



Scoping Comment Summary Report, Part 2 June 30 – August 1, 2016 Scoping Period (Reopened)

August 30, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The City of Bellevue is overseeing the preparation of a phased Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Puget Sound Energy’s (PSE’s) Energize Eastside project. The City of Bellevue is overseeing this process in cooperation with the jurisdictions of Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond, and Renton (collectively referred to as the Partner Cities). The City of Bellevue is the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) nominal Lead Agency.

This report summarizes the public comments received by the City of Bellevue during the June 30 – August 1, 2016¹ scoping period on the Phase 2 Draft EIS, including written comments submitted via letters, the EIS project website, and emails. (For the full packet of submitted comments, see the City of Bellevue EIS project website: www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.) This scoping period was the second scoping period conducted for the Phase 2 Draft EIS. To see the summary of comments for the initial Phase 2 scoping period (conducted April 14–May 31, 2016), refer to the Scoping Comment Summary Report, Part 1 on the EIS project website.

WHAT IS THE ENERGIZE EASTSIDE PROJECT?

The Energize Eastside project is a PSE proposal to construct approximately 18 miles of new 230 kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission lines and add a new substation (Richards Creek) adjacent to the existing Lakeside substation to serve PSE customers in the area generally between Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, in King County, Washington (Figure 1). Electrical power would be transmitted to the new substation and the voltage lowered, or “stepped down” (transformed), from 230 kV to 115 kV for distribution to local customers.

Phased Environmental Impact Statement

The Partner Cities are conducting a two-phase Draft EIS process under SEPA for PSE’s Energize Eastside project, as allowed under WAC 197-11-060(5).

The Phase 1 Programmatic Draft EIS was published on January 28, 2016. It evaluated, 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 is currently being prepared and will include a project-specific and geographically referenced review of PSE’s proposal, along with other reasonable alternatives.



Figure 1. Project Map

¹ Washington State and City of Bellevue regulations require a mandatory minimum 21-day scoping comment period (Washington Administrative Code [WAC] 197-11-408(2)(a)(i) and Bellevue City Code 22.02.036.D.1.a). This scoping period exceeded the minimum requirement.

WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR THIS PROJECT?

The City of Bellevue determined, and PSE agreed, that an EIS is needed for the proposal. On January 28, 2016, the City published the Phase 1 Draft EIS, which evaluated alternative methods to achieve PSE’s project objectives. The Phase 1 Draft EIS broadly described the types of impacts that the alternatives could have and mitigation that could minimize or avoid such impacts.

The Partner Cities began Phase 2 of the EIS process with the initial Phase 2 Draft EIS scoping comment period, which ran from April 14–May 31, 2016. The scoping process was reopened on June 30, 2016 for additional comment on new alternatives proposed by PSE and closed on August 1, 2016. The next step is the preparation of a report that identifies the reasonable alternatives and elements of the environment that will be evaluated in the Phase 2 Draft EIS, along with an explanation of alternatives and elements of the environment that were considered but will not be included in the analysis.

The Phase 2 Draft EIS is currently being prepared. Following publication of the Phase 2 Draft EIS, anticipated in early 2017, another 45-day comment period will be provided (see Figure 2). A summary report of the comments received on the Phase 2 Draft EIS will be prepared, along with general responses. After the close of this comment period, a Final EIS will be prepared that responds to the comments received on both the Phase 1 Draft EIS and Phase 2 Draft EIS in greater detail. See the Scoping Comment Summary Report, Part 1 for more detailed information on the phased process and past comment periods.

What is a Reasonable Alternative?

WAC 197-11-440(5)(b) defines a reasonable alternative as 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.

