To increase system capacity and improve reliability for customers, PSE plans to build a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Sammamish substation in Redmond to the Juanita substation in Kirkland. Customer demand for power is straining the electric system serving the area, which reduces PSE’s ability to reliably serve power and increases the possibility of outages.

**Improving electric reliability for Kirkland and Redmond customers**

Demand for power is growing. The Sammamish-Juanita transmission line is a critical upgrade required to increase system capacity for more than 61,000 existing electric customers in Redmond and Kirkland.

The project will improve electric reliability by adding just over four miles of new 115 kV transmission line, upgrading just under a mile of existing transmission line, upgrading aging substation equipment, and redistributing the electric load across all existing area substations.

Additionally, we will "loop" the Totem substation, meaning the substation will be connected to two transmission lines instead of one. If one line loses power, the other line will still feed the substation and provide power to customers.

By adding another transmission pathway to the electric system that serves Redmond and Kirkland, known as the Moorlands system, we will ensure we can continue to supply our customers with dependable power for years to come.
Current status of the project

For the past few years, we’ve been working with the cities of Redmond and Kirkland to finalize the route alignment. We’ve also been working individually with property owners and businesses to collect field information to inform the project design and permit applications.

What’s next?

In the first quarter of 2020, we plan to submit land use permit applications to the cities of Redmond and Kirkland. As part of each city’s permitting process, there will be opportunities to provide input and ask questions through the public comment periods, public meetings and public hearings in each city. Permitting information will be available through each city’s public noticing process, which will be posted on their websites.

If an easement is needed on your property, a PSE Real Estate representative will reach out to you in the coming months.

Anticipated project schedule

- Design and permitting: December 2019 – December 2020
- Construction: Beginning in 2021

How we chose the route

PSE convened a stakeholder advisory group (SAG) to help identify a route for the new transmission line. The SAG represented a diverse group of community and business members near the proposed project area in Redmond and Kirkland.

For nearly a year, PSE worked with the SAG and consulted the broader community through open houses and neighborhood briefings, along with reviewing public comments, to develop a technically feasible route that reflected community input. In addition to community input, PSE evaluated engineering criteria and codes and standards to identify the final route.

To learn more about the community involved siting process, visit pse.com/sammjuan115.

Why are transmission lines necessary?

Transmission lines are key links in the electric distribution system. The lines safely transport high voltage electricity from power generation sources like dams and wind farms to substations in local communities. Transmission normally takes place at voltages of 55 kV and higher.

PSE's committment

PSE works hard to minimize the impacts of critical electric infrastructure, and we’re committed to keeping the affected community informed as the project progresses through permitting and into construction.

We have several upcoming milestones as we begin the permitting process with the cities of Redmond and Kirkland.

PSE will work with each jurisdiction to inform the community about the project as it is required through the permitting process.

The project team will brief affected businesses and residents about the project as we move closer to construction. This includes face-to-face meetings, group briefings and presentations.

We welcome questions or comments via 1-888-404-8773 or majorprojects@pse.com.