

North Sub-Area Workshop #1 Summary

4/8/2014

Meeting information

Location: Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

Date: March 19, 2014, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Number of workshop participants signed in: 44

Purpose

On March 19, Puget Sound Energy hosted the first of two workshops in the North Sub-Area. At Workshop #1, the North Sub-Area Committee and members of the public learned about the project, examined route segments A, B, C and D and identified factors to evaluate those segments.

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. Electromagnetic fields (EMF)
2. Property values
3. Aesthetics
4. Residential impacts
5. Visual impacts
6. Proximity to homes / population density / number of properties impacted
7. Design features
8. Proximity to schools

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 B
 - *Historic property at the corner of 122nd Avenue and 73rd Street*
 - *122nd Avenue is a corridor/arterial for the Fire and Emergency Department*
 - *Wetlands adjacent to Bridle Trails State Park*
- Segment C
 - *Olympic Pipeline*
 - *Horse lots in Bridle Trails Neighborhood*
 - *Cell towers at NE 40th St*
 - *High density (over 180 units) at Sixty-01 Condominiums between 60th and 70th St*
 - *Five high rise buildings on the west end of Sixty-01 Condominiums*
 - *Petroleum pipeline easement (North-South) at Sixty-01 Condominiums*
 - *Pea patches, tennis court and volleyball court at Sixty-01 Condominiums*

Specific characteristics were not identified for segments A and D.

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 sensitive community land uses (Bridle Trails State Park and other recreational areas, historic properties, schools, churches, businesses)
- Proximity to sensitive environmental areas (wetlands, wildlife habitat)
- Impacts to vegetation (Number of trees, mature vegetation and old growth that must be removed or trimmed)
- Proximity to residential areas (number of residences impacted and population density, number of residences in close proximity to two transmission lines, impacts to property value, impacts to community character, noise)
- Effects on health and safety (EMF, Olympic Pipeline, polychlorinated biphenyl levels at substations)
- Effects on aesthetics (impacts to views of Mount Rainier, aesthetic impacts to open spaces, number of poles and pole design, height/span)
- 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 are summarized to exclude duplicate requests and are arranged by key topic area.

Business impacts

- Number of businesses displaced
- Number of businesses within one mile
- Number of churches within one mile
- Number of jobs created

Construction

- Approximate time to construct
- Permitting difficulties

Cost

- Total cost estimate
- Total cost estimate of acquiring easements
- Total cost estimate of undergrounding

Environmental impacts

- Number of wildlife
- Number of wetlands

Easements

- Number of new easements required
- Number of existing easements

Health

- Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) levels at new and existing substations
- Amount of EMF reduction of existing lines after upgrading

Schools

- Number of schools within 100 feet
- Number of schools within one mile

Property value impacts

- Property value impacts from the existing corridor
- Property value impacts that would result from proposed segments

Recreation

- Number of recreational amenities

Residential impacts

- Number of homes within 100 feet
- Number of homes within one mile
- Number of existing infrastructure projects

Vegetation

- Number of trees removed

View impacts

- Number of homes with visual impacts from existing lines
- Number of homes that would be visually impacted by new lines
- Number of open areas visually impacted

Graphics or visual aids

- Diagram with current substations and transmission lines overlaid with potential segments
- Photos of current substations (showing integration with community character)
- “Before” and “after” photos of pole types
- Virtual tour of the segments

Public process feedback

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

- An interest in smaller groups at the next workshop
- Appreciation for and satisfaction with the workshop
- Concerns about the public route identification process