



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

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE  
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING PERIOD  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS/OPEN HOUSES**

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**PROJECT NAME:** Energize Eastside

**PROPONENT:** Jens Nedrud, Puget Sound Energy

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

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:** Construct a new 230 kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line and substation connecting two existing bulk energy systems as necessary to supply future electrical capacity and improve electrical grid reliability for eastside communities. Complete project description is available in the project file and on the project website at [www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](http://www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org).

**FILE NUMBER:** 14-139122-LE      **PROJECT PLANNER:** David Pyle

The Environmental Coordinator of the City of Bellevue, serving as lead agency, has determined that this proposal could have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C. This decision was made after the Bellevue Environmental Coordinator reviewed preliminary information about the project provide by the applicant. The applicant has agreed with this finding and has voluntarily entered into agreement with the City of Bellevue for the processing of an EIS. Additional information is available in the project file on request and on the project website at [www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](http://www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org).

**SCOPING AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the 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 WAC 197-11-410, and will include five public scoping meetings at the times and locations listed below.

**FOCUS OF PHASE 1 SCOPING:** This scoping period is intended to assist in identifying technically viable alternatives that address PSE's reported electrical transmission capacity deficiency. Scoping comments should focus on identification of viable alternatives and associated impacts. Construction and operation level impacts will be addressed with Phase 2 of the EIS process.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING/OPEN HOUSE DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS:**

**Tuesday May 12, 2015 6:00 - 9:00 PM:** Bellevue City Hall/450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA  
**Thursday May 14, 2015 6:00 - 8:00 PM:** Renton City Hall/1055 South Grady Way, Renton, WA  
**Tuesday May 26, 2015 6:00 - 8:00 PM:** Kirkland City Hall/123 5th Avenue, Kirkland WA  
**Thursday May 28, 2015 6:00 - 8:00 PM:** Newcastle Elementary School/8440 136th Ave SE Newcastle, WA  
**Saturday May 30, 2015 2:00 - 4:00 PM:** North Bellevue Community Center/4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA

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

Online at: [www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](http://www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org)  
By email to: [Scoping@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](mailto:Scoping@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org)  
By mail to: City of Bellevue  
Development Services Department  
Attn: David Pyle  
450 110th Avenue NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004

For questions about scoping meetings or commenting, email [info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](mailto:info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org) or contact:

David Pyle, Senior Land Use Planner/Energize Eastside EIS Program Manager  
City of Bellevue Development Services Department  
425-452-2973

**SCOPING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** The scoping comment period opens April 30, 2015. The deadline for submitting scoping comments is 5:00 PM Monday June 15, 2015. All comment related to project scoping must be submitted by this date. Comments may be submitted orally at the scoping meetings or in writing. A valid physical mailing address is required to establish status as an official party of record.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:** The Cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond and Renton (collectively called the Principal Jurisdictions), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will evaluate PSE's proposal (called Energize Eastside) to construct a new 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation connecting two existing bulk energy systems as necessary to supply future electrical capacity and improve electrical grid reliability for the Eastside, including the Principal Jurisdictions and surrounding areas.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:** PSE has determined that projected electrical load growth in the Eastside area of Puget Sound Energy's operating system is outstripping the capacity to deliver reliable sources of electricity to the region. The Eastside area encompasses the area east of Lake Washington between the cities of Redmond and Renton. A detailed description of the electrical system problem is provided in PSE's Needs Report (2012). PSE's transmission system backbone in the Eastside area comprises four transformers that convert 230 kV power to 115 kV. These transformers, under certain operational conditions (for example cold winter days), operate near capacity. System studies and models have shown that they are expected to exceed their designed capacity as early as the winter of 2017/2018. In addition to these transformers at PSE's Talbot Hill (Renton) and Sammamish (Redmond) substations, several 115 kV lines are also subject to overloading.

PSE has determined that these overloads would create operational conditions that do not comply with minimum reliability requirements mandated by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). Building an a new 230 kV transmission line and substation connecting to the Talbot Hill and Sammamish substations is one means of addressing the system deficiency PSE has identified. PSE selected this option as its preferred option.

Project background documentation is available on the project website at: [www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](http://www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org).

**LOCATION OF PROPOSAL:** Portions of Bellevue, Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond, Renton, and unincorporated King County between the Sammamish substation at 9221 Willow Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052, and the Talbot substation at 2400 South Puget Drive, Renton, WA 98055. Note: Alternatives to be considered could extend further east.

**LEAD AGENCY:** The City of Bellevue is the lead agency under section 197-11-932 of the Washington Administrative Code ("WAC"), and issued a letter of lead agency status to the Principal Jurisdictions on September 15, 2014. Bellevue is the nominal lead and each Principal Jurisdiction 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 environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C and will be prepared. Background materials indicating likely environmental impacts can be reviewed at the City of Bellevue Development Services Department or on the project website at: [www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org](http://www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org).

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:** A Phased Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared under WAC 197-11-060(5). This first phase will evaluate the environmental impacts of various alternatives for addressing the electrical transmission capacity deficiency identified by PSE as the purpose for the project. The Phase 1 Draft EIS will evaluate the alternatives described below.