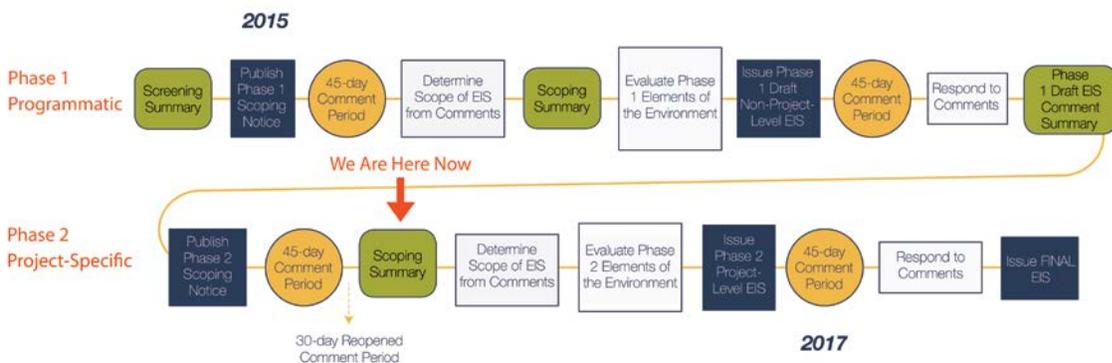


Figure 2. Two-Phase Draft Environmental Impact Statement Process

WHAT WAS PRESENTED DURING THE PHASE 2 DRAFT EIS SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD?

On June 30, 2016, the Partner Cities reopened the scoping comment period 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

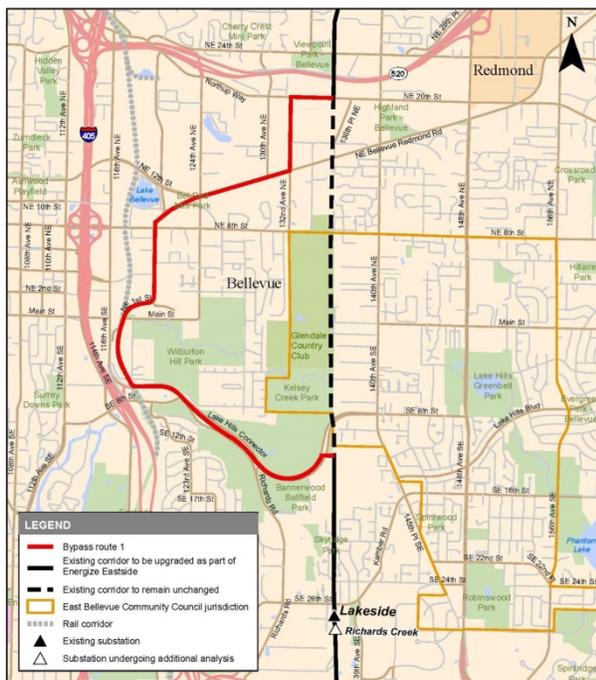
the boundaries of the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC), which has the authority to approve or deny permits for the project within their jurisdiction. The two Bypass Routes are shown in Figures 3 and 4 and were described in the Notice of Phase 2 Comment Period Reopening, published on June 30, 2016 (included as Attachment 1).

The City invited agencies, affected Tribes, and members of the public to provide scoping comments through a variety of methods, including:

- Online at: www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org
- By email at: Info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org
- By mail to: City of Bellevue, City Hall

