

# Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV Project

## Public Communications Report: July 3-13, 2012

Between July 3, 2012 and July 13, 2012, the public submitted over 25 communications to Puget Sound Energy about the Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV Transmission Line Project.

Communications from the public are listed by date received. A few things to keep in mind about the report:

- This report includes communications from the public about the project via letters, emails and phone calls.
- The report does not include those communications where commenters requested their comments not be shared with the public. In addition, the report does not include communications from the advisory group or the media.
- Email communications sent to [info@sammjuan115.com](mailto:info@sammjuan115.com) are sent an auto-reply. To the extent possible, communications requesting information are responded to by the PSE team.
- Phone conversations are summarized by the PSE staff member who took the call.
- To the extent possible, all commenters are added to the project mailing list unless they request not to be on it.
- Personally-identifying data, such as name, phone number or address, have been removed from this report to protect privacy.
- The report includes communication location maps, which are based on the commenter's address. If the commenter did not provide an address, then the communication was not mapped.

We thank the community members for sharing their thoughts, questions and concerns about the three route alternatives.

# PSE Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV - Communications

Filtered by

## Date Received

from 7/3/2012 to 7/13/2012

### Communication ID # 25737

#### Communication ( 7/13/2012 )

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live at [Address]. I have several concerns about a possible selection of Route 2 for this project. Right now we already have 2 power lines along the 132nd street. I believe that having one more power line bearing more power than the previous ones would impact negatively the health of my family and the price of my house on the market.

As the resident of the community I think that the natural choice would be to select the Route 3 that has the least number of residences along the route.

I plan to attend the upcoming meeting and really hope that my voice will be heard and taken into account.

I appreciate your time -

[Name]

### Communication ID # 25739

#### Communication ( 7/13/2012 )

Hi Barry,

Thanks for the reply and the referral of Drew. I realize there's a lot of controversy about EMFs and cancer. That's actually what makes them kind of freaky. You don't really know if you're susceptible or not. There are any number of reasons people can't reproduce the results. The conspiracy theorist in me says that corporations like Enron have paid scientists to disprove the results for fear they'll be forced to bury new lines, or even worse, bury existing ones. Perhaps EMFs require an unknown variable to reproduce Dr. Lai's results, such as diet, genetics, who knows? The point is if 20% of scientists say smoking is dangerous and 80% say it's not, given that you have a choice on whether or not to smoke, why take the risk unless you really LOVE to smoke? I'll tell you this, I don't really love living next to high voltage power lines, and statistics have shown, neither does the average home buyer ?.

Probably see you on Wednesday.

Thanks,  
[Name]

**Communication ID # 25741**

**Communication ( 7/13/2012 )**

Hello ,  
I would like to register my opposition to the proposed Power line project on Alternative Route 2 that goes on 132nd Avenue in Kirkland.

My family (with 2 young children) are residents in that street and I believe PSE should choose Alternative Route 3 for the placement of the power line, as it impacts far fewer people.

thanks,

[Name]

**Communication ID # 25726**

**Communication ( 7/12/2012 )**

You are basically proposing to put this right over my back yard (which is on the West side of 132nd Street), right above my child's trampoline, and killing my property values. Please incorporate my VERY STRONG objection to this in your community feedback. I will be at the next meeting to voice it in person.

**Communication ID # 25724**

**Communication ( 7/11/2012 )**

Thank you Barry for getting back to me. I do understand the rational for not double circuiting the lines for reliability reasons.

I have another related question.

With the double circuiting avoidance concept in mind. How are you going to be able to avoid double circuiting the lines when you run them from the main samamish station to 132nd avenue over Northwest Nurseries INC? Currently there are 2 lines running over the nursery I do not see any more width room to place an additional line there without double circuiting?

Thanks,

[Name]

**Communication ID # 25725****Communication ( 7/11/2012 )**

Dear Mr. Lombardi,

I am extremely alarmed with the prospect of you company installing these very harmful, dangerous and ugly poles and lines in my resident dense neighborhood! It is ludicrous to even consider the route 1 option which effects the most families when there are 2 other much more appropriate options using mostly the old rail track route.

The lines should be installed underground, but as that does not seem to be an option – why not? – at least choose the route that effects the fewest families. Because these lines will affect the value of my property as well as will make it much more difficult to even be able to sell my property some day, You can expect PSE will be facing a lawsuit from every single home owner to recoup their loss.

