

Meeting Summary

Advisory Group Meeting #4

January 26, 2012 • 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Baymont Inn and Suites, Kirkland, WA

Organization	Representative (s) in Attendance
Aerojet	Dirk Lakin
City of Kirkland, Parks and Community Services	Linda Murphy
City of Kirkland, Public Works	Rob Jammerman
City of Redmond, Planning	Eric McConaghy
City of Redmond, Parks	Jean Rice
Evergreen Hill Neighborhood	Lynda Haneman
Evergreen Hospital	Lavon Weighall
Greater Redmond Chamber of Commerce	Danielle Lynch
North Rose Hill Neighborhood	Don Schmitz
Proctor International, Inc.	Fred Proctor
Puget Sound Energy	Andy Swayne
Sustainable Redmond	Kathy Low (alternate for Cindy Jayne)
Willows Rose Hill Neighborhood	Tom Matthews

Other Attendees:

- Barry Lombard, Puget Sound Energy, Project Manager
- Jason Van Nort, Puget Sound Energy, Government and Community Relations Manager
- Gretchen Aliabadi Puget Sound Energy, Corporate Communications
- Jim Swan, Puget Sound Energy, Senior Real Estate Representative
- Carol Jaeger, Puget Sound Energy, Transmission Planning
- Kerry Kriner, Puget Sound Energy, Municipal Land Planner
- Elaine Babby, Puget Sound Energy, Senior Land Planner
- Lyn Keenan, GeoEngineers
- Joanne Markert, GeoEngineers
- Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues, Facilitator
- Rochelle Stowe, EnviroIssues, Notetaker
- Kat Ashbeck, EnviroIssues

Meeting Purpose and Overview

Meeting #4 for the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Sammamish-Juanita 115 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project stakeholder advisory group (SAG) was convened in Kirkland, Washington on Jan. 26, 2012. The meeting included a SAG round robin about constituent feedback and discussions about comments received from both the open house on Dec. 14 and other comments from the public. The bulk of the meeting included review and discussion of the conceptual model outputs, and narrowing of outputs based on public feedback, advisory group preferences, and duplicate outputs, with the goal of producing at least three potential route options to present to the public. The advisory group narrowed model outputs to six, and the meeting concluded with next steps for the SAG regarding meetings.

Meeting Summary

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda and Safety Moment

Penny Mabie welcomed everyone, led a round of introductions and reviewed the agenda. Penny noted the intent of the SAG meeting was to narrow the model outputs to three routes, where PSE may then be able to ground truth the route options in order to present them to the public. However, Penny noted that a meeting on Feb. 16 may be needed if the advisory group requires more time to decide on three route options.

Barry Lombard, PSE Project Manager, introduced himself and gave the safety moment. He distributed materials about the [Washington811](#) program that instructs anyone planning to excavate to know what is below ground before digging. This program locates underground utilities free of charge, marks lines with colors that signify utilities (e.g. red for electric, yellow for gas, oil or steam), and requires at least two business days notice. He explained there may be a need to call small utility companies directly, instead of 8-1-1. Barry noted that PSE averages three gas incidents per day, and warned potential diggers that they can disrupt gas, water and electricity utilities.

Advisory Group Process, Constituent Feedback, and Public Comments

Penny spoke about the advisory group process, in which the SAG will choose three conceptual route options, PSE will conduct engineering feasibility and possibly modify each route, and the public will provide comments on the three route options. The advisory group will then incorporate those comments and develop a recommended preferred alternative. The public will provide comments on one alternative; PSE will do further study and micro-siting, and present the final routing decision and announcement.

Constituent feedback

Penny asked each SAG member if they had spoken with their constituents about the project, and asked what they had heard since the last SAG meeting and open house. Members of the SAG noted that constituents:

- Believe there is misconception about where PSE transmission lines exist on individual properties.
- Show limited interest in the project because there are no lines on maps yet.
- Are interested in the project and need to be educated.
- Expressed positive feedback about the open house.
- Were interested in overbuilding existing distribution lines.
- Strongly favored commercial/industrial areas.
- Did not respond to neighborhood reminders about the open house; only two from Willows Rose Hill Neighborhood attended.
- Were reminded of the importance of Willows Road and the slope to the east, where people are interested in wildlife.
- Were alerted to ATV users in the sloped, wooded area east of Willows Road.
- Noted a considerable amount of recreational use in the greenbelt near Willows Road.
- Resonated with the word “redundancy” to explain the purpose of the transmission line.