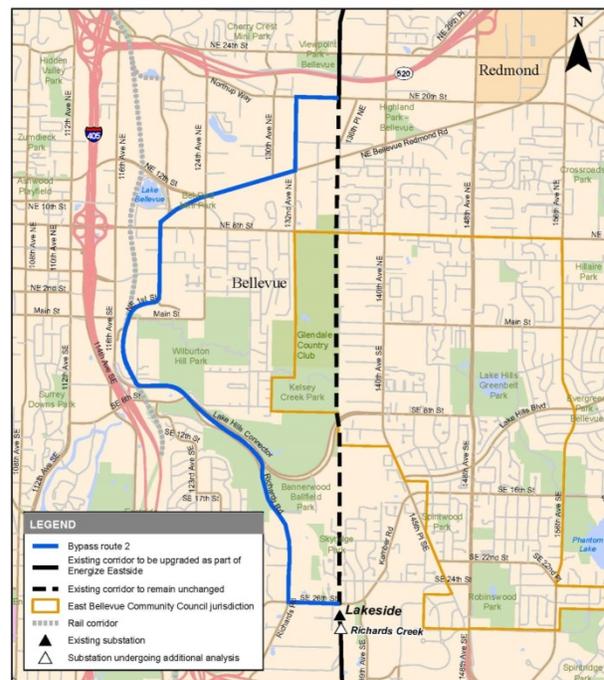
Several Action Alternatives and a No Action Alternative were proposed for analysis in the Phase 2 Draft EIS. The Action Alternatives for PSE’s proposed 230 kV transmission line were divided into three segments. Segment 1 is the area between the Sammamish substation and the new Richards Creek substation. 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 addressed two new alternative routes within Segment 1. The new alternatives would depart from the existing transmission line corridor (Figures 3 and 4). New easements may be necessary along these alternative routes, and typical pole type and approximate pole heights had not yet been identified during the reopened scoping period.

The previous Phase 2 Scoping Notice (published April 14, 2016; included as Attachment 2) describes the alternatives presented during the previous scoping comment period.



Source: PSE, 2016

Figure 3. East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) Bypass Route 1



Source: PSE, 2016

Figure 4. East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) Bypass Route 2

WHAT DID THE COMMUNITY SAY DURING THE PHASE 2 DRAFT EIS REOPENED SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD?

In total, 138 comments were received during the 30-day reopened scoping comment period in the form of website comments, emails, and letters (see Figure 5). A total of 119 individuals provided comments (some people submitted multiple comments) (see Figure 6). Comments were submitted by eight different organizations (e.g., homeowner associations), one tribal government, and one public agency (see Figure 7). Comments focused on the following top ten themes or issues, listed in order of frequency: project alternatives, purpose of and need for the project (including related aspects of costs, and PSE’s motivation for the project), pipeline safety, views and visual resources, plants & animals and water resources, EIS process, land use and housing, property values, electric and magnetic fields (EMF), and recreation (see Figure 8).

The following is a summary of the comments provided by the community during the reopened Phase 2 Draft EIS scoping comment period. The comments are organized around the top ten key issues listed above and are summarized in the following pages, beginning with general topics (purpose and need, EIS process, and project alternatives), followed by environment or resource topics. This section summarizes the public comments received. It does not explain or verify the accuracy of the statements made.

