DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR
450 110th Ave NE
BELLEVUE, WA 98009-9012

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)
NOTICE OF PHASE 2 PUBLIC MEETINGS/OPEN HOUSES

PROJECT NAME: Energize Eastside

PROPONENT: Jens Nedrud, Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: Portions of Bellevue, Newcastle, Redmond, Renton, and unincorporated King County between the Sammamish Substation at 9221 Willows Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052, and the Talbot Hill Substation at 2400 South Puget Drive, Renton, WA 98055.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Construct approximately 18 miles of new 230 kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission lines and add a new substation (Richards Creek) at the Lakeside substation to connect two existing bulk energy systems, supply future electrical capacity, and improve electrical grid reliability for eastside communities. Project details and plans are available in the project file and on the project website at www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

FILE NUMBER: 14-139122-LE **PROJECT PLANNER:** Heidi Bedwell

On April 30, 2015, the Environmental Coordinator for the City of Bellevue, serving as lead agency, published a Notice of Determination of Significance, indicating that this proposal could have a significant adverse impact on the environment and required preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030(2)(c). On January 28, 2016, the lead agency issued a Phase 1 Programmatic Draft EIS, which evaluated alternative methods to achieve PSE's project objectives. A Phase 2 Draft EIS will be prepared to analyze PSE's proposal and reasonable alternatives, including project-specific alternatives proposed by PSE and additional reasonable project-specific alternatives that may be identified during the Phase 2 scoping process. Further information is available in the project file on request and on the project website at www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

SCOPING AND PUBLIC COMMENT: Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the Phase 2 EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. An expanded scoping process is being provided pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-410, and will include three public scoping meetings at the times and locations listed below.

Tuesday May 10, 2016 6:00 – 8:30 PM: Oliver Hazen High School - 1101 Hoquiam Ave NE, Renton, WA 98059
Saturday May 14, 2016 2:00 - 4:30 PM: Rose Hill Elementary - 8110 128th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98033
Tuesday May 17, 2016 6:00 – 9:00 PM: Bellevue City Hall - 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Comments may be submitted orally at the scoping meetings or in writing:

Online at:	www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org
By email to:	Info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org
By mail to:	City of Bellevue Development Services Department Attn: Heidi Bedwell 450 110th Avenue NE Bellevue, WA 98004

For questions about scoping meetings or commenting, email the City of Bellevue EIS project team at: info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org

or contact:
Heidi Bedwell, Senior Planner/Energize Eastside EIS Program Manager, City of Bellevue, 425-452-4862

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The comment period opens April 14, 2016. The deadline for submitting your comments is May 31, 2016. All comments related to project scoping must be submitted by this date.

LEAD AGENCY: The City of Bellevue is the SEPA lead agency under WAC 197-11-932, and issued a letter of lead agency status to the Partner Cities (Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond, and Renton) on September 15, 2014. Bellevue is the nominal lead and each Partner City is a co-lead agency for the proposal as permitted pursuant to WAC 197-11-944.

EIS REQUIRED: The lead agency has determined, and the applicant (PSE) has agreed, this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared. Materials indicating likely environmental impacts can be reviewed at the City of Bellevue Development Services Department.

The Energize Eastside EIS is not a permit - it is one of many sets of information permitting agencies will consider as they decide whether to approve the project and issue necessary permits.

PHASED REVIEW: The Phase 1 Programmatic Draft EIS was completed and subject to public comment. Under WAC 197-11-060(5) the purpose of the Phase 1 DEIS is to evaluate, at a more general level, the environmental impacts of alternative methods to address the electrical transmission capacity deficiency identified by PSE. The Phase 2 Draft EIS will evaluate project-level alternatives described below.

EIS ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS: WAC 197-11-440(5)(b) states that a reasonable alternative means an action that could feasibly attain or approximate a proposal's objectives, but at a lower environmental cost or decreased level of environmental degradation. Reasonable alternatives may be those over which an agency with jurisdiction has authority to control impacts, either directly or indirectly through requirement of mitigation measures.

The Phase 2 Draft EIS will identify alternatives from the Phase 1 Draft EIS that do not require or merit more detailed project-level impacts review; furthermore, it will articulate the reasoning and basis if one or more alternative(s) are not being carried forward.

Following publication of the Phase 2 Draft EIS and receipt and consideration of public comment, a Final EIS will be issued that incorporates the information from both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 DEISs.

ALTERNATIVES: Several Action Alternatives and a No Action Alternative are proposed to be analyzed in the Phase 2 Draft EIS. Descriptions of these alternatives are as follows:

No Action
This alternative is required under SEPA as a baseline against which the action alternatives can be compared. Under this alternative, maintenance, conservation, and certain other activities that do not require state or local government approvals could continue. No new 230 kV line or substation would be built. Additional voluntary conservation and distributed generation, such as some of the measures described under Alternative 2 in the Phase 1 Draft EIS, could occur under this alternative.

Action Alternatives (PSE's proposal)
New Substation at Lakeside (Richards Creek) and New 230 kV Transmission Lines
PSE has proposed to route new 230 kV transmission line, to the extent feasible, within PSE's existing Sammamish-Lakeside-Talbot Hill 115 kV transmission line corridor. At the existing Lakeside distribution substation (13615 SE 26th St in Bellevue) a new substation (Richards Creek) would be developed on the vacant parcels to the south (parcel numbers 102405-9083 and 102405-9130) to accommodate a new 230 kV transformer and associated electrical equipment.

