# Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV transmission line project

Delivering your energy future

December 2011

# What is the project?

Customer energy usage at times can strain and/or exceed the capacity of the existing electric system in the northern Redmond-Kirkland area, reducing the ability to reliably serve power to customers in the area.

To increase electric system capacity and improve customer reliability, Puget Sound Energy plans to construct approximately 4 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from our Sammamish substation (9221 Willows Road NE in Redmond) to or near our existing Juanita substation (10910 NE 132<sup>nd</sup> Street in Kirkland).

We are working with Kirkland and Redmond community members to select a preferred route for the project.



#### Where will the new transmission line be constructed?

At this time, a preferred route has not been identified. A stakeholder advisory group, comprised of community and business leaders, is helping to develop route alternatives and help us better understand community concerns and values.

PSE and the advisory group are using computer modeling to identify routes for discussion. Working with the advisory group, it may be decided some of these routes are not feasible due to conflicts with community values and/or PSE's criteria, while others may show some promise. The promising model outputs will be refined based on the advisory group's recommendations, community feedback and PSE staff judgment.

The goal is to identify a preferred route alternative that is the most acceptable to the community. Additional public meetings will be held during the route selection process. You will receive information and have opportunities to provide input and feedback as potential alternatives and a preferred route are developed.

## Why is this project important to Redmond-Kirkland residents and businesses?

Demand for power is growing. The northern Redmond-Kirkland area electric system – referred to as the Moorlands electric system – serves a population of nearly 150,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers. The Moorlands system faces two problems – capacity (being able to supply enough power) and reliability (ensuring we can provide power even when parts of the system are out of service for any reason).

The Moorlands system transmission lines currently serve 12 local substations and the system is approaching its capacity limits. This means under certain conditions these lines can overload, resulting in power outages to customers.

By building the new Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV transmission line we can move two substations off the Moorlands system to be served by a separate system that has more capacity. This will increase available capacity within the Moorlands system and improve system reliability by adding an additional transmission pathway to the Moorlands system.



# How will this benefit you and your community?

The new transmission line will increase electric capacity and improve reliability for customers in the northern Redmond-Kirkland area.

### **Project schedule**

Initial community meetings: Summer 2008 and spring 2009
Stakeholder advisory group meetings: Fall 2011 – winter 2012

Community meetings: Fall 2011 – spring 2012
 Route analysis and selection: Spring 2012
 Design and permitting: Summer – fall 2012

Construction: Summer 2013

• Completion: 2013

#### What will the work entail?

- Trimming and removing vegetation along the route
- Installing new transmission poles and insulators
- Stringing transmission line
- Site restoration, including landscaping

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

# Why are transmission lines necessary?

Transmission lines are key elements in the electrical 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 commitment**

PSE's mission is to deliver vital energy to meet the needs of our customers now and in the future. We are committed to keeping everyone informed of scheduled activities in their communities, and to ask for suggestions and opinions as we plan those activities.

For additional information/questions, please visit our project Web page at www.PSE.com/SammJuan115 or contact:

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We also welcome your comments and questions on our Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV project at info@sammjuan115.com.