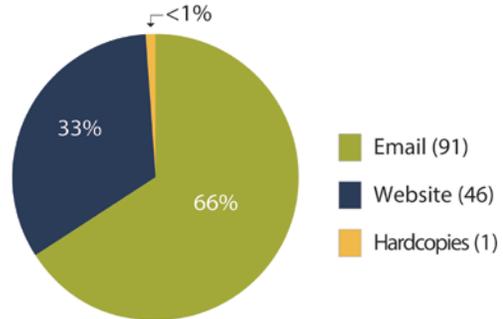


Figure 5. Comment by Type

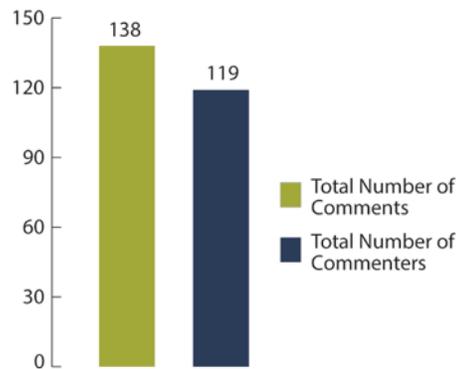


Figure 6. Scoping Comment Summary



Figure 7. Comment by Origin

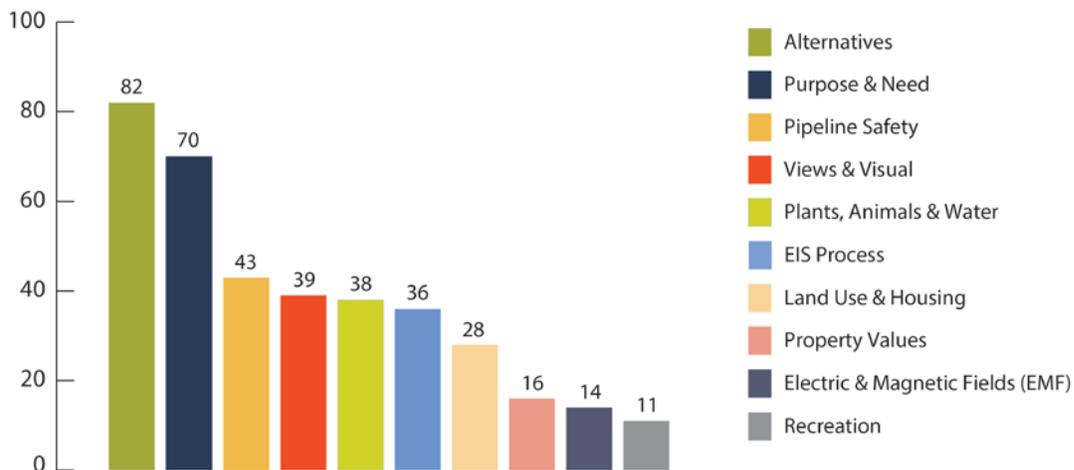


Figure 8. Comment by Topic (Top Ten)

Issue 1 - Purpose and Need

Approximately 70 commenters discussed the purpose and need of the project. Many comments were similar to input received previously, stating that the project is not needed and the need for additional electrical capacity is overstated. Comments and questions on the purpose and need focused on the following general themes:

PSE's Objectives: Commenters identified questions about the overall objectives of PSE's proposal, stating concerns that PSE's profit motivation creates a bias in their planning assumptions. The following is a summary of comments that address PSE's objectives:

- PSE is owned by an Australian and Canadian investment fund that wants to maximize the fund value. They do not have a local interest yet local ratepayers would incur the cost.
- Many commenters stated the project is not needed and referred to research done by the Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy (CENSE). Commenters claimed that PSE admitted that one of the top five key assumptions included in the Eastside Needs Assessment (1500 MW of electricity exported to Canada) has no bearing on the project.
- Many stated that "PSE has created artificial justification for a massive power system that can be used to send power to Canada."
- A few commenters expressed concern that PSE's planning data and assumptions regarding future energy demand are too high and therefore exaggerate the need for the project. A few referred to the Lauckhart-Schiffman load flow analysis, which rejects PSE's needs assessment for the project.

Utility Rates: Commenters were concerned that they would experience utility rate increases and have to pay for the construction of an "oversized" transmission line. One commenter stated that PSE has provided inconsistent information on utility rates. The commenter cited inconsistencies between PSE's website, which says ratepayers "can expect a \$1 to \$2 per month increase for the next 40 years or more" and information provided by PSE representatives in June 2016 that the Energize Eastside project would not increase rates.

Issue 2 - EIS Process

Approximately 36 commenters addressed the EIS process. Comments and questions on the EIS process focused on the following general themes:

Bypass Routes: Many commenters were concerned with PSE's identification of the Bypass Routes for the following reasons:

- They were introduced late in the process, on the last day of the initial Scoping Comment Period (May 31, 2016).

Electrical Terms and Regulatory Setting

Commenters made reference to a variety of technical reports and technical electrical terms. See Chapters 1 and 2 of the Phase 1 Draft EIS for an explanation of key terms, the regulatory framework that PSE must operate within, and references to key PSE studies. See the Library page on the project website to access the chapters (www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org).