I would have never purchased my property if there were transmission lines located within the neighborhood nor if I knew there would be lines installed!

[Name]

**Communication ID # 25727****Communication ( 7/11/2012 )**

Barry -

While appreciate that you do not have exact costs to due the fact that you don't have final design data, I know that you do have some ROM line construction costs per lineal foot of line installed. It would be nice to level set the design alternatives on a cost basis as part of your analysis. And the decision making process by the Stakeholder Board Members.

Regards,

[Name]

**Communication ID # 25747****Communication ( 7/11/2012 )**

[I spoke with [Name] regarding his question about how the decision will be made to select the preferred route alternative. I explained our process starting with the formation of the Stakeholder Advisory Group and use of the GIS computer routing tool. I described how we generated 30 possible route options but narrowed these down to 3 for further review and comment. I explained how public input has been incorporated into the process along the way. I informed [Name] that the next step was for the Stakeholder Advisory Group to select the preferred route at the July 18th meeting. I mentioned that this would be done in two stages, first the advisory group would select a preferred route east of I-405, and

then they would select one of the two end points west of I-405. I let him know that the July 18th meeting was open to the public and that there would be a period for public comment.

[Name] mentioned that he had attended one of the community meetings. He was interested in who was on the advisory group so I provided a brief overview of the group's members. He asked whether the City of Redmond would make the final decision on the selected route. I let him know that PSE would ultimately make the decision on a preferred route but that it would be based on the advisory group's recommendation. I said that we were going through the route selection process in advance of submitting for permits. I indicated that in the permit process the City of Redmond would have to determine whether the proposed project and permit applications met the City's code before they could issue permits for the project.

[Name] lives near 132nd Ave NE and stated a preference for route Alternative 3. He supports the use of the rail corridor. He opposes the idea that the City of Redmond's view corridor, which is in a commercial zone, would take precedence over residential properties. I indicated that the City of Redmond was not necessarily opposed to Alternative 3 but rather was seeking ways to preserve this corridor if possible. This was why Alternative 3 treads the line between the commercial buildings along Willows Road.

[Name] thanked me for getting back to him.]

## Communication ID # 25691

### Communication ( 7/10/2012 )

Dear Mr. Lombard,

As I learn more about the Samm-Juan 155kV Project, I would like to ask two additional questions that were not included in my previous message:

1. Based on the amount of investigation and planning that has gone into this project thus far in identifying the three initial alternative routes, as with any project the costs for each route has obviously been established and there is a budget under consideration. Can you please provide me with the cost estimates of the three alternatives based on what you know today, as well as the budget.
2. Per my June 30th email below, I mentioned that homeowners would prefer to minimize the impact of this project on their respective communities. Considering NE 124th is a viable end point west of I-405 (Alternative 1), and the industrial/rail corridor to the east of I-405 and over to Willows Road (Alternative 3; with or without the fallback option) is a viable option, this appears to be the least invasive option for all communities by combining Alternatives 1 & 3.

I have to believe that I am missing something because as I interpret the map, a combination of Alternatives 1 & 3 appear to have the least impact on homeowners in the proposed areas under consideration. Can you please provide me with some guidance on why this is not the logical option.

Thank you in advance for responding to our questions.

Regards,  
[Name]

## Communication ID # 25670

**Communication ( 7/9/2012 )**

Thank you for taking my call today. My cell phone lost power. I am looking for a larger map showing the red alternative route as that route either is adjacent to or on our property known as [Address] in Kirkland. Please put me on the email list as well as send me a larger map of route one.

[Name]

**Communication ID # 25672**

**Communication ( 7/9/2012 )**

Barry -

Based on the input received at the June 23rd meeting from the general public, it appears to me that the residents have spoken loud and clear and they do not want the 115KV line routed through residential neighborhoods. Furthermore, during the meeting on June 23rd you stated that there was no significant cost difference between the three proposed alternatives (without I might add providing any written documentation to support your claim). Assuming that this is true, then the clear alternative to avoid public disenfranchisement and a turbulent permitting process would be to combine routes 1 and 3, thereby avoiding all residential areas.

