

Community Meeting, June 20, 2012 Meeting Summary

Meeting purpose:

On June 20, 2012, Puget Sound Energy hosted a community meeting at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center to discuss their project to build a new 115 kilovolt transmission line between the Sammamish and Juanita substations.

The meeting included a presentation and facilitated question and answer session, followed by an open house. PSE's goal was to inform community members about the project and the community-involved siting process, share the three route alternatives, answer questions, and gather feedback about the alternatives.

Approximately 40 members of the public attended the community meeting. During the meeting, attendees submitted their comments to PSE on comment forms, in-person, and/or on post-it notes to share with all attendees. PSE shared the meeting comments with the advisory group prior to their July 18, 2012 meeting.

Summary of questions and input:

Electric system and project need

- Will Route Alternative 1 follow Seattle City Light's (SCL) existing 230 kV lines off 124th Avenue Northeast?
- How do you determine electricity rates for your customers?

Design

- What kind of easements does the project need? How many?
- What is the basic easement distance for private property?
- Can lines hang over people's homes or property?
- Could the lines go underground?

Routing

- Why is PSE avoiding wetlands?
- On which side of Northeast 95th Street would Route Alternative 1 be built?
- On which side of 132nd Avenue Northeast would the line be built?
- Is there any reason that this new line cannot cut through the Aerojet property to the existing PSE corridor?
- How many families are affected by each route?

Route Alternative 3

- What are the issues that make Route Alternative 3 tricky to build?
- Is the City of Redmond's designated view corridor more important than impacts to homeowners?

- If it's not possible for PSE to "thread the needle" through the business properties west of Willows Road, what will be the outcome?
- Why is the "fallback route" for Route Alternative 3 not considered the preferred route?
- Is going underground an option in the view corridor?
- Is the view restriction actually related to golf course taxes?

Project process and community input

- Based on the overview of the questionnaire results, it's clear that Route Alternative 3 is most preferred by the community. How heavily will community feedback weigh into the stakeholder advisory group and PSE's preferred route decision?
- If the community feels strongly against building Route Alternative 1 and Route Alternative 2, would PSE still build these routes?
- Are details on the 30 routes outputs available to help understand why the model picked Northeast 95th Street?
- How did the model get from 30 route options to 3 route alternatives and is there an overall preferred route?
- Did the model show residential homes?
- What were the weightings for each of the routes?
- How were schools not considered as an avoidance area in the model's decision process?
- Do any of the stakeholder advisory group (SAG) members live close to these routes?
- Is there contact information for the SAG members?
- Does the website have the weightings for the future preferred route process?
- How many times has PSE failed to build a line because the community hasn't agreed to a preferred route?
- Is there a difference in getting residential versus commercial easements?
- Can this new line be built on SCL lines?
- What is a Native Growth Protection Easement?
- What are Transfer of Development Rights?
- How much does cost figure into the final route decision?
- How heavily will comments from questionnaire weigh into SAG and PSE deliberations on preferred route?
- How large is the SAG? How are different communities represented?

Property, residential and community impacts

- How does living close to transmission lines impact property values?
- Will the project impact the Verizon substation on Northeast 95th Street?
- We read that in California, 115 kV transmission lines have to be built 100 feet away from elementary schools by law, would PSE use that standard?

Attendance

Puget Sound Energy

- Barry Lombard
- Lindsey Walimaki
- Gretchen Aliabadi
- LaWana Quayle
- Carol Jaeger
- Jason Van Nort
- Angela Wingate
- Jim Swan
- Kerry Kriner
- Janet Brown

Stakeholder Advisory Group

- Ken Albinger, Juanita Neighborhoods, Kirkland
- Rob Jammerman, City of Kirkland, Public Works Department
- Andy Swayne, Puget Sound Energy

Consultant Team

- Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues
- Dana Swanson, EnviroIssues
- Kat Ashbeck, EnviroIssues
- Drew Thatcher, Board certified health physicist and public health professional
- Lyn Keenan, GeoEngineers