

## Central Sub-Area Workshop #1 Summary

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4/10/2014

### Purpose

On March 26, Puget Sound Energy hosted the first of two workshops in the Central Sub-Area. At Workshop #1, the Central Sub-Area Committee and members of the public learned about the project, examined route segments D, E, F, G1/G2, H, I, J, K1 and K2, and identified factors to evaluate those segments.

### Meeting information

Location: Bellevue Hilton Hotel, 300 112th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Date: March 26, 2014, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Approximate number of attendees: 180

### Key issues

Based on the results of the individual checklists, workshop participants identified the following top key issues within this sub-area (in order of most referenced). Group discussions reflected similar key issues.

1. Property values
2. Visual impacts
3. Residential impacts
4. Aesthetics
5. Electromagnetic fields (EMF)

Undergrounding or submerging the proposed transmission lines, using the existing Seattle City Light corridor, and project alternatives were also key topics discussed recurrently in group discussions and comment cards.

### Specific considerations informed by local knowledge

Workshop participants identified key neighborhood characteristics and specific considerations that the Sub-Area Committees and PSE should know about. Below is a list of feedback provided by community members:

- Segment D
  - *In the Wilburton neighborhood, there are already several existing utility corridors (including Seattle City Light).*
- Segment E
  - *The Sunset Community Association has worked for many years to improve the area along the "pipeline trail," including Sunset Park, Skyridge Park and trail improvements.*
- Segment F
  - *L.B. Nature Park is close to 118th Avenue SE.*
  - *Protect Bellevue Botanical Gardens territorial view at 118th Avenue SE east of Main Street.*

- Segments G1 and G2
  - *Several historic homes (mid-century moderns) in Norwood Village.*
- Segment H
  - *Tall trees invaluable to protection of properties.*
  - *Area is surrounded by the city, but feels “in the country.”*
  - *1911 homestead estate for Bellevue community near railroad tracks.*
  - *Environmentally Critical Areas (ECAs) are of importance.*
  - *Possible destabilization of the hillside that runs along BNSF railway.*
- Segment I
  - *Physical health and safety of students, including proximity to schools.*
  - *Interest in population density, shoppers and workers nearby.*
- Segment J
  - *Concern over the fault lines in this area.*
  - *Covenants in the area require preservation of views.*
  - *Somerset Recreation Club at SE 44th St and Somerset Blvd SE is a gathering place and includes an outdoor pool.*
  - *Nearby schools include Tye Middle School, Newport High School, Somerset Elementary and Forest Ridge School.*
- Segments K1 and K2
  - *Concern with impacts to recreational areas, like the pipeline path and Newport Hills Tennis Club.*
  - *There’s a pocket park near the existing line and SE 60th and 129th Ave.*

### **Evaluation factors**

Workshop participants identified value-based evaluation factors to use when analyzing potential route segments within their sub-area in Workshop #2. Evaluation factors were grouped into the following categories:

- Proximity to residential areas (number of residences impacted and population density, number of residences in close proximity to multiple transmission lines, impacts to community character, noise)
- Effects on aesthetics (view shed, pole design, height/span, etc.)
- Effects on health and safety (EMF, earthquakes, fault lines, interactions with Olympic Pipeline, etc.)
- Proximity to sensitive community land uses (“Pipeline trail,” Sunset Park, Skyridge Park, Somerset Recreation Club, schools, historic homes, etc.)
- Proximity to sensitive environmental areas (Environmentally Critical Areas, steep slopes, stream crossings, topography, etc.)
- Takes advantage of existing utility corridors, arterial streets, and other similar options.

### **Data requests for each segment**

Workshop participants were asked to identify what route segment data would be useful to help compare the route segments in Workshop #2. Data requests summarized below combine duplicate requests and are arranged by key topic area.

Community sensitive areas

- Proximity to senior living facilities

Construction

- Construction cost
- How accessible are the lines for construction crews
- Number of poles needed
- Location of underground route

Cost

- Construction cost in existing vs. new corridors
- Amount of increase to ratepayers
- Cost per mile of underground
- Cost per mile of submarine cable
- Maintenance costs per mile of underground vs. overhead lines
- Cost benefit analysis of a joint PSE and Seattle City Light right-of-way

Design features

- Size of transmission lines by segment

Easements

- Number of existing easements
- Number of new easements required

Environmental

- Number of wetlands
- Number of stream crossings
- Stability of nearby slopes in construction zone
- Topography
- Number of fault line crossings

Existing corridors

- Existing utilities (power lines, petroleum pipeline, etc.)
- Number of interactions with other existing utilities (e.g. Olympic Pipeline)
- Probability of Olympic Pipeline leaks
- Estimated fatality rates from Olympic Pipeline explosion

Health

- Increase in noise level
- Long term impacts of equivalent noise levels to communities
- Current EMF studies for the voltage being considered
- Number of people that will be exposed to more than 5 gauss from lines along each segment

Longevity

- Number of years the line will last before needing to be upgraded

Population/land use data

- Population density within a quarter mile

- Number of shoppers within a quarter mile
- Number of workers within a quarter mile
- Number of industrial areas

#### Project need

- Cost benefit analysis of proposed routes vs. alternative solutions (e.g. battery storage)
- Alternatives/ new technology options that might be available to strengthen the grid

#### Property values

- Number of homes that will experience a decrease to property values
- Percent decline in property value (from King County Assessors data)
- Loss of tax revenue from decreased property values
- Studies showing change in land values following new positioning of increased EMF power lines
- Impact of height of lines on property values

#### Recreation

- Number of existing parks and pathways
- Number of planned parks and pathways

#### Residential impacts

- Number of historic homes
- Number of residences within one mile
- Number of residences directly and indirectly impacted

#### Schools

- Number of schools
- Number of students within a quarter mile
- Number of child care facilities

#### Vegetation

- Number of mature trees

#### Views

- Number of properties with view impacts

#### Other

- Fairness in the different routes
- Data from other communities that have had a transmission line built in them (expected costs, route challenges for construction)
- Solutions from Europe and major metro areas in the U.S.

#### Graphics or visual aids

- Olympic pipeline map overlay with segments on one map
- Industrial zone map overlay with segments on one map

#### **Public process feedback**

Several participants provided comments and feedback on the process. Those comments indicated:

- Concerns about need for the project

- Frustration with "scare" tactics in flyers/advertising
- Frustration with limiting the issues checklist to five choices
- A suggestion that there be a community discussion about project alternatives
- A suggestion that segment B should be sub-divided into B1 and B2, with State Route 520 as the dividing line
- Appreciation for the facilitator