

# Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

Winter 2011

### Project Need

#### ***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 challenges – capacity (the ability to supply enough power) and reliability (ensuring power is available 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.

To increase capacity and improve reliability to customers, a new Sammamish-Juanita 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line will be installed and two substations will be moved off the Moorlands system to be served by a separate system that has more capacity. The new line will improve system reliability by adding an additional transmission pathway to the Moorlands system.

### Siting the Project

#### ***Where are the preferred routes and/or alternatives for this project?***

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.

You will receive information and have opportunities to provide input and feedback as

potential alternatives and a preferred route are developed.

#### ***What happened to the route alternatives proposed in 2009?***

The past routes were developed by PSE and reviewed by members of the community. At the end of 2009, there were no clear community-acceptable route options. As we re-visit the project and are working to identify acceptable options, we have engaged a stakeholder advisory group, a siting model, and additional community involvement opportunities.

#### ***Why did PSE convene an advisory group to help site the transmission line? Who are the advisory group members?***

In an urban area with multiple jurisdictions, there's no easy answer to siting a transmission line. It is important that community and business leaders are involved in the process.

A diverse advisory group, comprised of neighborhood, business and governmental representatives from Redmond and Kirkland, is collaborating with PSE to develop possible route alternatives and help us better understand community concerns.

#### ***How are PSE and the advisory group siting the project?***

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 routes will be refined based on the advisory group's recommendations, community feedback and PSE staff judgment.

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The goal is to identify a preferred route alternative that is the most acceptable to the community.

## ***What stage in the siting process are PSE and the advisory group?***

PSE and the advisory group are using a computer model to develop output routes for discussion. At this point the advisory group has begun using the model, but has not had time to thoroughly discuss the output routes.

The advisory group will reconvene in January 2012 to continue to review and discuss additional model outputs.

## **Public Involvement**

### ***How can I get involved in the project?***

You have several opportunities to provide input on the project, including:

- Participating in community meetings to review the project's progress.
- Submitting comments and/or questions about the project to [info@sammjuan115.com](mailto:info@sammjuan115.com).
- Attending and observing the advisory group meetings and by providing input to the advisory group and PSE all throughout the process.
- Visiting [www.PSE.com/SammJuan115](http://www.PSE.com/SammJuan115) for project updates, advisory group meeting information, and more.

### ***When will the community be able to review possible route alternatives and the preferred route?***

The advisory group is working to develop possible route alternatives. A community meeting will likely be scheduled in early 2012 to share the advisory group's recommended possible route options and hear community feedback. A subsequent meeting will be hosted to share the initial preferred alternative and gather more feedback.

We are committed to working with the community to better understand the issues to consider as we select the route alignment that will meet the needs of PSE's customers, the local community and PSE.

## **Design**

### ***What will the poles look like?***

At this time we have not determined which type of pole will be used in the project design. Generally a 115 kV transmission line is 65-70 feet tall depending on a variety of factors, such as topography and span length. The spans could range in length from 350-400 feet. We anticipate using some combination of wood and/or steel poles. We will not be building lattice towers for this project.

### ***How tall can trees grow under 115 kV transmission lines?***

The mature trees and vegetation height requirements for a 115 kV transmission line generally range from 15 feet to 25 feet depending on the types of poles used. We are committed to working with landowners to provide assistance with vegetation management.

### ***Will the new transmission line make a lot of noise?***

In general, 115 kV transmission lines do not produce noise like some higher voltage lines may. Over the years, transmission line construction improvements have helped minimize the likelihood of audible noises.

#### **For more information:**

- Visit: [www.PSE.com/SammJuan115](http://www.PSE.com/SammJuan115)
- Email: [info@sammjuan115.com](mailto:info@sammjuan115.com)
- Contact: Barry Lombard, Project Manager, at (425) 456-2230