Public comments and model updates

The SAG reacted to public comments to date, including those heard and written at the open house on Dec. 14. SAG members noted the comments were not out of the ordinary, and included messaging to stay out of residential areas, electromagnetic field (EMF) concerns, environmental concerns (wooded areas), and confusion about how the electrical system functions in the project area. Based on the comments received, the advisory group decided to finalize the weightings.

Questions

With the installation of the new 115 kV transmission line, will substations on the existing system be able to back up the Redmond substations?

Carol Jaeger, PSE Transmission Planning, noted that substations already have the ability to do so. Circuits are connected in between the substations with an open switch. The addition of the new 115 kV line will enhance the entire area, not just around the project area. For example, in a transmission outage, power can be fed to a large area, even to Bothell.

When the route options are finalized, we will have to present to the elected officials. What happens if they don't care for our weightings? For example, hypothetically, what if they do not like the option of passing through the Totem Lake Mall area?

Penny reminded the group that once they have decided on three route options, micro-siting can occur. Issues like Totem Lake Mall are difficult to map using the model, especially with so many conceptual model outputs on the table. Instead, those issues will be addressed once the route outputs are narrowed to a manageable number.

November 3 and November 17 meeting notes

Penny asked the advisory group if they had any edits or suggestions for the November 3 and November 17 meeting notes. The group approved a final version of notes from both meetings. Penny explained

that the notes from this meeting (Jan. 26) would likely not be available before the next SAG meeting on Feb. 2.

Routing information

Barry presented information on the constraints in the PSE corridor. Many at the open house asked about siting the 115 kV line through the existing north-south corridor, and Barry explained the easements for that corridor only allow two electrical systems. In the future, one of those existing lines may be upgraded to 230 kV. PSE could add a third system (which the new 115 kV would be) by adding to the width of the existing corridor. If PSE decided to parallel the corridor, they would need approximately 50 additional feet. Some sections were shown to have homes, swaths of trees, critical areas, and other difficulties. Barry noted, however, there are also some short sections along the PSE corridor where a new line could be accommodated next to the existing corridor.

Barry also noted that there are two different ways to exit the Sammamish Substation. Exiting to the west involves some engineering challenges, given that there are already two systems that exit similarly, but PSE believes it can be done.

Endpoints

Barry explained the 115 kV transmission line does not have to end at the Juanita Substation. There are two additional possible endpoints, one at NE 128th Street and one at NE 124th Street. New electrical equipment called switches would be installed on existing or new poles, and the existing transmission line would be rebuilt (in its existing alignment) between the new switches and the Juanita Substation. Carol explained that transmission lines have three phases (three wires) and that each phase (wire) would have an individual switch mechanism (three mechanisms on a single pole). All three mechanisms of the switch would link together so when the handle is cranked open or closed (manually or mechanically driven), then all three mechanisms would move together.

The advisory group listed the following concerns about different endpoints using switches, and ultimately decided that NE 128th Street is the least desirable endpoint.

- More residential areas may be affected, depending on the route.
- NE 128th Street is very narrow, and has parking on both sides.
- NE 128th Street has no current overhead utilities.
- There is a high school nearby.
- Switches add a potential failure point to the transmission line.

