

## Community Advisory Group Meeting #1 Summary

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2/4/14

### Community Advisory Group Meeting #1

Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Red Lion Hotel, 11211 Main Street, Bellevue, Wash.

### Community Advisory Group (in attendance)

- **Barbara Sauerbrey**, Woodridge Community Association (*residential association alternate*)
- **Bart Phillips**, One Redmond
- **Bill Taylor**, Liberty Ridge Homeowners Association (*residential association alternate*)
- **Cody Olson**, Puget Sound Energy
- **Darius Richards**, Kennydale Neighborhood Association
- **David St. John**, King County
- **David Chicks**, Redmond Neighborhoods
- **David Edmonds**, Olympus Neighborhood Association
- **Debra Grant**, Hopelink
- **Deirdre Johnson**, South Rose Hill Neighborhood Association
- **Floyd Rogers**, Mountains to Sound Greenway
- **Gregg Zimmerman**, City of Renton
- **Jack McLeod**, Bellevue School District
- **Jules Dickerson**, Lake Lanes Community Association (*residential association alternate*)
- **Lindy Bruce**, Sunset Community Association (*residential association alternate*)
- **Lynn Wallace**, Renton Chamber of Commerce
- **Marcia Isenberger**, Coal Creek Family YMCA
- **Mark Rigos**, City of Newcastle
- **Nicholas Matz**, City of Bellevue
- **Norm Hansen**, Bridle Trails Community Club
- **Pete Sullivan**, City of Redmond
- **Rob Jammerman**, City of Kirkland
- **Robert Shay**, Wilburton Community Association
- **Sam Baxter**, Overlake Hospital Medical Center
- **Steve O'Donnell**, Somerset Community Association
- **Steve Hanson**, Renton Technical College

### Members absent

- **David Hoffman**, Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties
- **Brian Buck**, Lake Washington School District

## Other Attendees

- Booga Gilbertson, Puget Sound Energy, Vice President of Operations
- Andy Wappler, Puget Sound Energy, Vice President of Corporate Affairs
- Doug Loreen, Puget Sound Energy, Director Project Management
- Jennifer Tada, Puget Sound Energy, Director Planning
- Grant Ringel, Puget Sound Energy, Director Communications
- Leann Kostek, Puget Sound Energy, Senior Project Manager
- Jens Nedrud, Puget Sound Energy, Deputy Project Manager
- Gretchen Aliabadi, Puget Sound Energy, Communications
- Whitney Rearick, Puget Sound Energy, Communications
- Ray Lane, Puget Sound Energy, Communications
- Nate Caminos, Puget Sound Energy, Government and Community Relations Manager
- Carol Jaeger, Transmission Planning
- Tom Gentile, Quanta Services
- Sarah Langton, Langton Spieth
- Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues, Facilitator
- Dana Olson, EnviroIssues, Public Involvement
- Alayna Linde, EnviroIssues, Public Involvement
- Lauren Dennis, EnviroIssues, Notetaker

## Meeting Purpose and Overview

The first Community Advisory Group meeting for the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Energize Eastside project was convened in Bellevue on January 22, 2014. The meeting included an introduction of each of the advisory group members and alternates as well as PSE staff. The meeting agenda included:

- A discussion of the advisory group's purpose, goals and operating guidelines.
- An overview of the Energy Eastside project, including project need, how the electrical system works, and potential route segments of the project.
- An outline of the project schedule and outreach process, as well as ways that the public can get involved throughout the project.

## Meeting Summary

### Welcome, introductions and safety moment

Penny Mabie, the facilitator, welcomed meeting attendees. Booga Gilbertson, PSE Vice President of Operations, thanked the attendees for their participation, introduced the Energize Eastside project team, and gave a brief introduction to the project. Andy Wappler, PSE Vice President of Corporate Affairs, provided the PSE safety moment about the hazards of texting while driving.

### Community Advisory Group: Purpose, roles and ground rules

Penny reviewed the agenda and meeting process. She thanked the public for attending and noted that all materials provided to the Community Advisory Group will be posted on the project website. She also noted that discussion would be limited to the Community Advisory Group members at the table, and members of the public could provide comments via the 15-minute public comment period at the end of the

meeting, by emailing the project or by submitting comment forms. She then led a round of introductions among Community Advisory Group members, asking them to share their expectations for participation in the advisory group. Member expectations included representing their communities in the process and influencing the best possible outcome.