In the Phase 1 Draft EIS, this proposal would fall under Alternative 1 - New Substation and 230 kV Transmission Lines. For the Phase 2 Draft EIS, the proposed transmission line corridor is divided into three segments, with alternative routes applying to Segment 2. PSE has proposed four alternatives for Segment 2 (referred to as Oak 1, Oak 2, Willow 1, and Willow 2, terminology PSE has used in its citizen advisory group process). Willow 2 is PSE's preferred alternative along with Segments 1 and 3. PSE has not identified alternative alignments or designs for Segment 1 and 3. Alternative transmission line designs could include different pole heights, finishes, configurations, and quantity, as well as differing number of wires (single or bundled). Alternative designs would consider the parameters of the corridor, such as the location of the Olympic Pipeline and existing corridor width. None of the alternatives proposed by PSE require widening of the existing corridor. New easements may be necessary along route options located outside of the existing corridor. The alternatives proposed by PSE are as follows:

Transmission Line Segment Alternatives	Location	Typical Pole Type and Approximate Pole Height*	Additional Information
Segment 1	Sammamish substation to the new Richards Creek substation along the existing 115 kV transmission line corridor.	Double-circuit lines (one 230 kV and one 115 kV) on steel monopoles 100 feet tall.	Existing 115 kV lines and H-frame poles would be removed (reduction of 4 poles to 1 at each pole location).
Segment 2 – Oak 1	Richards Creek substation to approximately where Coal Creek Pkwy crosses Coal Creek, following SE 30th St, Factoria Blvd SE, and Coal Creek Pkwy.	Double-circuit lines (230/115 kV) on steel monopoles 80-100 feet tall. (Double-circuit lines have 2 lines, each with 3 wires, on 1 pole width).	New high capacity 115 kV line would be built to 230 kV standards (using same size wire as 230 kV). The existing 115 kV lines and poles that extend south from Richards Creek to Coal Creek Pkwy would remain unchanged. The existing 115 kV line along Factoria Blvd SE would be removed. Existing distribution lines and communications lines along Factoria Blvd SE would be placed underground.
Segment 2 – Oak 2	Richards Creek substation to approximately where Coal Creek Pkwy crosses Coal Creek, following 3 paths: a) Existing 115 kV corridor; b) SE 30th St, Factoria Blvd SE (line splits at SE 38th St), and Coal Creek Pkwy; and c) SE 38th St and 124th Ave SE to Coal Creek Pkwy.	a) Single-circuit 230 kV lines on steel H-frames 65 feet tall; b) Double-circuit 115 kV lines (one built to 230 standards) on 80-100 foot tall steel monopoles and single-circuit 80-foot tall steel monopoles south of SE 38th St; and c) Single-circuit 115 kV lines on 70-foot tall wood poles.	Existing 115 kV lines and would be removed.
Segment 2 – Willow 1	Richards Creek substation to approximately where Coal Creek Pkwy crosses Coal Creek, following the existing 115 kV corridor.	North of SE Newport Way: one double-circuit (230/115 kV) on steel monopoles 100 feet tall; and South of SE Newport Way: 2 single-circuit lines (one pole carrying 115 kV and the other 230 kV) 85 feet tall.	Existing 115 kV lines and H-frame poles would be removed (reduction of 4 poles to 1 or 2 at each pole location). The 115 kV lines would be built to 230 kV standards (using same size wire as 230 kV).
Segment 2 – Willow 2 (PSE's Preferred Alternative)	Richards Creek substation to approximately where Coal Creek Pkwy crosses Coal Creek, following 2 paths: a) Existing 115 kV corridor; and b) SE Newport Way, and Coal Creek Pkwy and Factoria Blvd SE.	a) North of SE Newport Way: double-circuit lines (230/115 kV) (115 kV built to 230 standards) on monopoles 100 feet tall; South of SE Newport Way: Single-circuit 230 kV on steel H-frames 65 feet tall; b) Single-circuit 115 kV lines built to 230 kV standards on steel monopoles 80 feet tall on SE Newport Way; and double-circuit 115 kV (one build to 230 kV	Existing 115 kV lines and poles would be removed and the number of poles reduced except along on Factoria Blvd SE. Along SE Newport Way, Factoria Blvd SE, and Coal Creek Pkwy, existing distribution and communication lines would be placed underground.

		standards) on steel monopoles 80 feet tall on Factoria Blvd SE.	
Segment 3	Following the existing 115 kV corridor from where Coal Creek Pkwy SE crosses Coal Creek to Talbot Hill substation.	Double-circuit lines (230/115 kV) on 2 steel poles 85 feet tall in Newcastle, and on steel monopoles 100 feet tall in Renton.	Existing 115 kV poles and lines would be removed.

*For crossing highways, poles could be up to 130 feet tall to meet clearance requirements.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: Comments are requested in conformance with WAC 197-11-408. The lead agency specifically requests comments on where visual impact simulations should be conducted, alternatives or measures to minimize visual impacts, and alternatives or measures that could minimize the risk associated with colocation of transmission lines with the Olympic Pipeline.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT: The lead agency has preliminarily identified the following elements of the environment for discussion in the EIS:

Greenhouse Gas
Water Resources
Plants and Animals
Environmental Health – Pipeline Safety
Environmental Health - EMF and Corona Effects
Land and Shoreline Use
Views and Visual Resources
Recreation
Historic and Cultural Resources
Public Services
Utilities