



**City of Bellevue
Development Services Department
Land Use Staff Report**

Proposal Name: Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Vegetation Management

Proposal Address: PSE electric transmission and distribution corridors

Proposal Description: Critical Areas Land Use Permit for programmatic vegetation management and maintenance plan for electric corridor associated environmentally critical areas and their associated buffers.

File Number: 15-106580-LO

Applicant: Kerry Kriner, Puget Sound Energy

Decisions Included: Critical Areas Land Use Permit
(Process II. LUC 20.30P)

Planner: **Heidi Bedwell**, Senior Planner

State Environmental Policy Act

Threshold Determination: **Determination of Non-Significance**

Carol V. Helland, Environmental Coordinator
Development Services Department

Director's Decision: **Approval with Conditions**

Carol V. Helland, Land Use Director
Development Services Department

Application Date: February 27, 2015
Notice of Application Publication Date: April 02, 2015
Decision Publication Date: October 8, 2015
Project/SEPA Appeal Deadline: October 22, 2015

For information on how to appeal a proposal, visit Development Services Center at City Hall or call (425) 452-6800. Comments on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determinations can be made with or without appealing the proposal within the noted comment period for a SEPA Determination. Appeal of the Decision must be received in the City's Clerk's Office by 5 PM on the date noted for appeal of the decision.



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

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

PROPONENT: Kerry Kriner on behalf of Puget Sound Energy

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: City wide

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Critical Areas Land Use Permit for programmatic vegetation management and maintenance plan for electric corridor associated environmentally critical areas and their associated buffers.

FILE NUMBERS: 15-106580-LO **PLANNER:** Heidi M. Bedwell

The Environmental Coordinator of the City of Bellevue has determined that this proposal does not have a probable significant adverse impact upon the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C). This decision was made after the Bellevue Environmental Coordinator reviewed the completed environmental checklist and information filed with the Land Use Division of the Development Services Department. This information is available to the public on request.

- There is no comment period for this DNS. There is a 14-day appeal period. Only persons who submitted written comments before the DNS was issued may appeal the decision. A written appeal must be filed in the City Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on _____.
- This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS. There is a 14-day appeal period. Only persons who submitted written comments before the DNS was issued may appeal the decision. A written appeal must be filed in the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on **10/22/2015**
- This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and is subject to a 14-day comment period from the date below. Comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. on _____. This DNS is also subject to appeal. A written appeal must be filed in the City Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on _____.

This DNS may be withdrawn at any time if the proposal is modified so as to have significant adverse environmental impacts; if there is significant new information indicating a proposals probable significant adverse environmental impacts (unless a non-exempt license has been issued if the proposal is a private project); or if the DNS was procured by misrepresentation or lack of material disclosure.


 Environmental Coordinator

10/8/2015
 Date

OTHERS TO RECEIVE THIS DOCUMENT:

- State Department of Fish and Wildlife / Stewart.Reinbold@dfw.gov; Christa.Heller@dfw.wa.gov;
- State Department of Ecology, Shoreline Planner N.W. Region / Jobu461@ecy.wa.gov; sepaunit@ecy.wa.gov
- Army Corps of Engineers Susan.M.Powell@nws02.usace.army.mil
- Attorney General ecyolyef@atg.wa.gov
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Karen.Walter@muckleshoot.nsn.us; Fisheries.fileroom@muckleshoot.nsn.us

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1. Vegetation Management and Maintenance Plan
2. Environmental Checklist

I. Proposal Description

The applicant is requesting a programmatic Critical Areas Land Use Permit for the management of vegetation along Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Electrical Line through Bellevue in environmentally critical areas.

The proposed vegetation management plan includes the following activities:

- Hazard Tree Removal
- Tree Trimming/Crown Thinning
- Vegetation removal and growth restriction through herbicide application
- Invasive species Removal
- Emergency Inspection and Response

Each activity includes general best management practices and specific approaches based on critical area involved.

The proposal covers PSE corridors throughout the City. The PSE corridor area can be divided into three distinct zones on distribution rights-of-way. These are the wire zone, border zone, and danger tree zone. These zones are defined to maintain adequate tree-to-conductor clearances.