Next Penny led the advisory group through a review of a proposed Charter, including the purpose of the advisory group, the roles of advisory group members and alternates, the roles of PSE staff, and proposed ground rules.

### **Purpose**

Penny explained the main purposes of the Community Advisory Group are to learn about PSE's proposed route segments, to collaborate with PSE to decide on a community values-based evaluation process to consider the various route segments and determine a recommended route, and to provide a forum for the community to give meaningful input to PSE on route segments and options.

### **Role of Community Advisory Group members and alternates**

Penny explained the role of the Community Advisory Group members is to develop an understanding of the Energize Eastside project, represent and report back to their communities throughout the collaborative process with PSE, sharing specific concerns heard within their respective neighborhoods and constituencies, and to develop a final route recommendation. She noted that each Community Advisory Group member may have one alternate who will be available to stand in when members are unable to attend meetings. Alternates are encouraged to attend all meetings.

Penny also explained the role of the three Sub-Area Committees, representing the North (Kirkland and Redmond), Central (Bellevue), and South (Newcastle and Renton) geographic areas. These committees will evaluate route segments within their geographic sub-area and make segment or segment combination recommendations to the advisory group. The advisory group will then use those recommendations to develop full route options for consideration in developing the final route recommendation. Members and alternates from the advisory group are expected to participate on the committee for the sub-area they represent. In addition, one participant from each neighborhood association representing areas proximate to possible route segments is invited for participation on the Sub-Area Committee. Meetings are open to the public.

Penny noted where the draft charter underscored the importance of participation of members and alternates in the Community Advisory Group and Sub-Area Committees.

### **Role of PSE staff**

Penny explained that PSE staff will provide technical information on project need, factors involved in the developing route segments, and any other topics to provide greater understanding of the project. They will listen carefully and consider advisory group input prior to making final decisions on key technical issues. PSE staff will also provide materials to advisory group members and alternates one week in advance of Community Advisory Group meetings.

### **Ground rules**

Penny explained that the ground rules ask Community Advisory Group members to represent interests (as opposed to positions) and to listen respectfully to others. Penny suggested advisory group members be as succinct as possible in contributing to conversations, in the interest of allowing for time for all committee members to participate in discussions.

Penny pointed out an expectation in the charter that advisory group members and alternates will avoid characterizing the comments of other individuals when communicating about the advisory group's work to the public. Meeting summaries and all other meeting materials, available on the project website, can be used to reflect the advisory group's dialogue. Penny asked if contact information could be shared among advisory group members and alternates; no one objected.

## Questions and comments

In the "Purpose" section of the draft Charter, one member suggested amending the language of the last bullet to include reference to property owners, so as to read "...as PSE selects the preferred route that balances the needs of their customers, property owners, the local community and PSE." No objections were made to this amendment.

- **Action item:** PSE will amend the draft Charter to include this language.

One member noted that it would be helpful for the Community Advisory Group to know where PSE has flexibility (e.g. design, materials, etc.) in looking more in-depth at route options.

- **Action item:** PSE will talk with the Community Advisory Group about areas of flexibility in route design and construction in future discussions.

One advisory group member asked whether maps and other supporting materials used by the Sub-Area Committees would be available on the project website. Penny confirmed that they would be. She added that PSE staff will provide meeting materials to Community Advisory Group and Sub-Area Committee members and alternates one week before each meeting.

- **Action item:** PSE will upload all meeting materials to the project website. Materials have been [posted online](#).

After questions and a short break, Penny asked advisory group members and alternates to sign up for their preferred dates for a tour of the proposed route segments.

## An overview of the Energize Eastside project

### Project need

Leann Kostek, PSE Senior Project Manager, gave a [presentation](#) on the need for the Energize Eastside project.

The current transmission lines used today were built in the 1930s and 1960s, when the Eastside was still fairly rural. Growth in the region since then has transformed the Eastside from bedroom communities to one of the major centers of employment across the state including industry leaders such as Overlake Medical Center, Boeing, Microsoft, PACCAR, and Renton Technical College. Dependence on household electronics is rapidly increasing, and the Puget Sound Regional Council estimates that the population on the Eastside will grow one-third by 2040. Leann showed a graph that projects energy demand exceeding energy capacity on the Eastside in 2017. PSE has taken significant steps in partnering with customers to get the most out of the electric system through conservation and energy efficiency in homes and businesses, but conservation alone won't create the capacity to keep up with the region's growth. To support the Eastside's growth, this project will build approximately 18 miles of new 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines from Redmond to Renton, as well as a new substation.

