers, have
19 suggested.

20 In fact, we found -- so we worked very closely with
21 BPA, but we found a lot more collaboration with ISO and
22 companies from California, so we worked a lot more with Cal
23 ISO, and we didn't find the cooperation that we were
24 expecting from Washington State companies, which is very
25 unfortunate.

1 MS. HELLAND: I just want to thank you again for
2 coming this afternoon and for providing your comments. We
3 will take those all into account as we move forward in the
4 EIS process. So remember that if you received a copy of
5 this document that there is contact information on the first
6 page, so you may send your comments in. We will put those
7 into the public record as well as the comments that were
8 taken by the court reporter this afternoon. And we really
9 appreciate your time coming out on such a lovely day.

10 (Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.)
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