

*Delivering your energy future*

September 2012

## What is the project?

Customer energy usage at times can strain and/or exceed the capacity of the existing electric system in the northern Redmond-Kirkland area, reducing the ability to provide dependable power to area residents and businesses.

To increase electric system capacity and improve reliability, Puget Sound Energy plans to construct a new 115 kilovolt transmission line from the Sammamish substation (9221 Willows Road NE in Redmond) to just south of the Juanita substation (10910 NE 132nd Street in Kirkland) to interconnect with an existing transmission line that crosses over Northeast 124<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Where will the new transmission line be constructed?

The preferred final route exits the Sammamish substation to the east, travels up Willows Road and then moves northwest between commercial buildings until it meets up with the railroad corridor north of Northeast 124<sup>th</sup> Street. From there it follows the railroad corridor over Interstate 405, then north on 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast until Northeast 124<sup>th</sup> Street. The new transmission line then follows Northeast 124<sup>th</sup> Street west past 109th Court Northeast where it ends by interconnecting with an existing transmission line south of the Juanita substation. The segment of existing line between the interconnection point and Juanita substation will need to be reconducted (or rebuilt) to match the capacity of the new transmission line. The preferred final route is shown in Figure 1.

## How was the preferred route selected?

Since September 2011, PSE has worked with a stakeholder advisory group and consulted with the broader community to develop a community-acceptable route. After careful deliberation, which included working through eight meetings and hearing from the community at three community meetings and via more than 400 comments, the advisory group recommended a preferred route.

PSE shared the advisory group's recommended preferred route with the community via the project webpage and at two community meetings on August 21 and 22, 2012. After taking into consideration the advisory group's recommended preferred route and the community's response, PSE has adopted the advisory group's recommendation as the preferred final route. To learn more about the community-involved siting process, visit [PSE.com/SammJuan115](http://PSE.com/SammJuan115).

## 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 problems – capacity (being able to supply enough power) and reliability (ensuring we can provide power during times of peak usage or when parts of the system are out of service).

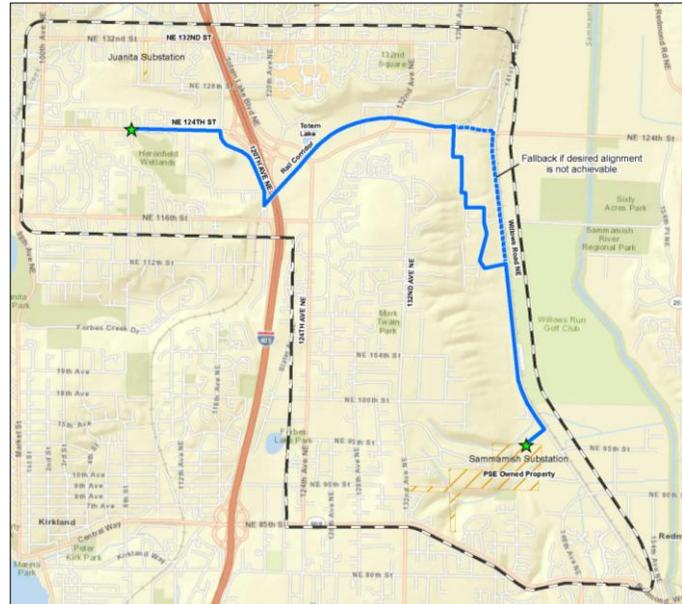


Figure 1. Puget Sound Energy's preferred final route. For maps, visit [PSE.com/SammJuan115](http://PSE.com/SammJuan115).

The Moorlands system transmission lines currently serve 12 local distribution substations. As demand grows, we are reaching the capacity limits for portions of the electric system. This means under certain conditions transmission lines in the area can overload. If the lines overload, nearly 150,000 customers in the northern Redmond-Kirkland area are at risk of a power outage.

By building the new Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV transmission line we can reconfigure the Moorlands system to transfer two substations to another transmission system, thereby freeing up capacity on the Moorlands system. The new Sammamish-Juanita line will improve system reliability by adding an additional transmission pathway to the Moorlands system.

### **How will this benefit you and your community?**

The new transmission line will increase electric capacity, reduce the risk for power outages and ensure PSE can continue to supply customers in the northern Redmond-Kirkland area with dependable power for years to come.

### **Project schedule**

- Initial community meetings: Summer 2008 and spring 2009
- Stakeholder advisory group meetings: Fall 2011 – summer 2012
- Community meetings: Fall 2011 – summer 2012
- Final route selection: Summer 2012
- Design and permitting: Fall 2012 – late 2013
- Construction: 2014 – 2015

### **What will the work entail?**

- Trimming and removing vegetation along the route
- Installing new transmission poles, guys and insulators
- Stringing transmission line conductors (i.e. wire)
- Site restoration

Construction will be confined to normal daytime working hours during the week, with the possibility of some work on Saturdays. When working in or along roads, signs and flaggers will help direct traffic. We do not anticipate any scheduled power outages during construction; however, if an outage is needed customers will be notified in advance of the outage occurring.

### **Why are transmission lines necessary?**

Transmission lines are key elements in the electric distribution system. The lines safely transport high voltage electricity from power generation sources like dams and wind farms to substations in local communities. Transmission normally takes place at voltages of 55 kV and higher.

### **PSE's commitment**

PSE's mission is to deliver vital energy to meet the needs of our customers now and in the future. We are committed to keeping everyone informed of scheduled activities in their communities, and to ask for suggestions and opinions as we plan those activities.

For additional information/questions, please visit our project Web page at [PSE.com/SammJuan115](http://PSE.com/SammJuan115) or contact:

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We also welcome your comments and questions on our project at [info@sammjuan115.com](mailto:info@sammjuan115.com).