

Dear Community Advisory Group Members and Alternates:

Thank you for attending the second meeting of the Community Advisory Group on Wednesday, February 12, 2014. During the meeting there were a few questions from the advisory group members that our team did not clearly answer. We would like to provide some clarification on these issues, especially since we do not meet as a group again until April 30. The issues and our clarification are outlined below.

**Question #1:** Were property values considered as a layer of Geospatial Information Systems (G.I.S) in our technical screening tool – the Linear Routing Tool (LRT). One person noted that property values are easily found through the King County Assessor’s Office.

**Answer:** Laws regarding “environmental justice” issues make it illegal to use property values as siting criteria. In other words, we cannot site electric infrastructure projects based on the affluence of a neighborhood.

**Question #2:** Why did PSE perform our technical screening with the Linear Routing Tool for overhead transmission lines only; why did PSE not consider underground lines in this screening tool?

**Answer:** When we look to find infrastructure solutions to the electric problems our engineers and planners first look to overhead solutions. If there are viable overhead solutions our engineers will not evaluate an underground solution.

The reason for this is the cost and the unlikely recovery of those costs from our customers. With a viable overhead solution it is unreasonable that PSE could recover the costs of such an underground investment from all our customers.

Because an overhead system is a viable option to solve the strain on the Eastside’s existing transmission system, the option of constructing an underground transmission line is triggered by a request from a community or jurisdiction. If a community or jurisdiction is interested in pursuing an underground solution PSE will work with that community or jurisdiction to arrange payment for costs in advance as required by PSE’s electric tariff, Schedule 80.

Understanding that a community and jurisdiction would need basic information to make a decision as to whether they are interested in undergrounding, PSE retained Power Engineers, a national expert in undergrounding transmission lines, to put together an initial feasibility study to provide basic information on what it would take to underground a transmission line. This initial feasibility study should be complete by the early March. Once

it is complete, we will share this study with the Community Advisory Group and public.

Note: the study is not a detailed design and engineering study, rather a feasibility study to help inform the community as to whether they want to invest in an underground transmission line.

PSE's electric tariff filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission requires that the requesting entity pay the additional construction costs of undergrounding facilities over 50,000 volts (50kV.) A portion of PSE's electric tariff, Schedule 80, General Rules and Provisions, that addresses this is copied below. The following link will refer you to the entire Section 34, Construction of Electric Facilities if you would like additional information <[http://pse.com/aboutpse/Rates/Documents/elec\\_sch\\_080.pdf](http://pse.com/aboutpse/Rates/Documents/elec_sch_080.pdf)>.

**Question #3:** Did PSE consider view sheds or scenic byways as a layer of Geospatial Information Systems (G.I.S) in our technical screening tool – the Linear Routing Tool?

**Answer:** PSE did include a Geospatial Information System layer for scenic byways. There is no GIS data available for view sheds, thus it was not included. It is important to note that a Linear Routing Tool is simply one screening tool our team uses to assist in siting electric infrastructure. While view impacts and view sheds may not have a G.I.S. data layer from our local, state or federal agencies and jurisdictions, it is a factor that is considered later in our siting process. Also, as you, the advisory group, decide what community values or factors you choose to use in your evaluation and comparison of different segments, protecting view sheds may be one factor you consider using. You will be discussing that in further depth in coming meetings.

A few comments were made about the Community Advisory Group process not aligning with the environmental review process. To clarify the public outreach process we are currently engaged in (including the Community Advisory Group) is in addition to the formal environmental permitting process. The environmental permitting process is a separate public process.

On another note, we were aware of some frustration in the audience for their lack of ability to ask questions and engage directly in the Community Advisory Group process. We think that many in the audience did not fully understand the purpose or the format of the meeting, and we will work hard to make that clearer for the audience at subsequent advisory group meetings. We understand their frustration and would like to reiterate that in the advisory group process the public is invited to attend and listen, and is a critical aspect to ensure transparency of this public process. And while, apart from a brief public comment period, the

public does not have a direct say in the advisory group meetings, there are many others ways for them to engage, including:

- Communicating directly with you - their Community Advisory Group representatives
- Participating directly in the Sub-area Committee workshops #1 and #2
- Attending and listening to the Sub-area Committee meeting #3
- Attending and asking questions of PSE staff at Open House meetings
- Requesting/hosting a briefing by PSE staff for their neighborhood or community
- Submitting comments and questions to the project team

We appreciate and value your continued participation.

If you would like some representatives of our team to come out to your community, neighborhood or organization to discuss these issues, please contact our team at [energizeeastside@pse.com](mailto:energizeeastside@pse.com).

Our team sincerely strives to provide clear answers to your questions and appreciates your patience as we work through this public process.

Cordially,

The Energize Eastside Project Team