

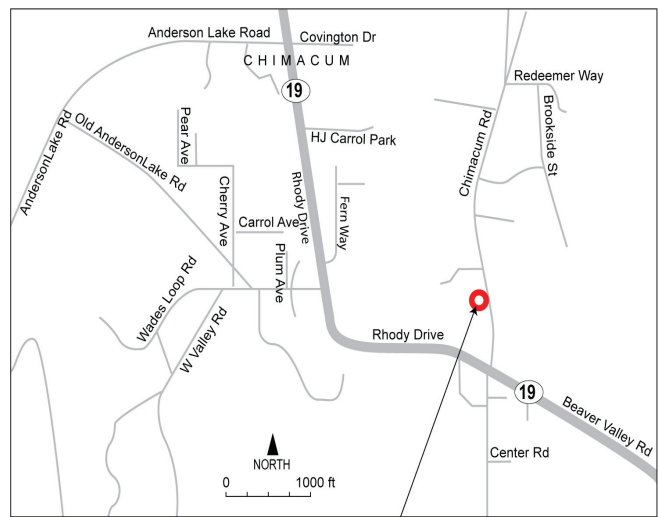
February 2007

### Strengthening Jefferson County's Electric Service Reliability Puget Sound Energy plans new electric substation in Chimacum

Jefferson County will benefit from improved electrical service when Puget Sound Energy (PSE) constructs a new substation in Chimacum. The additional capacity and reliability provided by the new substation and distribution lines will help PSE better serve business and residential customers in the Port Hadlock, Chimacum, and surrounding areas. Currently, the Chimacum area is served by two existing substations, separated by a distance of approximately 20 miles.

PSE has determined additional electrical capacity and improved reliability is necessary to better serve business and residential customers in the Port Hadlock, Chimacum and surrounding areas. This will be the first major infrastructure improvement in east Jefferson County since 1973. The new substation will connect to the existing transmission system.

PSE is committed to keeping the local community informed of its plans and activities. Property and business owners have been invited to February 2007 public meeting to offer comments or ask questions. Those comments will be considered as PSE prepares to submit its permit application to Jefferson County. The new substation will be located approximately 1,000 feet north of the intersection of Chimacum Road and SR19, on the western side of Chimacum Road.



Location of Chimacum Substation

#### Why are substations necessary?

Substations are critical links in the electricity distribution system that switch, change or regulate electric voltage. Once it is generated via dams, wind, solar, coal, natural gas or biomass, electricity is carried by high-voltage transmission power lines to the areas where it is needed. Before reaching homes and businesses, the high-voltage power flows through a substation where it is transformed to lower-voltages that can be distributed to various customers.

After the high voltage electricity is transformed to a lower-voltage at the substation, power is carried over lower-voltage distribution lines, or "feeders," toward homes and businesses. Another reduction in voltage takes place through a transformer - a box mounted on poles, on concrete pads, or in underground vaults located at or near each customer. A service line then carries customer usable, low-voltage power to meters, fuse boxes or breaker panels, and finally to electrical outlets inside a home or business.

#### Why does Chimacum Substation need to be built?

The new Chimacum substation will enable PSE to better serve Jefferson County and the surrounding area over the long-term by adding capacity and reliability. Substations are built to serve the long-term electrical needs of existing and growing communities.

The Chimacum and surrounding areas are currently served by highly-loaded distribution circuits from the Irondale and Port Ludlow substations. By installing Chimacum Substation, PSE will provide new distribution feeders to the

local area. This will help reduce power outages in the area by reducing the number of customers on existing distribution feeders and overall length of the feeders.

#### **What will the work entail?**

- Site work to prepare for construction of the new driveway and substation located approximately 1,000 feet north of the Chimacum Road-SR19 intersection.
- Installation of a transformer and associated electrical equipment
- Installation of underground distribution feeders between the substation and Beaver Valley Rd. along Chimacum Rd. to provide capacity and reliability
- Rebuild existing overhead distribution circuit to larger wire along Chimacum Rd. between the substation and Ness's Corner Rd.
- Connect the new substation with existing transmission line located on Beaver Valley Rd.
- Landscaping and restoration of the substation site

#### **What will be the benefits to me and my community?**

Chimacum Substation will increase electric capacity and reliability to customers in Port Hadlock, Chimacum, Beaver Valley Rd., Rhody Dr., Anderson Lake Rd., and to customers located along the way to Marrowstone Island. PSE has only two substations currently serving customers in this area: Irondale substation located on Four Corners Road near SR-20, and Port Ludlow substation is located to the south on Beaver Valley Rd. near Larson Lake Rd.

The new Chimacum Substation will be located between the two existing substations and will provide the additional capacity needed to serve the growing customer base in the area. Four new distribution feeder circuits will also be built as part of this project to route electric power to residences and businesses.

#### **What can I expect to see or hear during construction?**

Normal construction activities can be expected during the construction phase of the project. Initial site preparation will involve vegetation removal and site grading necessary to accommodate the new electrical equipment. Concrete foundations will be installed, followed by electrical equipment, cabinets and fencing. Landscaping will be installed around the substation for screening and site enhancement.

During the construction phase, typical construction equipment will be used including track hoes, bulldozers, trucks, and cranes. Construction will be confined to normal working hours during the week, with the possibility of Saturday work. Construction is expected to last six months. The construction should not interfere with traffic or other normal activities in the area.

#### **PSE's commitment**

PSE remains focused on its vital mission to provide essential energy to its 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.

#### **Next steps**

PSE will submit permit applications to Jefferson County during the first quarter of 2007. Pending permit approval, construction will begin in the second or third quarter of 2007 with completion expected before next storm season, in the fall of 2007. PSE will continue to communicate with the local community and Jefferson County regarding plans and progress for this project.

In the meantime, anyone with questions or comments may contact:

*Linda Streissguth*  
*Government & Community Relations Manager*  
*Puget Sound Energy*  
*22884 Ryen Drive N.W.*  
*Poulsbo, WA 98370*  
*360-394-6618*  
[linda.streissguth@pse.com](mailto:linda.streissguth@pse.com)