Additionally, alternative routes 2 and 3 propose routing the 115KV line to north along 116th Ave NE once it crosses NE 124th Street. I am not sure where PSE intends to install power poles between NE 124th Street and NE 128th Street. The properties on the west side are developed to their fullest potential and this route requires the crossing of a salmon bearing stream. Routing the 115KV line along the east side of 116th Ave NE along this same stretch poses similar difficulties. The east side is fully developed with the exception of one parcel located at the SE corner of the NE 128th Street and 116th Ave NE intersection. While, this parcel is not currently developed, the property owner has preliminary drawings showing a three-four story hotel located on this property with the building located within 20-feet of the right-of-way (which is the back of the curb line) in this location and is currently pursuing them with the City of Kirkland. This route also requires the crossing of a wetland and salmon bearing stream. Based on these encumbrances I am not sure where PSE plans to locate any power poles within this stretch of the proposed route alternative without encroaching into either sensitive areas, existing business uses, and future planned business uses.

Therefore, your best alternative would be to locate the 115KV line using the Alternative 3 route to NE 124th Street and then following the Alternative 1 route to the existing substation along NE 124th Street.

I look forward to hearing your analysis of the proposed route alternative presented at the July 18th Stake Holder's Meeting. In the meantime, would you please forward me your cost analysis of the three proposed route alternatives, including construction costs, right-of-way acquisition costs, permit processing costs, and easement costs.

Regards,

[Name]

**Communication ID # 25673**

**Communication ( 7/9/2012 )**

Good Afternoon,

Is the Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting on July 18th open to the public? If so, I will plan on being in attendance.

Thank you,

[Name]

**Communication ID # 25652**

**Communication ( 7/6/2012 )**

Hi Barry,

Thanks for your call today. As I said, I don't envy your position. I think you have an extremely tough job, but I appreciate all the time you're spending on it.

You asked if I could link you one of the articles which I believe to prove the harmful effects of electromagnetic fields. I've believed it to be a known fact for years that EMFs unravel DNA. When I heard about your power lines potentially going in my back yard where my kids play, and along 132nd Ave and Mark Twain Park which we walk to almost every day in the summer, I shuddered to think that we won't feel comfortable walking to the park anymore, or potentially even feeling safe in our own home. I did a quick search this morning on bing.com looking for rat DNA breakage, and easily found <http://www.mindfully.org/Health/2004/Magnetic-Field-DNA1may04.htm> which describes a local University of Washington professor's experiment, which I believe was conducted back in like 1997 or something. We know that DNA breaking leads to cancer, and this particular study seems to indicate that EMFs cause neurological DNA breaks. I'm sure your company is quite aware of this article, but most of the literature I found published by the power companies (not just in Washington state) conveniently does not include this study in their research.

I will be documenting the EMF in my back yard and living space as a "before," just in case you choose route 2 so I will be able to definitively quantify the impact to my property. I will recommend my neighbors do the same. Your implication on the phone that I would not be compensated if the power line is installed "on the other side of the street" (comparing this to someone building a home in front of my view) I do not believe applies, because I will be able to show the physical (not just the visual) impact that your EMF produces.

I would appreciate if you could send me the information on the siting meeting on the 18th of this month, please. I do not see it on the documentation I received in the mail, and I don't remember seeing it readily-available on the website link.

Thanks,  
[Name]

**Communication ID # 25657**

**Communication ( 7/6/2012 )**

Hi Barry,

One additional point: as much as we want to voice our disapproval and recommendation, we absolutely \*do not\* want to overload you or the SAG members. You have been making tremendous efforts in maintaining effective communication with the residents.

I was suggesting to the neighbors that we contact the members as a group instead of individually. This might help.

**Communication ID # 25659**

**Communication ( 7/6/2012 )**

Thank you for the speedy and informative reply, Barry! I will forward your email to the neighbors.

**Communication ID # 25723**

**Communication ( 7/6/2012 )**

Exceptional!!! Well done, and on time. Thanks Jason and have a great weekend.

**Communication ID # 25749**

**Communication ( 7/6/2012 )**

Hi Barry,

Some neighbors reported that PSE is doing a survey (tree count) on NE 95th St. They are concerned that NE 95th St is already chosen.

Would you clarify what the survey is for and whether similar surveys are being conducted on Route #2 and Route #3?