- **Wire Zone** – This zone is located directly beneath the conductors. In this zone, all trees maturing at a height of greater than 25 feet should be removed. All overhanging branches are also removed to minimum of 12 feet above the conductors, when practical for existing 4 kV, 7.2 kV, 12.5 kV, and 34.5 kV construction. All overhanging branches are removed for existing 55 kV, 66 kV, and 115 kV construction.
- **Border Zone** – This zone is located along those portions of the right-of-way not directly under the conductors. In this zone is a diverse plant community of herbaceous and woody plants, including shrubs and small trees. Vegetation management is accomplished through the selective removal of incompatible trees. Structurally sound trees with a mature height greater than 25 feet may be pruned according to ANSI standards and ISA Best Management Practices for Utility Pruning of Trees.
- **Danger Tree Zone** – This zone is located adjacent to the right-of-way. Dead, dying or unstable trees should be removed. The goal in the danger tree zone is to maintain reliability over the course of the prescribed maintenance cycle, typically four to six years for existing 4 kV, 7.2 kV, 12.5 kV, and 34.5 kV construction, or three years for 55 kV, 66 kV, and 115 kV construction.

The transmission line ROW crosses various regulated critical areas including streams, wetland and steep slopes. The Land Use Code (LUC) Critical Areas Overlay District specifies that modification of vegetation in a critical area or critical area buffer may be allowed pursuant to an approved vegetation management plan meeting the requirements of LUC 20.25H.055.C.3.i.vi.

II. Site Description, Zoning, Land Use and Critical Areas

Those areas within the City of Bellevue covered by this programmatic permit are identified on the Vegetation Management Programmatic Map (Shown in Appendix A of Attachment 1). The map shows the locations of the following critical areas: streams, wetlands, shorelines, steep slopes, and shorelines. Streams and wetlands have buffers that vary depending upon the classification or category of the critical area.

A. Zoning

The proposal includes activities that occur in various locations city-wide and contains the full variety of land use zoning districts from the least intense, residential district to the most urbanized, commercial or light-industrial zone, with the exception of those zones in the Downtown subarea. Per LUC 20.25H.005, the Critical Areas Overlay District does not apply to the Downtown.

B. Critical Areas Functions and Values

i. Streams and Riparian Areas

A healthy aquatic environment is based on processes sustained by dynamic interaction between the stream and the adjacent riparian area. Riparian vegetation in floodplains and along stream banks provides a buffer to help mitigate the impacts of urbanization. Riparian areas support healthy stream conditions.

Riparian vegetation, particularly forested riparian areas, affect water temperature by providing shade to reduce solar exposure and regulate high ambient air temperatures, slowing or preventing increases in water temperature.

Upland and wetland riparian areas retain sediments, nutrients, pesticides, pathogens, and other pollutants that may be present in runoff, protecting water quality in streams. The roots of riparian plants also hold soil and prevent erosion and sedimentation that may affect spawning success or other behaviors, such as feeding.

Both upland and wetland riparian areas reduce the effects of flood flows. Riparian areas and wetlands reduce and desynchronize peak crests and flow rates of floods. Upland and wetland areas can infiltrate flood flows, which in turn, are released to the stream as base flow

Stream riparian areas, or buffers, can be a significant factor in determining the quality of wildlife habitat. For example, buffers comprised of native vegetation with multi-canopy structure, snags, and down logs provide habitat for the greatest range of wildlife species. Vegetated riparian areas also provide a source of large woody debris that helps create and maintain diverse in-stream habitat, as well as create

woody debris jams that store sediments and moderate flood velocities.

Riparian areas often have shallow groundwater tables, as well as areas where groundwater and surface waters interact. Groundwater flows out of riparian wetlands, seeps, and springs to support stream base flows. Surface water that flows into riparian areas during floods or as direct precipitation infiltrates into groundwater in riparian areas and is stored for later discharge to the stream.

ii. Wetlands

Wetlands provide important functions and values for both the human and biological environment—these functions include flood control, water quality improvement, and nutrient production. These “functions and values” to both the environment and the citizens of Bellevue depend on their size and location within a basin, as well as their diversity and quality. While Bellevue’s wetlands provide various beneficial functions, not all wetlands perform all functions, nor do they perform all functions equally well. However, the combined effect of functional processes of wetlands within basins provides benefits to both natural and human environments. For example, wetlands provide significant stormwater control, even if they are degraded and comprise only a small percentage of area within a basin.

iii. Geologic Hazard Areas

Geologic hazards pose a threat to the health and safety of citizens when commercial, residential, or industrial development is inappropriately sited in areas of significant hazard. Some geologic hazards can be reduced or mitigated by engineering, design, or modified construction practices. When technology cannot reduce risks to acceptable levels, building in geologically hazardous areas is best avoided (WAC 365-190).

