



September 2009

Puget Sound Energy to upgrade electrical system in Mount Vernon area

What is the project?

Puget Sound Energy plans to build Blackburn substation, a new electric distribution substation, at 1218 E. Blackburn Road in Mount Vernon.

Why is PSE building the substation?

PSE's new Blackburn substation will increase the overall reliability of the electric system and meet increasing demand for electricity in the east and south areas of Mount Vernon.

How will this benefit you and your community?

Our new substation will increase electric system reliability and capacity in the Mount Vernon area now and in the future. When complete, our substation will include one 25 mega volt ampere (MVA) transformer and have the space to add a second 25 MVA transformer, which will allow PSE to double the capacity in the future without changing the substation footprint.

What will the work entail?

- Site work (clearing and grading) to prepare for substation construction
- Installing concrete foundations, transformers and associated electrical equipment
- Installing underground and overhead distribution feeder lines
- Site restoration, including landscaping and fence installation



Project schedule

- Design and permitting: summer 2009 – spring 2010
- Construction: summer 2010 – fall 2010

Construction will be confined to normal daytime working hours Monday through Friday, with the possibility of some work on Saturdays. When working in or along roads, signs and flaggers will help direct traffic.

What can I expect to see or hear during construction?

Typical construction equipment will be used including track hoes, bull dozers, trucks and cranes. Construction will involve vegetation removal and site grading, as necessary, to accommodate the new substation. Concrete foundations will be installed, followed by electrical equipment, enclosures and fencing.

The area around the substation and along the new transmission corridor will be landscaped for screening and site enhancement.

Why are substations necessary?

Substations are critical links in the electricity distribution system, containing utility circuit protection, voltage regulation, and equipment that steps down higher voltage to lower voltage. Before reaching homes and businesses, power is routed through our transmission system to a substation where it is changed to a lower voltage that can be utilized by customers.

PSE's commitment

PSE remains focused on our vital mission to provide essential energy to our customers. At the same time, the company works hard to keep people informed of scheduled activities in their communities, and to ask for suggestions and opinions as those activities are being planned.

For additional information/questions please contact:

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