Potential route alternatives

Penny introduced a worksheet outlining all the possible model outputs which included five different weighting schemes:

- 70% Avoidance/ 30% Opportunity
- 60% Avoidance/ 40% Opportunity
- 50% Avoidance/ 50% Opportunity

- 40% Avoidance/ 60% Opportunity
- 30% Avoidance/ 70% Opportunity

There were two different start points, exiting to the west or to the northeast from the Sammamish Substation, as well as three different endpoints including:

- Juanita Substation
- NE 128th Street
- NE 124th Street

In total, there were 30 model outputs; however many outputs overlapped and were essentially duplicates of each other. Joanne Markert, GeoEngineers, showed a number of the outputs on the projection screen, and the advisory group filtered through the non-duplicative outputs, and listed pros and cons for each. The group removed all NE 128th Street options from consideration. The group decided to keep the following outputs (see [Route Option Tracking Sheet](#)).

- **A2:** Western exit of Sammamish Substation to Juanita Substation
- **C2:** Western exit of Sammamish Substation to NE 124th St
- **D1:** Northeastern exit of Sammamish Substation to Juanita Substation
- **D2:** Northeastern exit of Sammamish Substation to Juanita Substation
- **D3:** Northeastern exit of Sammamish Substation to Juanita Substation
- **F1:** Northeastern exit of Sammamish Substation to NE 124th St

Joanne Markert noted that some routes may have segments that are preferable, and one way to look at the outputs is by mixing and matching segments.

Questions/Comments

What are the boundaries of the Totem Lake neighborhood?

Totem Lake includes NE 116th Street to 132nd Ave NE, and I-405 E to Willows Road. Rob Jammerman noted that for routes that go in front of Totem Lake Mall, and construction seems like it would be difficult. Kirkland hopes to establish a new urban core through redevelopment of the whole Totem Lake area, and a transmission line along such routes might infringe on future development.

Will power lines near 124th Ave NE and Woodlands Park be an issue?

After referring to an aerial map, the group noted that the lines in question belong to Seattle City Light. Some of the model outputs were aligned along 124th Ave NE, but not through the park.

Considering the wide arterial on some roads, how do we tell if one residential group is closer to transmission lines than another?

Don Schmitz noted most houses are off of side streets and cul de sacs on 124th Ave NE, so this corridor would not be considered as highly residential as corridors having homes in which lines could pass right above driveways. Jean Rice noted there wouldn't necessarily be more poles on the road (assuming the road had existing transmission poles), because of the option of overbuilding.

Can PSE provide statistics on how many residential homes are on the suggested routes, and which homes face the street?

PSE staff noted they will wait until a smaller number of route alternatives are chosen to compile such data, but it is possible. Joanne noted the advantages of GIS make it possible, and this kind of question is typically included in siting processes.

Could there be a consolidation of lines?

Carol explained if there are lines on both sides of the street, one side might be telephone lines, and the other power. It is rare to see power lines on both sides of the street.

Can routes go around buildings?

Barry noted that it is challenging to route a transmission line between two buildings. However, this has been done successfully where there is sufficient clearance between the buildings and the transmission line wires.

Are there above-ground poles on Willows Road?

Eric McConaghy noted that poles exist on the north end of Willows Road (north of NE 116th Street).

Public Comment

Members of the public presented comments which included:

- Biggest concerns are along 132nd Ave NE and 124th Ave NE.
- Fear effects of windstorms, trees, and how the line will adapt to dips in the neighborhood.
- Are impressed with the SAG spirit and diligence.
- Felt informed, and better educated about the project.
- Favor industrial areas.
- Are disappointed about the comments to preserve views, and feel as if they are the forgotten portion of Redmond.
- Want the line to stay away from residential areas.
- Worried about aesthetics.
- Worried about property values, and have witnessed property value declination in the past with other lines.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Penny noted the next SAG meeting will take place on Thursday, Feb. 2. The SAG decided to extend the next advisory group meeting by 30 minutes. She suggested those in the SAG unable to attend the next meeting find an alternate to take their place. She also asked the advisory group to look at the maps and to identify segments with high or low potential. She asked the group if it would be useful for PSE to look at distinct segments to see if there are possible pairings or combinations (from different routes) that make more sense than others. The group agreed it would be useful.

Summary of Action Items:

PSE will provide the SAG with a map using the nomenclature discussed in the meeting (e.g. A1, C2, etc) for the six remaining model outputs.

PSE will look at the six remaining model outputs to see if there are combinations or modifications to suggest.