- They were introduced to avoid the area over which EBCC has jurisdiction because PSE was concerned that EBCC would not allow the transmission line, and these Bypass Routes would avoid a “litigious EBCC threat.”
- It is unfair to route the proposed alignments through the Wilburton and Woodridge neighborhoods because of issues with EBCC.
- Identification of the Bypass Routes ignores the recommendations of the Citizen’s Advisory Group.
- Insufficient information was provided on the Bypass Routes as no pole size or types were identified.
- The reopening of the scoping period added confusion to an already complicated SEPA process.

Lack of Information: Commenters expressed concern about a lack of details, which limited their ability to provide comments. They said that there was insufficient information on the following:

- Bypass Route pole type, size, or location.
- Impacts to neighborhoods or views from the Bypass Routes.
- Costs of the project to ratepayers.
- Consistency of the project with land use regulations.
- Trees that would be removed as a result of the project.

A related comment was that people’s previous comments, either on the Phase 1 Draft EIS or on the previous scoping comment periods, had not yet been responded to.

SEPA Process: A few commenters noted that the SEPA process was flawed because a formal application has not been submitted by PSE, which would have included detailed information about their proposal. At least one commenter requested that a Final EIS be prepared for Phase 1. An application would have provided the public with information to comment appropriately.

Issue 3 - Project Alternatives

There were approximately 82 comments regarding the alternatives, including the Bypass Routes presented in the reopened comment period. Comments and questions on the project alternatives focused on the following general themes:

Bypass Routes: Most who commented on the Bypass Routes expressed their dislike for both routes, stating that they were worse than keeping the transmission line within PSE’s existing easement, which they already thought was a bad option. Some commenters expressed opposition to the Bypass Routes and support for the alignment within PSE’s existing easement. The main reasons for disliking these Bypass Routes were impacts to the natural areas (parks, trees, and wetlands) along the Lake Hills Connector roadway, changes to neighborhoods and streets that currently do not have transmission lines, and longer route alignment. A few commenters supported either Bypass Route 1 or 2, primarily because these routes were not near their home or because they would be farther from the Olympic Pipeline.

No Action Alternative: Many commenters stated that the project is not needed (discussed above under *Issue 1 - Purpose and Need*).

CENSE Alternative: Several commenters expressed support for the CENSE Alternative, "... a scalable plan developed by industry experts that uses modern technology, already at work in other cities, to power Eastside growth while reducing per capita electricity demand and greenhouse gas emissions."

The CENSE Alternative, also referred to as Alternative 2B, was developed by EQL, consultants hired by CENSE, and submitted during the Phase 1 Draft EIS public comment period. The alternative includes intelligent voltage reduction, batteries that can power grid-level load during periods of peak demand, dispatchable standby generation, day-ahead demand response, and 10-minute demand response.

Other comments suggested relying on similar alternative energy approaches. One commenter provided nine case studies of alternative energy strategies including dispatchable standby generation and energy storage, primarily from cities and companies in California.

Suggested Route Alternatives to PSE's Proposal: Commenters requested consideration of undergrounding the line either for the entire project or through the Bypass Route areas. A few commenters suggested routing it in industrial areas only, and one individual suggested running it along I-405.

PSE's Proposal: A number of commenters expressed support for the project to ensure reliable transmission of an adequate electrical supply for a growing region, while others specifically supported the Willow 2 option.

Issue 4 - Pipeline Safety

Approximately 43 commenters addressed the potential for the Olympic Pipeline, a flammable liquid petroleum product pipeline that runs in the same corridor as the proposed transmission line, to explode as a result of the project and cause loss of life and property damage. Concern for the safety of students at Tyee Middle School was expressed. Comments and questions on pipeline safety focused on the following general themes:

Construction: Commenters expressed general concern regarding construction near the pipeline, including the danger of placing high voltage cables over aging high pressure pipelines that carry millions of gallons of jet fuel every day. A commenter indicated that safety experts have warned of a potential for a catastrophic fire.

Operation: Commenters were concerned with the potential for accelerated corrosion of the pipeline from the transmission lines, which according to safety experts would create a significant risk for a catastrophic fire.