Another request is whether it is possible for us to obtain contact information of the members on Stakeholders Advisory Group. We'd like to talk to them before the July 18 meeting so that they are more informed when they go to the meeting.

Thank you!

[Name]

**Communication ID # 25750**

**Communication ( 7/6/2012 )**

Thank-you

**Communication ID # 25653**

**Communication ( 7/5/2012 )**

Hi,

I have just recently learned about a proposal to place power lines along my street. I would like to understand further what the proposal would look like. I live at [Address]; my house backs to 132nd Street (on the same side of the street as Lake Washington Technical College). I already have very little in the way of backyard, not to mention a busy street behind me, and from what has been described to me, it sounds like the powerlines would be basically above my backyard? And there are already powerlines there, now there will be more?

I plan to attend the upcoming meeting, but would appreciate hearing a bit more about this - it will basically render my house unsalable and I have some very real concerns about having a powerline next to my windows and above my child's trampoline.

I appreciate your time and information -  
[Name]

**Communication ID # 25656**

**Communication ( 7/5/2012 )**

Thanks, Barry. I did look at the MODA document last night, which outlines the framework but not the specific details.

Can you clarify the comment below. How will value of importance be determined and assigned? I can't find any details on the website.

>>will individually rank the decision criteria based on value of importance

We look forward to attending the July 18th meeting and want to have all relevant data ahead of time to have a productive dialog.

Thanks,

[Name]

## Communication ID # 25722

Communication ( 7/5/2012 )

Jason,

Again thank you for addressing the Kirkland City Council last Tuesday night and it was good to meet with you. Rob Jammerman, who has been staffing the stakeholder group on behalf of Kirkland is on vacation this week and so I am looking to see if you can help me out. I am putting together a memo in response to the various comments that they heard on Tuesday. I have most of the material to respond, but I need PSE to help me identify some pros and cons with each of the remaining routes.

I need to get this finished up by late tomorrow, so if you could, I would appreciate your thoughts. My draft memo is attached and you will see the reference that I need.

Thank you.

Ray Steiger

## Communication ID # 25650

Communication ( 7/4/2012 )

Mr. Lombard,

We have been following the progress of the Advisory Group in the investigation and selection of the three options for the new 115 K.V. transmission line to connect the Sammamish and Juanita stations. We have received updates as to the progress of the selection and reduction from 30 possible routes to the final 3. We have kept the North Rose Hill Neighborhood Association members informed at the monthly board and community meetings and on our web site. Many members of our community and our board have expressed concern about possible routes 1 and 2.

Route 1 as shown on your route map, goes west on N.E. 90th. or N.E. 95th. to 124 Ave N.E. then North to N.E. 116th.. This route impacts many dense residential areas (80 single residences), including Mark Twain Elementary School. It will travel next to a highly traveled road, (124 Ave. N.E.) for quite a distance. This road is bordered by very tall trees which will need to be heavily trimmed or removed. This route parallels Seattle City Light power towers. Putting additional high power lines in this area will impact the view for these residences and also could impact the resale value, in addition to those concerned of voltage dangers.

Route 2 travels up on N.E.90th. then North on 132 Ave. N.E., around the college to the area near Totem Lake. This route contains many of the concerns expressed about route 1; approximately 60 single family residences, Mark Twain Park, many tall trees, and a road heavily traveled. If the route is used it will parallel the people that live on the East side of the road between these lines, distribution lines, and the PSE right of way containing power lines and the Cascade Pipeline. It will also impact the property values to some extent.

We have reviewed the information that has come from the Advisory Group meetings, the open houses, and the meeting with the North Rose Hill Neighborhood Association. With this information, we support using route #3 for the new power lines. This route goes North along the Willows Road, behind some

businesses to the Rail Tracks and then to N.E. 116th. This route has only 10 single family residences, with most of the land zoned commercial or the rail trail. The trees are shorter and will not pose a large hazard, like those on 124th. or 132nd. With the hill blocking the prevailing South Wind, the hazard of falling trees is also reduced. The traffic on Willows Road is far less than on the other two roads.

North Rose Hill Neighborhood Association including the Board and residents, strongly favors using the Willows Road route for the new transmission lines.

