



energizeEASTSIDE

project newsletter

A letter to our customers

When we launched the Energize Eastside project in December 2013, our goal was not only to upgrade the Eastside's electric system, but to directly engage our customers from Redmond to Renton in a conversation.

Over the past several months, the project team has visited several of you at your homes, in community centers and at public events throughout the project area. We've appreciated meeting you face-to-face, listening to your thoughtful questions and comments, and discussing the need for the Energize Eastside project and our solution for providing you and your neighbors with dependable power for years to come. That solution is to build 18 miles of new overhead electric transmission lines and a new substation between Redmond and Renton.

In a dense area like the Eastside, there is no location for the transmission line that doesn't bring changes to the surrounding area. Each route option has its own challenges, and that's why we



In April PSE hosted a community question and answer session with a panel of experts.

are focused on first gathering public input before we select a route for the new power line, which we expect to do by the end of 2014 or early 2015.

Since December, our emphasis has been on connecting with community members to gather feedback on the project. A Community Advisory Group is helping us consider community interests and concerns. We've held 20 public events – in the form of open houses, advisory group meetings, workshops, community meetings, and question and answer sessions – as well as more than 180 discussions with individual stakeholders, local neighborhoods and community groups.

These conversations, which will be ongoing through the remainder of the year, are incredibly valuable as we work to select our preferred route for the new power line. This newsletter is an effort to report back on what we've heard and to update you on the project's progress and next steps. We hope you will read on for more information.

In closing, we want to sincerely thank you for your interest in the project and your continued engagement. This is an important project to maintain the level of electric service that is expected on the Eastside, and our goal is to balance the project's needs with the values of the community as much as possible.

Thank you for reading,

Leann Kostek
Senior Project Manager

Gretchen Aliabadi
Communications
Initiatives Manager

Urgent need on the Eastside

The Eastside is growing faster than any other region in Washington, and you can see this progress everywhere you go. While beneficial for our local economy, this growth is straining the Eastside's electric system. Growth studies project that energy demand will exceed the capacity of the existing electric system serving the Eastside area as early as 2017, and these projections already assume ambitious energy conservation targets. As a result, tens of thousands of residents and businesses on the Eastside would be at risk of more frequent and longer power outages.

PSE and independent experts spent a year researching possible solutions to solve the electric capacity problems on the Eastside, including:

- “Non-wires” solutions like further conservation, battery storage, solar panels, and more
- A new local generation facility (power plant) on the Eastside
- Other methods of increasing electric capacity on our existing system
- New transmission lines and substations in different areas of PSE's service territory

This thorough analysis determined that substantial infrastructure upgrades and aggressive conservation efforts are needed to avoid decreased electric reliability for 350,000 customers on the Eastside.



1940s

In the 1940s, the main power line serving Redmond was 55 kV. In the 1960s, the system was updated to the current 115 kV lines.

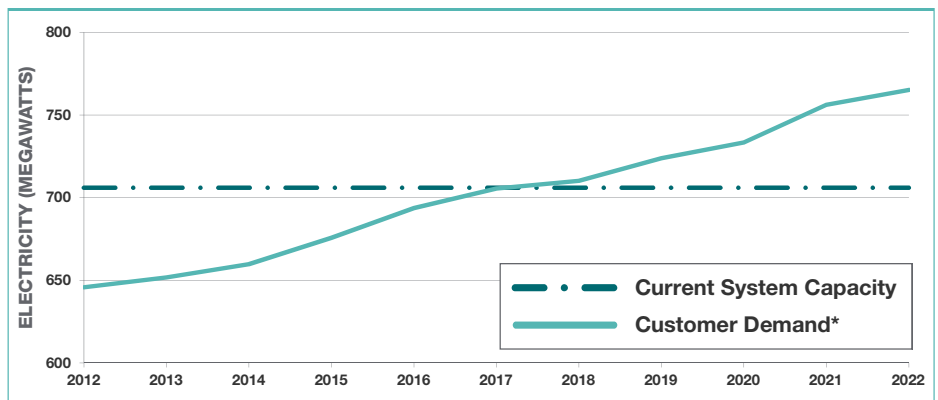


Today

Growth is straining the Eastside's existing electric system.

Eastside customer demand forecast

This chart shows customer demand with 100% conservation goals met compared to our current electric transmission system's capacity. By 2017-2018, demand will exceed our ability to provide dependable power.



*Customer Demand assumes 100% of conservation goals are met.