Issue 5 - Views and Visual Resources

Approximately 39 commenters addressed the views and visual resources impacts from the project. Comments and questions on views and visual resources focused on the following general theme:

Impact to Private and Public Views: Commenters are concerned that the “huge, unsightly towers” would impact private and public views. In general, commenters placed value on their views of trees, rivers, and mountains and voiced their dislike of views of transmission poles. In addition, commenters expressed concern over how the removal of “8,000 trees” would negatively impact territorial views and change the visual quality of the surrounding area. Many commenters were concerned about changes to the visual character of the Wilburton, Woodridge, Skyridge/College Hill, and Sunset neighborhoods; the Spring District; as well as along the Lake Hills Connector where the Bypass Routes are proposed. A few commenters gave specific viewpoints of concern: the viewing platform at Bellevue Botanical Gardens, Skyridge Trail, and the Grand Connection.

Issue 6 - Plants & Animals, and Water Resources

Approximately 38 commenters addressed issues related to plants and animals, and water resources. Comments and questions focused on the following general themes:

Tree Removal: A frequent concern cited by commenters was the removal of “8,000 trees” for the project. Commenters asked the City of Bellevue to stand by their vision of a “City in a Park,” and expressed related concerns of livability and economic development impacts should a large number of trees be removed.

Impact from Bypass Routes: Many commenters were concerned about potential impacts from the Bypass Routes to the open spaces and parks along the Lake Hills Connector. These concerns included tree loss, impacts to streams and wetlands, and habitat loss. One commenter specifically identified concern for Kelsey Creek, a salmon-bearing stream.

Issue 7 - Land Use and Housing

Approximately 28 commenters addressed land use and housing impacts from the project. Comments and questions about land use and housing focused on the following general themes:

Neighborhood Compatibility: Comments were specific to the neighborhoods that would be affected by the Bypass Routes, in particular Wilburton and Woodridge. Many commenters referred to the long-term plans for the Wilburton Commercial Area, the Grand Connection, the Spring District, Sound Transit’s Eastlink stations, and the Eastside Rail Corridor. Commenters indicated that these projects and plans have been discussed for many years and the discussions did not include new transmission lines in the area. A number of commenters noted that with either Bypass Route, a portion of the Wilburton neighborhood would be encircled with transmission lines because the Seattle City Light lines are already located along 124th Ave NE.

Issue 8 - Property Values

Approximately 16 commenters addressed the potential impact to property values from the project. A number of commenters from the Wilburton and Woodridge neighborhoods expressed concern for a decrease in their property value as a result of changes in their views due to a new transmission line corridor near their house. Others stated their property value would decrease because taller poles would obstruct their scenic view. One commenter called for a parcel-by-parcel evaluation of property value.

Issue 9 – Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

Approximately 14 commenters addressed the EMF impacts of the project. Comments and questions on EMF focused on the following general theme:

Health Concerns: Commenters expressed concerns about the potential for EMF produced by the transmission lines to adversely affect people’s health. Commenters were primarily concerned about the health of children who attend schools or day cares near the proposed transmission lines and substations, specifically citing Tyee Middle School.

Issue 10 – Recreation

Approximately 11 comments addressed recreation, mostly as it relates to the proposed Bypass Routes. Commenters were concerned about impacts to the parks along the Lake Hills Connector (also discussed above under Issue 5) as well as to the Eastside Rail Corridor, a proposed regional trail system. Commenters were concerned that the Bypass Routes would change the view from the Eastside Rail Corridor, affecting the experience of trail users. Additionally, one commenter who supported using the existing transmission line corridor for the project advocated for building trails along the corridor for use by the community.

WHERE CAN INTERESTED PARTIES GET MORE INFORMATION?