Sincerely,

[Name]

North Rose Hill Neighborhood Association Chair

### Communication ID # 25651

#### Communication ( 7/4/2012 )

Regarding the 3 route alternatives for the Sammamish – Juanita 115 kV transmission line, I am wondering why the new lines could not be attached to the high voltage towers already running along 125th Ave (from NE 95th Street in the South to NE 116th St in the North)?

[photo]

tower at NE 95th street and 125th ave kirkland

[photo]

example of double circuit transmission line

[Name]

Kirkland, WA 98033

### Communication ID # 25576

#### Communication ( 7/3/2012 )

Mr. Lombard:

Thank you for your reply. We look forward to attending the July 18th meeting.

Best regards,

### Communication ID # 25577

#### Communication ( 7/3/2012 )

Thanks for the clarification, Barry. Makes complete sense.

As for the Stakeholder Advisory Group I have a couple of questions.

Who makes up this group and how were the members selected? Do any of these members live or have any vested interested in the affected areas?

Stakeholder Advisory Group's "decisions criteria" –

- How will the criteria be defined (what are the input variables)?
- How are those input variables weighted? For example, "number of residential properties vs. commercial properties, etc.

## Communication ID # 25622

**Communication ( 7/3/2012 )**

Hi Mr. Lombard:

My wife and I oppose Route # 1 for high voltage power lines.

Thank You.

[Name] and [Name]

## Communication ID # 25625

**Communication ( 7/3/2012 )**

[I received a telephone on call on July 2nd from [Name], who has been communicating with PSE on behalf of the Home Owners Association of the Kirkland Garden Gate community. [Name] asked whether it would be possible to develop a hybrid route from the three proposed route alternatives. [Name] sent me an e-mail on June 30th regarding this and some other concerns of his community. I let him know that we were in the process of preparing a response to his e-mail and would have it out by the end of the day. I also let him know that as we indicated at the community meeting, PSE was open to matching either of the two end points west of I-405 with any of the route segments east of I-405. He asked if we could put something on the website to clarify this. I told him we would.

[Name] mentioned that he had carefully read some of the information on the website and it was very helpful. He said it helped him understand how we got from 30 routes to 3. He also mentioned that he appreciates PSE's efforts to be transparent in this process.

He asked whether in light of the health concerns PSE would further consider undergrounding the transmission lines at least in certain sections. I mentioned that undergrounding even short sections of transmission line was very costly due to the cost of termination structures and and other components such as large underground vaults. I told him that property owners near the termination structures would likely oppose them because these structures are large and imposing compared to a round wood poles. I also informed him that undergrounding would not diminish the magnetic field strength. I let him know I was not an expert on EMF. I indicated, however, that an overhead transmission line in front of a home would likely have a lower magnetic field strength at a certain horizontal distance than an underground line at the same horizontal distance simply because the overhead lines would be further away because

they are 50 feet in the air. I told him you cannot shield magnetic fields but that the strength of the magnetic field attenuates rapidly with distance.

[Name] thanked me for the information.]

## Communication ID # 25740

### Communication ( 7/3/2012 )

Dear Mr. Lombard:

Thank you for hosting the two community meetings during the month of June for the purpose of explaining the proposed transmission line project and gathering responses to the three proposed route alternatives. Redmond agrees with PSE that public involvement in this process is critical. The comments offered by those attending the community meetings, together with the opportunities to speak at the Advisory Group meetings, comment via the online questionnaire, and other means, provide important information regarding the selection of a suitable route for the proposed Sammamish to Juanita 115 kV line.

The policies of Redmond's Comprehensive Plan are also significant to the consideration of a transmission line route. The policies direct actions to deliver the community's desired future vision. In the Willows Road corridor, the community's vision calls for the preservation of the public views and the maintenance of a pastoral and parkway appearance.

It is important that the ongoing deliberation regarding routing and design consider the impacts on all parties affected by a new transmission line, both residents and people who work in the area. Also, we continue to urge the use of existing utility right-of-way to the greatest extent possible in considering route options.

We look forward to the continued collaboration of the Advisory Group to deliver a statement of preference for a suitable route for the proposed transmission line. We are optimistic about the process and confident the advisory group will continue to collaborate positively, toward the best recommendation for all parties involved.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Odle



### Zoomed-in to the Project Area