What questions are we hearing?

Below are some common questions we've heard at community meetings. For answers to other frequently asked questions, visit pse.com/energizeeastside.

Can you put the lines underground?

While PSE is able to build underground transmission lines, overhead transmission lines are the first option for their combination of reliability and affordability – both of which are important to our customers. Per state regulations, if an overhead route is viable, the additional cost to underground must be paid for by the group requesting it. This is to help keep costs low for all of our customers.

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What about using existing corridors on the Eastside, such as Seattle City Light's?

PSE prefers to route new transmission lines along existing corridors whenever possible. About 70 percent of the route options we're considering have existing lower voltage transmission lines along them.

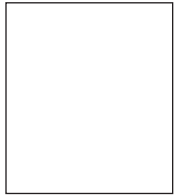


Not only is the cost higher with underground transmission lines, they can have bigger environmental and neighborhood impacts and take much longer to repair if damaged.

We've looked into using the Seattle City Light corridor and yes, if it were rebuilt, the corridor could work to meet the Eastside's energy needs. However, PSE has been told by Seattle City Light that this corridor is a key component of Seattle City Light's transmission system and not available for PSE's use.

What about electromagnetic fields? Aren't those a health concern?

We've looked to the experts for guidance on electromagnetic fields, or EMF. There is a 45-year body of research to determine if EMF from transmission lines has any effect on human health. The research does not show that exposure to EMF from transmission lines causes adverse health effects. The World Health Organization recently concluded that the current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields. An independent EMF expert is available to answer your questions — contact us for more information.



We welcome your questions and comments

CONTACT:

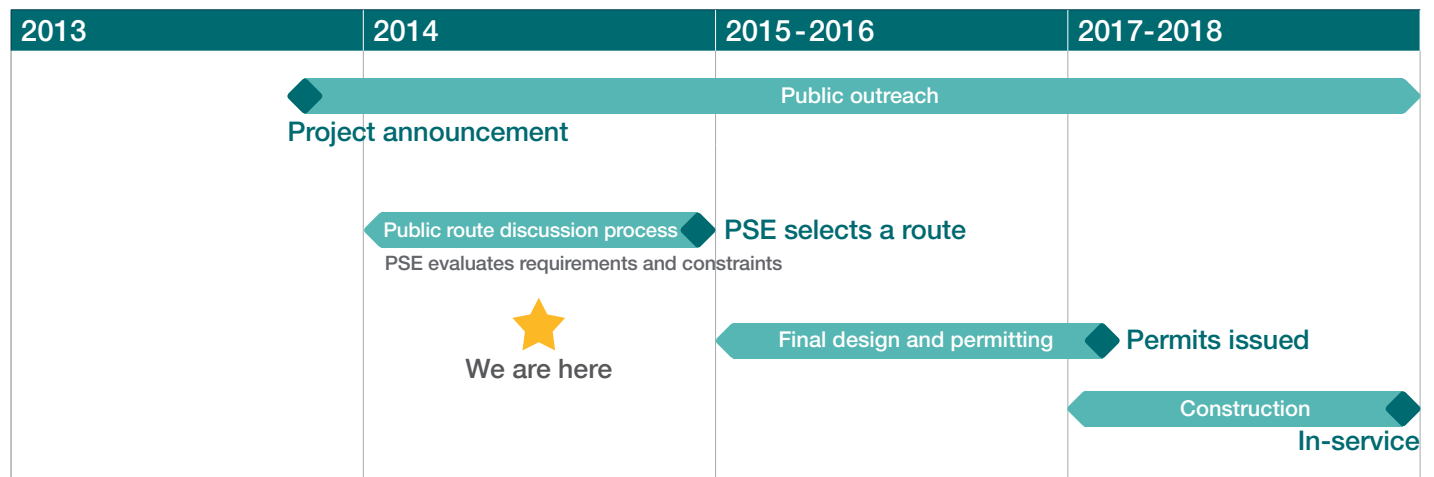
- Leann Kostek, Senior Project Manager
- Gretchen Aliabadi, Communications Initiatives Manager
- Jackson Taylor, Community Projects Manager
- Keri Pravitz, Community Projects Manager

EMAIL: energizeeastside@pse.com

VOICEMAIL: 1-800-548-2614




WEBSITE: pse.com/energizeeastside

Project schedule



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

We welcome your comments and questions any time:

 pse.com/energizeeastside
 1-800-548-2614
  energizeeastside@pse.com