Steep slopes may serve several other functions and possess other values for the City and its residents. Several of Bellevue’s remaining large blocks of forest are located in steep slope areas, providing habitat for a variety of wildlife species and important linkages between habitat areas in the City. These steep slope areas also act as conduits for groundwater, which drains from hillsides to provides a water source for the City’s wetlands and stream systems. Vegetated steep slopes also provide a visual amenity in the City, providing a “green” backdrop for urbanized areas enhancing property values and buffering urban development.

iv. Shorelines

Shorelines provide a variety of functions including shade, temperature control, water purification, woody debris recruitment, channel, bank and beach erosion, sediment delivery, and terrestrial-based food supply.

v. Floodplains

The value of floodplains can be described in terms of both the hydrologic and ecological functions that they provide. Flooding of occurs when either runoff exceeds

the capacity of rivers and streams to convey water within their banks, or when engineered stormwater systems become overwhelmed. Studies have linked urbanization with increased peak discharge and channel degradation (Dunne and Leopold 1978; Booth and Jackson 1997; Konrad 2000). Floodplains diminish the effects of urbanization by temporarily storing water and mediating flow to downstream reaches. The capacity of a floodplain to buffer upstream fluctuations in discharge may vary according to valley confinement, gradient, local relief, and flow resistance provided by vegetation. Development within the floodplain can dramatically affect the storage capacity of a floodplain, impact the hydrologic regime of a basin and present a risk to public health and safety and to property and infrastructure.

III. Consistency with Land Use Code Requirements:

A. Zoning District Dimensional Requirements:

The proposed vegetation management would occur in multiple zoning districts. The purpose of the vegetation management to ensure required vegetation clearance for PSE Transmission Line. There are no structures proposed to be constructed or demolished as part of the proposed vegetation management plan, therefore the dimensional requirements of the various zoning districts do not apply.

B. Critical Areas Requirements LUC 20.25H:

i. Performance Standards for Vegetation Management 20.25H.055.C.3.i

The Director may approve proposals for vegetation replacement in a critical area buffer, or within a geologic hazard critical area, pursuant to a Vegetation Management Plan.

A. The Vegetation Management Plan shall be prepared by a qualified professional.

The vegetation management plan was prepared by a qualified professional, The Watershed Company, on behalf of Puget Sound Energy.

B. The Vegetation Management Plan shall include (See Attachment 2 for complete copy of applicant's vegetation management plan):

1. A description of existing site conditions, including existing critical area functions and values; The applicant's vegetation management plan includes a thorough description of the existing site conditions and a review of the expected functions and values of the critical areas present within the project area.

2. A site history; Puget Sound Energy (or their predecessors Seattle Electric Light Company/Puget Sound Power and Light) electrical facilities have been located in the city of Bellevue since the city's incorporation.

By their nature the corridors are undeveloped with structures other than the utility facilities themselves and in many cases these corridor intersect with environmentally sensitive areas regulated as critical areas in the city of Bellevue.

3. A discussion of the plan objectives; The primary objective of the vegetation management plan is to properly maintain PSE corridors in order to provide safety for PSE Customers and workers, minimizing tree-related outages. The plan recognizes the need to comply with the city's critical areas code to maintain and encourage growth of existing native vegetation while protecting the system and ensuring public safety.

4. A description of all sensitive features; The applicant utilized existing data resources including the City of Bellevue's geographic information system, along with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species Database to catalog the presence of critical areas within and adjacent to the vegetation management area in the electrical corridors.

5. Identification of soils, existing vegetation, and habitat associated with species of local importance present on the site; The applicant utilized existing data resources including the City of Bellevue's geographic information system, along with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species Database to catalog the presence of critical areas within and adjacent to the vegetation management area.

