



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR
450 110th Ave NE
BELLEVUE, WA 98004-5514

**NOTICE OF PHASE 2 COMMENT PERIOD REOPENING
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

PROJECT NAME: Energize Eastside

PROPONENT: Jens Nedrud, Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

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

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

FILE NUMBER: 14-139122-LE **PROJECT PLANNER:** Heidi Bedwell

On April 30, 2015, the Environmental Coordinator for the City of Bellevue, serving as Lead Agency, published a Notice of Determination of Significance, indicating that this proposal could have a significant adverse impact on the environment and required the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030(2)(c). On January 28, 2016, the Lead Agency issued a Phase 1 Programmatic Draft EIS, which evaluated alternative methods to achieve PSE's project objectives. A Phase 2 Draft EIS will be prepared to analyze PSE's proposal and reasonable alternatives, including project-specific alternatives proposed by PSE and additional reasonable project-specific alternatives that may be identified during the Phase 2 scoping process. On April 14, 2016, the City of Bellevue initiated a scoping comment period that closed on May 31, 2016. This notice reopens the scoping and comment period. Further information is available in the project file on request and on the project website at www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

SCOPING AND PUBLIC COMMENT: The City of Bellevue has reopened the scoping comment period on the Phase 2 EIS to provide the public with the opportunity to submit written comments on two new alternatives identified by PSE on May 31, 2016. The new alternatives do not represent PSE's preferred alignment, but are designed to bypass the boundaries of the East Bellevue Community Council. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the Phase 2 Draft EIS regarding these two new alternatives. You may comment on the new alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. An expanded scoping comment period is being provided pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-410.

Comments may be submitted in writing:

Online at: www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org
By email to: info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org
By mail to: City of Bellevue
Development Services Department
Attn: Heidi Bedwell
450 110th Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98004-5514

For questions about scoping commenting, email the City of Bellevue EIS project team at: info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

or contact:
Heidi Bedwell, Energize Eastside EIS Program Manager, City of Bellevue, 425-452-4862.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The comment period reopened on June 30, 2016. The deadline for submitting your comments on the new alternatives is August 1, 2016. All comments related to project scoping must be submitted by this date.

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

EIS REQUIRED: The Lead Agency has determined, and the applicant (PSE) has agreed, that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared. Materials indicating likely environmental impacts can be reviewed at the City of Bellevue Development Services Department.

The Energize Eastside EIS is not a permit; it is one of many sets of information permitting agencies will consider as they decide whether to approve the project and issue necessary permits.

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

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

The Phase 2 Draft EIS will identify alternatives from the Phase 1 Draft EIS that do not require or merit more detailed project-level impacts review; furthermore, it will articulate the reasoning and basis if one or more alternative(s) are not being carried forward.

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

ALTERNATIVES: Several Action Alternatives and a No Action Alternative are proposed for analysis in the Phase 2 Draft EIS. See the previous Phase 2 scoping notice (published April 14, 2016; available at www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org) for a description of the alternatives presented during the previous scoping comment period. The Action Alternatives for PSE's proposed 230 kV transmission line were divided into three segments. Segment 1 is the area between the Sammamish substation and the new Richards Creek substation. Segment 2 is the area between the Richards Creek substation and where Coal Creek Parkway crosses Coal Creek. Segment 3 is between where Coal Creek Parkway crosses Coal Creek and the Talbot Hill substation. The reopening of the scoping comment period is to address two new alternatives within Segment 1. The new alternatives would depart from the existing transmission line corridor, as described in the table below. New easements may be necessary along these alternatives.

Transmission Line Segment 1 Alternatives	Location	Typical Pole Type and Approximate Pole Height	Additional Information
Bypass Route 1	The existing 115 kV corridor at SR 520 to the intersection of the Lake Hills Connector with the existing 115 kV corridor, following: Northup Way, 132 nd Ave NE, Bel-Red Rd, 120 th Ave NE, the Eastside Rail Corridor, and the Lake Hills Connector.	Not yet determined	Alternative identified by PSE to bypass the East Bellevue Community Council boundaries
Bypass Route 2	The existing 115 kV corridor at Bel-Red Rd to the Richards Creek substation following: Bel-Red Rd, 120 th Ave NE, the Eastside Rail Corridor, the Lake Hills Connector, Richards Rd, and SE 26 th St.	Not yet determined	Alternative identified by PSE to bypass the East Bellevue Community Council boundaries

COMMENTS REQUESTED: Comments are requested in conformance with WAC 197-11-408. The Lead Agency specifically requests comments on these two new alternatives, including where visual impact simulations should be conducted and approaches to minimize visual and recreation impacts.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT: The Lead Agency has identified the following elements of the environment for analysis in the EIS:

Greenhouse Gas
Water Resources
Plants and Animals
Environmental Health – Pipeline Safety
Environmental Health - EMF Effects
Land and Shoreline Use

Views and Visual Resources
Recreation
Historic and Cultural Resources
Public Services
Utilities