

## Briefing Notes: Somerset Community Q&A Session

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**Meeting host:** Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Steve O'Donnell

**Location:** South Bellevue Community Center

**Date:** May 29, 2014

**Time:** 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

**Total attendees:** Approximately 70

**Purpose and overview:** Proposed route Segment J runs through the Somerset neighborhood and is part of the existing 115 kV line. The Somerset Community Association invited PSE to give a briefing on Energize Eastside at their annual meeting on January 23, 2014. Since then, more than 40 neighborhood residents requested another briefing from PSE. Since Somerset neighborhood leaders requested a detailed, more technical meeting, the format of this meeting was a question and answer session with a panel of six experts:

- Gretchen Aliabadi, PSE
- Jens Nedrud, P.E., PSE
- Mark Williamson, PRW
- Lowell Rogers, P.E., Power Engineers
- Tom Gentile, P.E., Quanta
- Drew Thatcher

The question and answer session was moderated by Ray Outlaw, Envirolssues.

At the briefing, the project team:

- Met Somerset and Eastside community members attending the meeting
- Informed community members about the project need, details and schedule
- Described PSE's work to date, and explained how community members can get involved in the public routing discussion
- Answered questions

**Format:** Prior to the presentation, project team staff members were available to answer questions and make in-person introductions to community members. Informational materials were provided. Jens Nedrud, Deputy Project Manager, provided a brief project overview on Energize Eastside for audience members new to the project, and let people know how they can get involved with the public routing discussion. The meeting then moved into a question and answer format, starting with five questions submitted via email the day before the meeting.

### Themes heard in the Q&A session or provided via comment cards

*Note: This section reflects a synthesis of individual questions, comments and themes that came up at the meeting. The synthesis provided is not intended for use as a verbatim transcription. Attendees were encouraged to provide comments on hard-copy comment cards or through the project website following the meeting.*

- Discussion of mandatory reliability standards and an explanation of redundancy built into the electric power system
- Explanation of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) security requirements and the process to obtain access to data protected by FERC regulations

- Discussion on the impact to the community of three electric power lines running through Bellevue (owned by PSE, Seattle City Light, and Bonneville Power Administration)
- Discussion of load capacity and an explanation of how redundancy and capacity differ
- Discussion of local need for energy delivery and impact of building new transmission lines on the full regional Columbia Grid system
- Questions about safety of co-locating the Olympic Pipeline and energy lines, especially during construction, and whether or not BP Pipelines (the operating agent for Olympic Pipeline Co.) has a preference for Energize Eastside route placement
- Question about whether poles would be located on streets or in backyards
- Questions about pole height and pole depth
- Interest in pole and line safety in the event of an earthquake
- Concerns about property values
- Questions about undergrounding the project
- Discussion about the cost of undergrounding and who is legally responsible for those costs based on regulation
- Interest in developing alternate, creative solutions to meet the need for dependable power other than an above ground transmission line
- An explanation of energy storage solutions such as batteries and how they do not meet the forecasted power needs
- Interest in independent studies that have been done or could be done on the project need and solutions
- Interest in a solution that PSE had formerly investigated, to build a line along I-90 and Lake Tradition, but was found to not meet the ongoing power needs
- Question about the growing need for power east of the proposed route segments
- Questions about the Community Advisory Group process
- Interest in a submarine option to put the transmission line in Lake Washington
- Question about health and EMF
- Question about the noise emitted by new 230 kV lines
- Question about the temperature of the lines when in operation
- Interest in location of poles in the area that are of comparable size

PSE appreciates community input and expression of interests and concerns. Input from the community will help PSE with the route selection process as the project moves forward.