

Community Meeting, June 23, 2012 Meeting Summary

Meeting purpose:

On June 23, 2012, Puget Sound Energy hosted a community meeting at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland 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 70 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

- What is the probability of an outage occurring with the current electric system configuration and the two other upgrades?
- Will this affect someone who lives in Duvall and Carnation?
- Not convinced there is a need for this new line. We should table this new transmission line until we understand there is a need. Then we can consider the three alternatives at that time.

Design

- What are the setback requirements for residential property? Can the transmission line be built 8 feet from a house?
- Why can't PSE improve the existing infrastructure and capacity by increasing the system's existing 115 kV lines to 230 kV lines?
- It seems that there is no space to add poles along the Northeast Seattle City Light corridor on Northeast 124th Avenue. Where would PSE place the poles for the new line?
- Can this new line be built underground?

Routing

- Why do two of the alternatives end on Northeast 132nd Street and one alternative ends on Northeast 124th Street?
- Can the two proposed endpoints be mixed and matched for the different alternatives?
- Why can't the new line share the Seattle City Light (SCL) corridor that parallels 124th Avenue Northeast?
- Would SCL reconsider their decision not to allow PSE to share their corridor?
- Why can't we use the existing PSE corridors for the new transmission line?

- Residences and schools are more important than view corridors. Don't put this line in residential areas, close to schools and parks.
- PSE's list of routing concerns is longer for Route Alternative 3 than Route Alternative 1 and 2, does that mean it is the least preferred by PSE?

Route Alternative 1

- Why does Route Alternative 1 terminate south of the Juanita Substation?

Route Alternative 3

- Why doesn't this route just stay on Willows Road?
- Route Alternative 3 seems to be the better option. Why are Route Alternative 1 and 2 still options?
- Why does Route 3 not continue down 124th?
- Prefer Route Alternative 3 to terminate on Northeast 124th Street, not Northeast 132nd Street.
- I have heard Paul Allen owns property on Route Alternative 3.

Project process and community/online input

- When is the questionnaire closing?
- If the community does not accept the preferred route, would PSE still build the line?
- What is the most community-acceptable route at this time?
- If the majority of the community members prefer one line over another, how much do those count on our preferences being reflected in the decisions of the stakeholder advisory group (SAG)?
- What is the decision-making process for choosing a preferred route?
- The future weighting criteria should consider the area west of Interstate 405, which is a dense residential area.
- It seems that the majority of the people on the SAG are from businesses and jurisdictions located close to the Route Alternative 3 area. The decision should not be biased.
- Avoiding residential areas should be the first and foremost consideration for the weighting scheme for the preferred route decision process.
- The criteria used for the model is narrow. It does not incorporate the project need or community values.

Property, residential and community impacts

- Avoid residential areas.
- Arguing health issues is futile but property values will be affected. Will PSE compensate for a loss of property value if the line is located next to our residences?
- People currently living close to SCL lines cannot use their radios. Will this be an issue with the new line?
- Are business preferences more important to PSE than residential?
- Is there a cost difference between the three alternatives?
- SCL lines have affected our property values.
- Will electromagnetic fields (EMF) affect our health and our children's health?
- SCL has said they plan to add one more line in the near future.
- Natural disasters and the possibility of the Mark Twain water tower toppling and mixing the water with all these transmission lines is a concern.

- If property values are a consideration, why can't the line go underground?
- There are two open rail corridors – why can' the line go underground there?

Attendance

Puget Sound Energy

- Barry Lombard
- Lindsey Walimaki
- Gretchen Aliabadi
- Julia Hughes
- LaWana Quayle
- Carol Jaeger
- Jason Van Nort
- Angela Wingate
- Jim Swan
- Stan Haralson
- Kerry Kriner

Stakeholder Advisory Group

- Lynda Haneman, Evergreen Hill Neighborhood, Kirkland
- Don Schmitz, North Rose Hill Neighborhood, Kirkland
- Andy Swayne, Puget Sound Energy

Consultant

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