6. Allowed work windows; Activities subject to clearing and grading code requirements are limited to May 1 through September 30th. The proposed activities will generally be limited to this work window. The implementation of any vegetation management activities will be further conditioned under the subsequent clearing and grading permit, which will take into account presence of the localized critical areas and their functions and values at the time of the planned entry. The only exception is work covered under the emergency response portion of the vegetation management plan, which does not contain such time parameters. The vegetation removal and treatment BMPs are still applicable.

7. A clear delineation of the area within which clearing and other vegetation management practices are allowed under the plan; The applicant's vegetation management plan covers all PSE Utility Corridors in the city of Bellevue. Refer to Attachment 1, Appendix A for a map referring to these areas.

8. Short- and long-term management prescriptions, including characterization of trees and vegetation to be removed, and

restoration and revegetation plans with native species, including native species with a lower growth habit. Such restoration and revegetation plans shall demonstrate that the proposed Vegetation Management Plan will not significantly diminish the functions and values of the critical area or alter the forest and habitat characteristics of the site over time. The applicant has specified BMPs that strive to maintain, to the greatest extent feasible, the continue functions and values present with the vegetation management area. When the removal of significant vegetation is unavoidable, the applicant has proposed mitigating measures that will be considered that will lessen the impact, such as the creation of wildlife snags or the replacement of native plants with alternative, lower-growing native plant species that will not conflict with the transmission lines. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan in Attachment 1 for more detail on activity specific BMPs.

ii. Performance standards for landslide hazards and steep slopes LUC 20.25H.125

In addition to complying with the performance standards set forth in LUC 20.25H.055 discussed above, the applicant has incorporated the following applicable performance standards for development within a landslide hazard or steep slope critical area or critical area buffer.

- a. The programmatic permit does not allow for any alteration to the natural contour or preexisting contour of a steep slope critical area or critical area buffer.
- b. The proposed vegetation management will not result in greater risk or a need for increased buffers on neighboring properties. Any clearing of invasive species in a landslide hazard or steep slope critical area greater than 5,000 square feet shall be reviewed by a geotechnical engineer to ensure the action will not increase the likelihood for slope failure or significant erosion.
- c. All areas of temporary disturbance shall be restored pursuant to a restoration and enhancement plan. Cut hazard trees will be replaced at a 4:1 ratio with appropriate native species, using the Handbook for guidance or as designed by a qualified professional. Enhancement and habitat improvement activities in a steep slope area will be accompanied by an enhancement plan completed by a qualified professional. The plan must detail invasive species removal techniques, a planting plan with installation details, a TESC, maintenance methods, and a monitoring plan to ensure success.

iii. Performance Standards for streams LUC 20.25H.080

The following applicable performance standards will be observed for vegetation management in vegetation management zones that include critical area buffers associated with type S or F streams.

- a. No lights will be installed as a part of this project.
- b. No activities that generate noise such as parking lots, generators, and residential uses area allowed with the exception of short term noise associated with the implementation of vegetation management actions.
- c. No new impervious area shall be allowed to be created under the provision of this permit.
- d. Treated water may be allowed to enter the stream critical area buffer.
- e. All areas of temporary disturbance shall be restored pursuant to a restoration and enhancement plan. Cut hazard trees will be replaced at a 4:1 ratio with appropriate native species, using the Handbook for guidance or as designed by a qualified professional.
- f. Use of pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers within 150 feet of the edge of the stream critical area buffer shall be in accordance with the City of Bellevue's "Environmental Best Management Practices," now or as hereafter amended.

iv. Performance Standards for wetlands LUC 20.25H.100

The following applicable performance standards will be observed for vegetation management in vegetation management zones that include wetland critical areas and wetland critical area buffers.

- a. No lights will be installed as part of this project.
- b. No activities that generate noise such as parking lots, generators, and residential uses area allowed with the exception of short term noise associated with the implementation of vegetation management actions.
- c. No new impervious area shall be allowed to be created under the provision of this permit.
- d. Treated water may be allowed to enter the wetland critical area buffer.
- e. All areas of temporary disturbance shall be restored pursuant to a restoration and enhancement plan. Cut hazard trees will be replaced at a 4:1 ratio with appropriate native species, using the Handbook for guidance or as designed by a qualified professional. Use of pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers within 150 feet of the edge of the wetland critical area buffer shall be in accordance with the City of Bellevue's "Environmental

v. Performance Standards for shorelines LUC 20.25E.080

All clearing, grading, excavating, and fill in the Shoreline Overlay District shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 23.76 BCC, now or as hereafter amended.

