



energizeEASTSIDE fieldwork

What is fieldwork, and why is it needed?

Fieldwork describes a variety of surveys conducted by Puget Sound Energy (PSE) crews and industry experts investigating on-the-ground characteristics of a particular location.

In 2015, PSE worked directly with property owners and tenants to collect detailed field information to inform the environmental review process, project design and future permit applications for the Energize Eastside project.

Data gathered from this fieldwork will help us further evaluate the proposed route segments, identify possible pole locations and types, understand potential environmental effects and consider mitigation options.



Fieldwork crews preparing for a survey.

Upcoming fieldwork

Fieldwork anticipated in 2016 may include historic and cultural resources surveys as well as other surveys along proposed route segments as required. Should additional fieldwork be required, PSE will notify and coordinate with property owners and tenants in advance.

Fieldwork activities completed so far

In 2015, field crews working for PSE completed five different types of fieldwork along the Oak and Willow routes, the two transmission line routes recommended in 2014 by the Community Advisory Group for further analysis. Crews successfully completed work on more than 500 properties, and conducted more than 50 geotechnical investigations at specific locations.

Keeping property owners and tenants informed

PSE is committed to keeping property owners, tenants and neighbors informed. If further fieldwork is required, we will notify property owners and tenants through mailed notifications. In addition, we will conduct door to door outreach a few days in advance of beginning work. We will also maintain a fieldwork information phone line when work is active to answer questions.



The outreach team delivering notifications prior to a geotechnical investigation in 2015.

Types of fieldwork

Land surveys

Land surveys were conducted to help identify the precise locations of property lines, sidewalks, driveways, fences, corners of buildings, both underground and overhead utilities, and other property features. This information will help PSE engineers determine possible setback distances and identify locations for new transmission infrastructure.

Wetland delineations

Environmental specialists walked properties to identify, classify and record the location and boundaries of environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, creeks and floodplains). The data will support environmental review and permitting efforts as well as guides PSE engineers with respect to potential pole locations.

Tree inventories

Crews completed an inventory of trees along and near the proposed routes, collecting data on tree height, diameter and species. PSE uses this information to determine how to maintain safe operating conditions and comply with federal standards for clearances between vegetation and transmission lines, which will require trimming and/or removal of incompatible trees along the final route.

Geotechnical investigations

Geotechnical investigations have been conducted at specific locations along the routes to identify soil types in and around proposed pole locations. Certain soils provide better conditions for pole foundations than others. Understanding soil types will inform the design of foundations and support structures for the transmission lines. Geotechnical investigations entailed drilling small boring holes that were filled and patched prior to the crews' departure.

Pipeline co-location studies

Crews completed a pipeline co-location study to help PSE determine where the new transmission poles could be located adjacent to the Olympic Pipeline. Crews tested the soil to ensure the safe co-location of PSE's potential future poles and the Olympic Pipeline's existing facilities.



Geotechnical field crews completing a soil boring.

Historic and cultural resources surveys

For these surveys, archaeologists or historical specialists will assess the potential presence of cultural or historic resources. Local examples of these resources include bridges, buildings and historic camp sites. Information collected will support the environmental review and permitting efforts for the project.

About Energize Eastside

The Energize Eastside project will build a new substation and approximately 18 miles of transmission lines from Redmond to Renton. Combined with continued electric conservation, Energize Eastside will keep the lights on for homes and businesses in our Eastside communities for years to come.

Thank you for your interest in Energize Eastside.

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