### **How the system works**

Jens Nedrud, PSE Deputy Project Manager explained how the electric system works and how power gets to customers. Power is generated by various means including hydropower and wind power, often hundreds of miles away, and then carried through transmission lines to substations. At substations the electricity is transformed to a lower voltage (example: 500 kV to 230 kV). Local distribution lines carry the electricity to homes and businesses. He showed a map indicating the locations of PSE's current 230 kV and 115 kV transmission lines. He also showed a heat map indicating that the system demand is centralized in the Renton to Redmond corridor. Jens explained that PSE and third-party experts performed a detailed study which resulted in determining that the best way to ensure the area's electric system will meet growing demand is by bringing new, higher-capacity electric transmission lines to the Eastside, where demand is highest.

### **Route segments**

Jens said that PSE engineers identified potential route segments after a close analysis of geographic barriers, land uses, potential environmental effects and areas where there already are electric transmission lines. These route segments can be combined into complete routes that connect potential substation sites. PSE is now beginning a robust public outreach process, asking the public to provide input on the route segments. After taking in public input, PSE will evaluate all necessary requirements and constraints and select a preferred route to move forward for final design, environmental review and permitting.

### **Project schedule**

Jens explained the project schedule moving forward. By the end of 2014, PSE will select the preferred route. In 2015, PSE will design the route (focusing on pole types and locations, access and other design elements), continuing to work with the community throughout this phase. After designing the route, PSE will submit permit applications to construct the project and anticipates completion of the permitting process in early 2017. The plan is to have Energize Eastside fully operational by 2018, with portions of the improvements in-service by 2017.

### **Outreach process**

Leann explained the four steps of the outreach process and its anticipated timeline:

1. **Education.** PSE will educate the advisory group and the public about the need for the Energize Eastside project and the electric system that brings power to the customer (Winter 2014).
2. **Identify route options.** Using the segments, PSE will work with the advisory group and the Sub-Area Committees to identify route options for the new electric transmission line (Spring 2014).
3. **Recommend route.** The advisory group, considering recommendations made by the Sub-Area Committees, will narrow route options to develop one recommended route (Summer to Fall 2014).
4. **Selection of the preferred route.** PSE will evaluate all requirements and constraints, and select a preferred route to move forward for final design, environmental review and permitting (End of 2014).

Leann also reiterated that the public can get involved by joining the mailing list, participating in open houses, attending Community Advisory Group or Sub-Area Committee meetings, submitting questions via the project website or comment cards, or requesting a briefing. She noted that the PSE project staff is willing to speak to anyone (homeowners associations, civic groups, etc.) about the project.

## Questions

Advisory group members and alternates asked questions. Answers from the PSE project staff are provided below.

Q: What is the split for electricity demand that the system provides for thermal heat, plug loads, etc.? Is the system built to handle a change in the current split?

A: The answer was not readily available. Jens will provide an answer at a subsequent advisory group meeting.

Q: As buildings become more energy efficient, could the need for this project be offset in the future?

A: Growth is outpacing the region's gains in energy efficiency and increased efficiency in buildings is factored into the conservation goals.

Q: What percentage increase in capacity would the project bring in 2018?

A: The percent increase in capacity from adding the 230 kV transmission line is about 9-10 percent. Jens will provide the exact number at a subsequent advisory group meeting.

Q: What is the source of the generation for this project and where is it coming from?

A: The energy carried through the new transmission route will come from existing generation – including hydropower and wind power sources from PSE's current generation facilities.

Q: What is the total population (customers and houses) that would benefit from this project?

A: With 60,000 customers, the total population is roughly 400,000 people served by this project in 2021. Jens will provide a more precise estimate at a subsequent advisory group meeting.

Q: From a business standpoint, the quality of energy is important, too. Will this project address quality as well as capacity?

A: PSE's focus is on providing a reliable source. This project is meant to increase the backbone of the electric system – quality is not a focus of this project.

Q: Is Lakeside the only location where there will be distribution feeders coming off the proposed line, or will there be other distribution points along the line?

A: The new transmission line will run between the existing Sammamish and Talbot Hill substations, but there are three substations in between these two that are possible for this project.

