

January 2026

Re: Mercer Island electric upgrades project



ENSURING SAFE AND RELIABLE POWER FOR MERCER ISLAND

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JANUARY 2026



▲ A view of the north cable crossing area from Enatai Cable Station.

MERCER ISLAND'S ELECTRIC SYSTEM NEEDS

Mercer Island receives electricity through two sets of underwater electric cables that lie on the bottom of Lake Washington (see project map below).

These cable crossings, in-service for over 60 years, are now at the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. PSE has determined we can no longer depend on repairs as a means of extending the life of the cables.

The solution

PSE plans to replace the underwater electric cables that serve Mercer Island, increase the cables' capacity, and make upgrades to the four cable stations located at each end of the cables. By investing in these improvements, PSE will:



Minimize the risk of outages and unplanned repairs



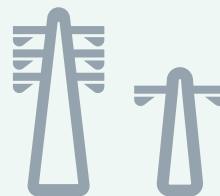
Support increasing electrification and the island's future energy needs



Increase service reliability for customers



Strengthen the system's resilience against severe weather



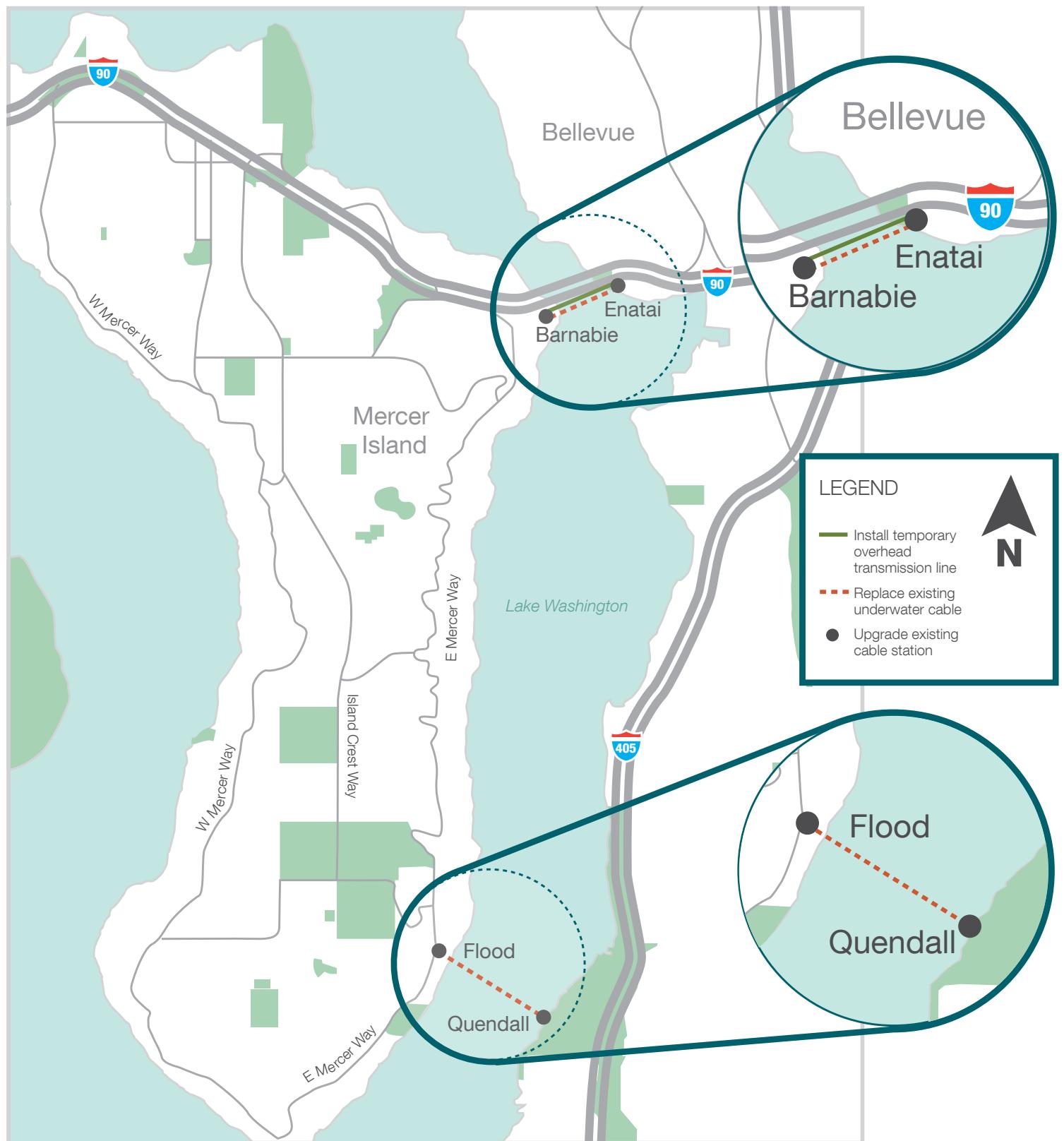
Transmission vs. distribution lines?

Transmission lines or cables transport high-voltage power from the generation source to substations, or from substation to substation. Substations then step down power from the transmission voltage (55 to 230 kilovolts) to our distribution voltage (12.5 kV). A series of distribution lines, overhead and underground, then carry power from the substation to customers' homes and businesses.

To help ensure continued electric service during construction, PSE will install a temporary overhead transmission line along the south side of I-90 before beginning construction on the underwater cable crossings. This temporary line adds redundancy to the electric system, reducing the risk of outages during construction.

Project area

The northern cable crossing is located adjacent to Interstate 90 between the Barnabie (Mercer Island) to Enatai (Bellevue) cable stations. This crossing includes both transmission and distribution cables. The southern cable crossing is located between the Flood (Mercer Island) and Quendall (Renton) cable stations and includes transmission cables only.



Project process and timeline

We are currently working on engineering and permitting and conducting initial outreach about this project. We aim to share more information about construction timing when we are further along with the design.



In the planning phase, we identify and analyze potential solutions for addressing Mercer Island's electric system needs to determine the preferred project solution.

WE ARE HERE

In the engineering and permitting phase, we gather field information, develop and refine our design, and apply for necessary project permits. Note, throughout the permitting process, there are various opportunities for public input.

In the construction and operations phase, we coordinate with affected property owners about potential impacts, prepare the construction site, install and energize the new infrastructure, clean up, and restore the site.

How to stay involved

Throughout this project, we are committed to keeping affected property owners and the community informed of our progress, opportunities to engage, and potential impacts.

Visit PSE.com/Mercer to sign up for email updates and learn more about this project.

If you have questions or need to request this information in another language or format, please call **1-888-404-8773** or email MajorProjects@PSE.com.