The City of Bellevue is available to answer questions and provide information about the SEPA process for the proposed project. Information is available on the project website, hosted by the City of Bellevue on behalf of the five Partner Cities, at: www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

Interested parties may also contact Heidi Bedwell, Energize Eastside EIS Program Manager, at the City of Bellevue, at 425-452-4862, or by email: info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

Next Steps

The immediate next steps in the Energize Eastside EIS process include the following:

1. A report will be written that identifies the reasonable alternatives and elements of the environment to be analyzed in the Phase 2 Draft EIS.
2. The EIS team will use these scoping comments, in addition to those submitted during the initial Phase 2 scoping comment period, to shape the analysis in the Phase 2 Draft EIS, specifically by informing the development of the reasonable alternatives, identifying key issues, and analyzing the impacts.
3. The Phase 2 Draft EIS will be prepared, scheduled for publication in January 2017.

ATTACHMENT 1
Reopened Phase 2 Scoping Notice
(published June 30, 2016)



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

ATTACHMENT 2
Initial Phase 2 Scoping Notice
(published April 14, 2016)



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

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(EIS)
NOTICE OF PHASE 2 PUBLIC MEETINGS/OPEN HOUSES**

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.

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SCOPING AND PUBLIC COMMENT: Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the Phase 2 EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. An expanded scoping process is being provided pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-410, and will include three public scoping meetings at the times and locations listed below.

Tuesday May 10, 2016 6:00 – 8:30 PM: Oliver Hazen High School - 1101 Hoquiam Ave NE, Renton, WA 98059
Saturday May 14, 2016 2:00 - 4:30 PM: Rose Hill Elementary - 8110 128th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98033
Tuesday May 17, 2016 6:00 – 9:00 PM: Bellevue City Hall - 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Comments may be submitted orally at the scoping meetings or 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

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The comment period opens April 14, 2016. The deadline for submitting your comments is May 31, 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, 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 is to evaluate, at a more general level, the environmental impacts of alternative methods to address the electrical transmission capacity deficiency identified by PSE. The Phase 2 Draft EIS will evaluate 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 DEISs.

ALTERNATIVES: Several Action Alternatives and a No Action Alternative are proposed to be analyzed in the Phase 2 Draft EIS. Descriptions of these alternatives are as follows:

No Action

This alternative is required under SEPA as a baseline against which the action alternatives can be compared. Under this alternative, maintenance, conservation, and certain other activities that do not require state or local government approvals could continue. No new 230 kV line or substation would be built. Additional voluntary conservation and distributed generation, such as some of the measures described under Alternative 2 in the Phase 1 Draft EIS, could occur under this alternative.

Action Alternatives (PSE's proposal)

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

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

In the Phase 1 Draft EIS, this proposal would fall under Alternative 1 - New Substation and 230 kV Transmission Lines. For the Phase 2 Draft EIS, the proposed transmission line corridor is divided into three segments, with alternative routes applying to Segment 2. PSE has proposed four alternatives for Segment 2 (referred to as Oak 1, Oak 2, Willow 1, and Willow 2, terminology PSE has used in its citizen advisory group process). Willow 2 is PSE's preferred alternative along with Segments 1 and 3. PSE has not identified alternative alignments or designs for Segment 1 and 3. Alternative transmission line designs could include different pole heights, finishes, configurations, and quantity, as well as differing number of wires (single or bundled). Alternative designs would consider the parameters of the corridor, such as the location of the Olympic Pipeline and existing corridor width. None of the alternatives proposed by PSE require widening of the existing corridor. New easements may be necessary along route options located outside of the existing corridor. The alternatives proposed by PSE are as follows:

Transmission Line Segment Alternatives	Location	Typical Pole Type and Approximate Pole Height*	Additional Information
Segment 1	Sammamish substation to the new Richards Creek substation along the existing 115 kV transmission line corridor.	Double-circuit lines (one 230 kV and one 115 kV) on steel monopoles 100 feet tall.	Existing 115 kV lines and H-frame poles would be removed (reduction of 4 poles to 1 at each pole location).
Segment 2 – Oak 1	Richards Creek substation to approximately where Coal Creek Pkwy crosses Coal Creek, following SE 30 th St, Factoria Blvd SE, and Coal Creek Pkwy.	Double-circuit lines (230/115 kV) on steel monopoles 80-100 feet tall. (Double-circuit lines have 2 lines, each with 3 wires, on 1 pole width).	New high capacity 115 kV line would be built to 230 kV standards (using same size wire as 230 kV). The existing 115 kV lines and poles that extend south from Richards Creek to Coal Creek Pkwy would remain unchanged. The existing 115 kV line along Factoria Blvd SE would be removed. Existing distribution lines and communications lines along Factoria Blvd SE would be placed underground.
Segment 2 – Oak 2	Richards Creek substation to approximately where Coal Creek Pkwy crosses Coal Creek, following 3 paths: a) Existing 115 kV corridor; b) SE 30 th St, Factoria Blvd SE (line splits at SE 38 th St), and Coal Creek Pkwy; and c) SE 38 th St and 124 th Ave SE to Coal Creek Pkwy.	a) Single-circuit 230 kV lines on steel H-frames 65 feet tall; b) Double-circuit 115 kV lines (one built to 230 standards) on 80-100 foot tall steel monopoles and single-circuit 80-foot tall steel monopoles south of SE 38 th St; and c) Single-circuit 115 kV lines on 70-foot tall wood poles.	Existing 115 kV lines and would be removed.
Segment 2 – Willow 1	Richards Creek substation to approximately where Coal Creek Pkwy crosses Coal Creek, following the existing 115 kV corridor.	North of SE Newport Way: one double-circuit (230/115 kV) on steel monopoles 100 feet tall; and South of SE Newport Way: 2 single-circuit lines (one pole carrying 115 kV and the other 230 kV) 85 feet tall.	Existing 115 kV lines and H-frame poles would be removed (reduction of 4 poles to 1 or 2 at each pole location). The 115 kV lines would be built to 230 kV standards (using same size wire as 230 kV).
Segment 2 – Willow 2 (PSE's Preferred Alternative)	Richards Creek substation to approximately where Coal Creek Pkwy crosses Coal Creek, following 2 paths: a) Existing 115 kV corridor; and b) SE Newport Way, and Coal Creek Pkwy and Factoria Blvd SE.	a) North of SE Newport Way: double-circuit lines (230/115 kV) (115 kV built to 230 standards) on monopoles 100 feet tall; South of SE Newport Way: Single-circuit 230 kV on steel H-frames 65 feet tall; b) Single-circuit 115 kV lines built to 230 kV standards on steel monopoles 80 feet tall on SE Newport Way; and double-circuit 115 kV (one built to 230 kV standards) on steel monopoles 80 feet tall on Factoria Blvd SE.	Existing 115 kV lines and poles would be removed and the number of poles reduced except along on Factoria Blvd SE. Along SE Newport Way, Factoria Blvd SE, and Coal Creek Pkwy, existing distribution and communication lines would be placed underground.

Segment 3	Following the existing 115 kV corridor from where Coal Creek Pkwy SE crosses Coal Creek to Talbot Hill substation.	Double-circuit lines (230/115 kV) on 2 steel poles 85 feet tall in Newcastle, and on steel monopoles 100 feet tall in Renton.	Existing 115 kV poles and lines would be removed.
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*For crossing highways, poles could be up to 130 feet tall to meet clearance requirements.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: Comments are requested in conformance with WAC 197-11-408. The lead agency specifically requests comments on where visual impact simulations should be conducted, alternatives or measures to minimize visual impacts, and alternatives or measures that could minimize the risk associated with collocation of transmission lines with the Olympic Pipeline.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT: The lead agency has preliminarily identified the following elements of the environment for discussion in the EIS:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse Gas Water Resources Plants and Animals Environmental Health – Pipeline Safety Environmental Health - EMF and Corona Effects Land and Shoreline Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views and Visual Resources Recreation Historic and Cultural Resources Public Services Utilities |
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