Q: How long will this transmission line carry us into the future before we need further infrastructure?

A: The project is expected to ensure sufficient capacity through 2030.

Q: Which route option will provide the longest term benefit?

A: The advisory group and Sub-Area Committees will discuss this when they dig into the details of each route segment.

Q: What does it take to serve the line from the other side of an outage location?

A: After 2017, the transmission line would need to be fed from both sides. Anything downstream of an accident would experience an outage.

Q: Does PSE have local generation?

A: Jens explained that PSE does use local generation, via solar digesters and gas turbines, for example. While further local generation was considered as a possible solution, PSE and third party experts determined it was not viable for this project.

Q: Do 230 kV lines have to be above ground?

A: It is technically possible to underground 230 kV lines, but it is challenging from a feasibility standpoint.

Q: Does PSE have a preferred alignment?

A: PSE does not have a preferred alignment – any combination of the route segments that will get power from Sammamish to Talbot Hill will solve the problem.

Q: Is there a difference in cost between the routes?

A: There are cost differences.

Q: One advisory group member asked PSE for assistance in determining how to best communicate with her constituents about this project, as she represents a different audience.

A: PSE communications staff will be glad to help with this challenge.

- **Action item:** The project team will provide assistance with determining interests and seeking input.

Q: Who do we send technical questions to?

A: Technical questions can be sent to the Energize Eastside project email account ([energizeeastside@pse.com](mailto:energizeeastside@pse.com)). They will be provided to the appropriate person at PSE for answering.

Q: Can anyone come to meetings announced in the project newsletter?

A: All the meetings are open to the public.

Q: Out of the 18 miles proposed, how much is in Bellevue?

A: The whole length of the city lies within the proposed route segment area, from the northern to the southern boundary.

Q: Will we have more information from engineers regarding seismic stability of towers, what happens with trees, health risks, risks to houses, etc?

A: PSE technical staff will be available at future meetings to answer questions on these topics.

### Wrap-up and next steps

Penny shared that at the second Community Advisory Group meeting on February 12, 2014, the agenda will include:

- Specific concerns heard by members' and alternates' community and constituencies
- Technical information about how PSE identified the Energize Eastside solution and developed the route segments.
- The advisory group's evaluation process and criteria to be used in screening route segment

Penny shared upcoming events:

- **Open House:** January 29, 2014 6-8 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center in Redmond

- **Open House:** January 30, 2014 6-8 p.m. at the Renton Pavilion Event Center in Renton
- **Community Advisory Group Meeting #2:** February 12, 2014 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Rainier Hotel and Conference Center in Renton

**Public comments**

- I live on Hazelwood Lane in Lakeside and see that Segment L runs along our neighborhood. There is no representative for our neighborhood. I'd like to ask that you consider adding our neighborhood to the Community Advisory Committee.
- I've participated in PSE's Integrated Resource Planning (IRP). Transmission planning is supposed to be part of the IRP process. I don't remember PSE talking to us about this. IRP is normally followed by an RFP process, where PSE evaluates whether they or a subcontractor, e.g. Seattle City Light, should build the project. Why is that process not being followed for this project? There may be other alternatives, but PSE hasn't given us the information we need as a community to give us choices.
- I was also on the IRP Advisory Group. I suggest there is another option to building more transmission – install giant 50 MW-hour batteries that in communities and in substations. If your peak load doesn't exceed capacity more than two or three times a day – at the other times the batteries could be charging. You could install batteries and not need to build anything else. In the IRP, this option was not considered cost-effective, but that evaluation may not have considered the cost of the Energize Eastside project.
- To be really open, PSE should provide more information about new technology alternatives for transmission. I'm not sure you're looking futuristically enough or considering the best or new technologies.
- Communities need to be working together, not building consensus separately in separate groups. There is a natural division here – north and south. Bellevue, Redmond, and Kirkland need to be working together as one sub-area to identify a route.

**Summary of action items and status updates**

Action item	Status
PSE will amend the draft Charter to include reference to property owners in the last bullet of the Purpose section.	Complete
PSE will talk with the Community Advisory Group in future discussion about areas of flexibility in route design and construction.	In progress
PSE will upload all meeting materials to the project website and send meeting materials to advisory group members and alternates one week in advance of meetings.	Ongoing
PSE will provide assistance to the advisory group member representing a non-profit interest to help determine interests and collect input.	Complete