The proposal for vegetation management does not permit clearing, grading, excavating, or fill within the shoreline critical area. Vegetation management is allowed within the shoreline critical area buffer except as described in the attached Vegetation Management Plan.

vi. Performance Standards for habitat associated with Species of Local Importance LUC 20.25H.160

If it is determined that habitat associated with species of local importance will be impacted by activities covered by the proposal, the applicant shall implement the wildlife management plan tailored for the species and based on the recommendations developed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the City of Bellevue. Where the habitat does not include any other critical area or critical area buffer, compliance with the wildlife management plan shall constitute compliance with this performance standard.

vii. Areas of Special Flood Hazard

Areas of special flood hazard are designated as critical areas under LUC 20.25H. Additionally, the city is required to comply with provisions in a 2008 biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service in order to maintain its eligibility for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Per the 2008 biological opinion, the protected area includes designated floodplains, floodways, and a Riparian Buffer Zone (RBZ), which extends 150-250 feet from the ordinary high water mark of a waterbody or water course, depending on its designation. The following work is allowed in the RBZ without an assessment of floodplain impacts : [1] repair or remodel of an existing building in its existing footprint; [2] removal of noxious weeds; [3] replacement of non-native vegetation with native vegetation; [4] ongoing activities such as lawn and garden maintenance; [5] removal of hazard trees; [6] normal maintenance of public utilities and facilities; and [7] restoration or enhancement of floodplains, riparian areas and streams that meets Federal and State standards. The activities proposed within this programmatic permit fall within the allowed activities in 2-7, above. Activities addressed by this programmatic permit do not include grading, filling, paving, or rerouting of stormwater, which could affect floodplain hydrologic functions. Therefore, activities conducted in accordance with this permit are allowed per the 2008 biological opinion, and they do not require additional documentation or consultation.

IV. Public Notice and Comment

Application Date:	February 27, 2015
Public Notice (500 feet):	April 2, 2015
Minimum Comment Period:	April 16, 2015

The Notice of Application for this project was published in the City of Bellevue weekly permit bulletin on April 2nd. One comment letter was received from Karen Walter with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division.

The comment letter dealt with five issues: 1) length of programmatic permit and associated environmental review 2) BMPs for removal of vegetation in stream and

shoreline buffers and wood recruitment 3) herbicide application 4) notification of vegetation management actions and 5) off-site mitigation actions.

The applicant prepared a written response to the commenter. The programmatic permit is for ongoing maintenance along existing overhead transmission and distribution corridors. The majority of the maintenance activities consist of selective trimming to meet mandatory electrical clearance standards. Maintenance occurs in 3-4 year cycles. PSE is requesting a 5-year Critical Areas Land Use Permit approval for the programmatic activities. This approval will be granted so long as there are no significant changes in city code and that compliance with the approved plan and conditions is satisfactory to the city.

Tree removal will be limited to spot removal as necessary for safety and reliability and not include removal of large areas of canopy cover. Debris from tree removals and trimming can be used as LWD in streams depending upon city approval. Wildlife snags will be created when feasible.

Herbicide application is proposed. The City's Environmental Best Management Practices and Design Standards restrict herbicide use within 25 feet of any water body. Please see page 25 of the programmatic document. It contains the following statement:

All herbicide applications within shoreline, wetland, and riparian buffers will be made under an approved NPDES Aquatic Noxious Weed Permit. The King County Noxious Weed Control Program Best Management Practices (King County 2010) will also be consulted for species-specific guidelines.

The City will not be providing additional notification to commenters or reviewers of this application. Information related to the vegetation management activities will be available from the city through a request of the record and file for the subject permit.

Offsite mitigation for tree removal will not be approved by the city as part of this programmatic permit approval. Impacts from vegetation removal will be mitigated in the area of impact utilizing the appropriate BMP specified in the vegetation management plan

V. Summary of Technical Reviews

Clearing and Grading:

The Clearing and Grading Division of the Development Services Department has reviewed the proposed development for compliance with Clearing and Grading codes and standards. The Clearing and Grading staff found no issues with the proposed development. The applicant is required to obtain a clearing and grading permit for the implementation of the vegetation management activities.