The second phase of the project will select among the Phase 1 alternatives and examine project level alternatives, including possible alternate routes for transmission lines. A second opportunity for scoping will be provided and a second Draft EIS will be issued for Phase 2.

Following publication of the Phase 2 Draft EIS, a Final EIS will be issued.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Four alternatives are proposed to be analyzed in the Phase 1 Draft EIS. Descriptions of the four proposed alternatives follow:

**Alternative 1- New Transformer and Transmission Line**

Adding a new 230kV to 115kV substation and connecting it with the Talbot and Sammamish substations via a new 230 kV transmission line is PSE’s preferred solution. This solution would provide a new 230 kV transmission source and improve reliability for the Eastside area. To provide the greatest system benefit, the new transformer would need to be located somewhere between State Route 520 and Interstate-90.

**Alternative 2 – Demand Side Reduction/Non-Wire Technologies**

Demand side reduction or conservation measures include energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, and distributed generation measures. Energy efficiency measures include things such as promoting the installation of more efficient appliances, changing out incandescent light bulbs for LED, updating windows and insulation, as well as numerous others. Demand response entails energy reduction programs where specialized devices are installed that can be used to control customers electrical uses to better accommodate and manage peak usage. Energy storage includes the use of large scale battery systems. Installing roof top solar panels, small scale wind turbines, and waste digesters are all forms of distributed generation.

**Alternative 3 – New Transformer – Existing Substation**

This alternative includes installing a new 230 kV – 115 kV transformer at an existing substation, such as the existing Sammamish substation, Talbot Hill substation, or Lake Tradition (Issaquah) substation.. It is anticipated that this alternative would not require the installation of new 230 kV transmission lines since all three sites considered currently have nearby 230 kV sources; however, additional new 115kV transmission lines would be required.

**Alternative 4 – No Action**

This alternative is required under SEPA, as a baseline against which the action alternatives can be compared. Under this alternative, maintenance and certain other activities that do not require state or local government approvals could continue. No new 230 kV line, substation, or major battery storage facility would be built.

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

|                               |                                    |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Surface Water                 | Air (Greenhouse Gases)             | Plants and Animals           |
| Noise                         | Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) | Energy and Natural Resources |
| Land and Shoreline Use        | Aesthetics                         | Light and Glare              |
| Recreation                    | Historic and Cultural Resources    | Transportation               |
| Public Services and Utilities |                                    |                              |

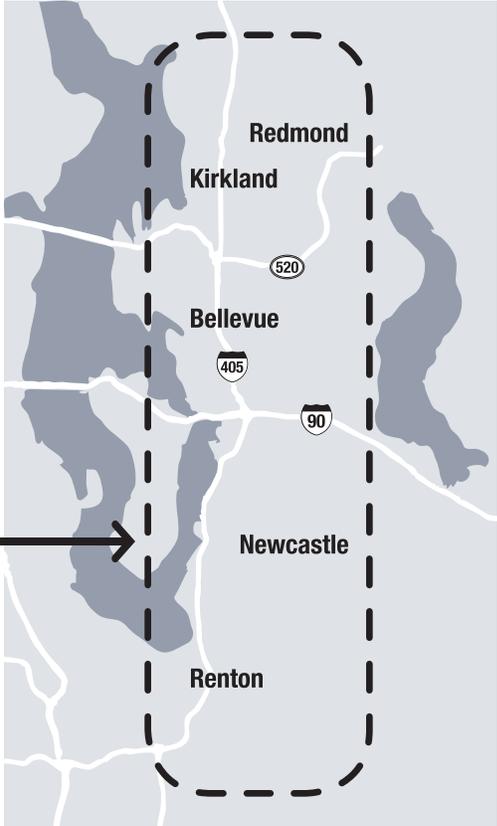
energize  
**EASTSIDE**  
**EIS**



Environmental Impact Statement

**Scoping Meetings**

| PUBLIC MEETINGS   |                  |   |
|---|------------------|---|
| Tuesday 5/12/15<br>6:00–9:00 pm                         | <b>BELLEVUE</b>  | Bellevue City Hall<br>450 110th Avenue NE                         |
| Thursday 5/14/15<br>6:00–8:00 pm                        | <b>RENTON</b>    | Renton City Hall<br>1055 South Grady Way                          |
| Tuesday 5/26/15<br>6:00–8:00 pm                         | <b>KIRKLAND</b>  | Kirkland City Hall<br>123 5th Avenue                              |
| Thursday 5/28/15<br>6:00–8:00 pm                        | <b>NEWCASTLE</b> | Newcastle Elementary<br>8400 136th Avenue SE                      |
| Saturday 5/30/15<br>2:00–4:00 pm                        | <b>REDMOND</b>   | North Bellevue Community Center<br>4063 148th Avenue NE, Bellevue |
| <b>Public Scoping Period • April 30 – June 15, 2015</b> |                  |   |



Energize Eastside EIS is an evaluation of potential significant environmental impacts associated with PSE's proposal to build a new electric substation and approximately 18 miles of high capacity electric transmission lines from Renton to Redmond. PSE's proposed project is intended to address an electrical transmission capacity deficiency and improve electrical grid reliability for Eastside communities.

**Bellevue Project File #14-139122-LE**

**Project Contact**  
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City of Bellevue  
(425) 452-2973

**EIS Preparation**

