September 22, 2015

Re: Lake Hills/Phantom Lake Transmission Line



Improving electric reliability in East Bellevue

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is working to improve electric service reliability for more than 12,000 residential and commercial customers in the Crossroads, Robinswood, Lake Hills, Eastgate and Phantom Lake neighborhoods.

The electric system currently serving your neighborhood has limited reliability, increasing the possibility of outages. PSE's current design and operating standards require two transmission lines serving each electrical substation. PSE's Lake Hills and Phantom Lake substations, however, are each served by only one transmission line. If the single line serving each of these substations goes down or requires maintenance, all customers served by that substation lose power.

Your neighborhood is one of the few remaining in Bellevue with this situation.

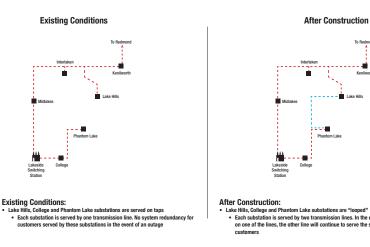


A plan to fix the problem

The solution is quite simple—connect another transmission line to the substations, or create a loop, so the substation can receive power from two different power lines.

During the last several years, PSE has worked with the community and developed a plan to increase reliability in your neighborhood. This plan requires constructing a new 115 kilovolt transmission line between the existing Lake Hills (701 164th Street) and Phantom Lake (1607 156th Avenue SE) substations. By doing so, redundancy will be added to the local electric system, decreasing the risk of power outages for you, the customer.

Lake Hills-Phantom Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Loop

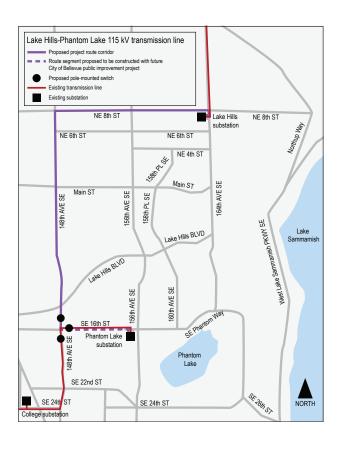


The preferred route

Since 2007, PSE has worked with the community and the City of Bellevue to develop a project that provides needed electric reliability while minimizing impacts and restoring affected areas. We held numerous public meetings, including briefings with local community councils and neighborhood associations.

PSE carefully considered all community feedback, engineering requirements, and City of Bellevue codes.

PSE worked closely with the City of Bellevue to make changes to limit impacts and select the preferred route along NE 8th Street, 148th Ave SE and SE 16th Street.



Current status of the project

Any project of this size requires many steps and points of review before it is approved and construction can commence. After a public hearing earlier this year, Bellevue's Hearing Examiner recommended approval of PSE's application. On May 4, the Bellevue City Council voted six to one to approve the permit for the project to proceed. On June 24, the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) voted five to zero denying the permit.

Disappointed in the East Bellevue Community Council's decision and potential impacts to customers, PSE has filed an appeal with the State Superior Court requesting that the court overturn the EBCC's decision.

While construction of utility facilities can be temporarily disruptive, we build infrastructure for the long-term reliability it provides to our customers and our communities.

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