

PUGET SOUND ENERGY'S NORTH LACEY NATURAL GAS PROJECT



Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is investing in an important infrastructure project to ensure continued, safe, and reliable natural gas service in the north Lacey area.

Reliability updates needed for Lacey’s natural gas system

The north Lacey area, serving approximately 20,000 PSE natural gas customers, faces significant reliability challenges. Over the past 20 years, more homes and businesses have been built in the area, with the majority using natural gas. The growth in natural gas usage over time has resulted in customer demand now exceeding what the region’s natural gas system can reliably supply.

At this time, we need to update the system to prevent temporary disruptions to natural gas service and heat during cold weather when demand is highest. This project relieves strain on the system and ensures continued service reliability for our customers in the area.

New natural gas pipe to be installed under local trails

PSE will install approximately 1.5 miles of new natural gas pipe under portions of the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail and the Chehalis Western Trail. We worked closely with the City of Lacey to identify the most appropriate routing for the new pipe and together determined that placement along existing trail corridors would minimize impacts to roads and community operations, while serving community infrastructure needs.

This project will provide significant benefits to the north Lacey community:

- Ensures continued, safe, and reliable natural gas service for heating and other needs, even during the coldest days of winter.
- Provides a long-term solution that will serve the community for decades.
- Avoids service interruptions or outages during times of high demand when customers rely on us to heat their homes and cook their meals.
- Creates a stronger, more resilient natural gas system for the entire region, resulting in increased reliability for customers.

Other solutions considered

Before deciding to install new pipe, PSE looked closely at other possible solutions that would avoid new construction. Possible solutions included adding new manual operations practices, increasing pressure in the existing pipeline, and encouraging customers to switch to electric heating equipment in targeted areas. While each of these options offered some benefit, they would not adequately meet system performance, operational, and compliance requirements. After careful evaluation, installing new pipe proved to be the most effective and dependable way to ensure north Lacey customers continue receiving safe, reliable gas service.

Natural gas is an essential part of our state’s energy supply today. It is the primary source of heating for PSE’s nearly 900,000 natural gas customers.

Anticipated project timeline and next steps

We’re working with local agencies to get the permits we need for this project. Construction and restoration for this project is expected to occur in early 2027. Our goal is to minimize construction impacts as much as possible, and keep the community informed throughout the project.

The project will cause temporary street detours, as well as closures to the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail and Chehalis Western Trail. Construction is planned for the winter months, and in phases, to minimize impacts and keep everyone safe. The project web page will be updated regularly with new information as it becomes available.

During the permitting process, you may see PSE crews and our contractors working intermittently in the area to complete survey work, which will support design, engineering and permitting activities.

Thank you for your patience as we work to improve the reliability of natural gas service for the north Lacey area. Once completed, this important infrastructure project will benefit the community for decades to come.