VI. State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

The environmental review indicates no probability of significant adverse environmental impacts occurring as a result of the proposal. The Environmental Checklist submitted with the application adequately discloses expected environmental impacts associated with the project and is provided as an addendum to this staff report (Attachment 2). The City codes and requirements, including the Clear and Grade Code, Utility Code, Land Use Code, Noise Ordinance, Building Code and other construction codes are expected to mitigate potential environmental impacts. Therefore, issuance of a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is the appropriate threshold determination under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements.

A. Earth and Water

A temporary erosion and sedimentation control plan as a component of a construction stormwater pollution prevention plan is required to be submitted for review and approval as part of the subsequent clearing and grading permit. Erosion and sediment control best management practices include the preservation of all vegetation that is not required to be removed for power line clearance and the use of the resulting tree debris as mulch on the ground. Rainy season restrictions will be in place unless exception is granted through the use of specific erosion control techniques specified in the city's clearing and grading permit approval. The applicant will also be required to submit information regarding the use of pesticides, insecticides, and fertilizers to avoid impacts to water resources. See Section X for a related condition of approval.

B. Animals

The vegetation management areas provide vital wildlife linkage function. By allowing the coordinated and proactive management of vegetation along these corridors, it preserves the area as a viable habitat resource linking larger habitat blocks that contain quality habitat for birds and mammals. The management of vegetation along the corridors may have minimal short term impacts to certain sensitive species, but the management of the vegetation proposed in the Vegetation Management Plan will allow for fewer large-scale management entries with heavy impacts as opposed to more frequent small-scale entries that have modest impacts which can easily be mitigated for.

C. Plants

Mitigation for temporary disturbance will be approved pursuant to an approved clearing and grading permit. The applicant will be required to install restoration plantings within critical areas and critical area buffers when it is determined that significant vegetation must be removed to keep the transmission lines clear. See Section X for related conditions of approval.

D. Noise

The electrical corridors are frequently adjacent to single-family residences whose

residents are most sensitive to disturbance from noise during evening, late night and weekend hours when they are likely to be at home and past commercial properties. In both cases, construction noise will be limited by the City's Noise Ordinance (Chapter 9.18 BCC) which regulates construction hours and noise levels. See Section X for a related condition of approval.

VII. Changes to proposal as a result of City review

No substantial changes were made to the applicant's proposal as a result of City review.

VIII. Decision Criteria

A. Critical Areas Land Use Permit Decision Criteria 20.30P

The Director may approve or approve with modifications an application for a critical areas land use permit if:

1. The proposal obtains all other permits required by the Land Use Code;

Finding: The proposal is required to obtain a Clearing and Grading Permit. The applicant has been applied for this permit. The permit will be approved with the conditions outlined in Section X of this report.

2. The proposal utilizes to the maximum extent possible the best available construction, design and development techniques which result in the least impact on the critical area and critical area buffer;

Finding: The applicant has supplied a Vegetation Management and Maintenance Plan that describes PSE's regulatory requirements relative to power line vegetation clearance and reflects the best available techniques for vegetation management in electricity transmission corridors.

3. The proposal incorporates the performance standards of Part 20.25H to the maximum extent applicable, and ;

Finding: In the applicant's Vegetation Management and Maintenance Plan, the applicant has satisfactorily addressed all of the applicable performance standards for vegetation management within critical areas and critical area buffers. A discussion of this compliance is included in Section III of this report.

4. The proposal will be served by adequate public facilities including street, fire protection, and utilities; and;

Finding: The vegetation management area is currently served by adequate public facilities. Nothing in this proposal will change the need for public services

5. The proposal includes a mitigation or restoration plan consistent with the requirements of LUC Section 20.25H.210; and

Finding: The applicant has provided a programmatic restoration plan that will be implemented when significant vegetation is removed from critical area and critical area buffers. The plan relies on the City's Critical Areas Handbook for specifying critical area specific planting plans. The implementation will be reviewed and inspected under the subsequent clearing and grading permit.

6. The proposal complies with other applicable requirements of this code.

Finding: As discussed in Section IV & V of this report, the proposal complies with all other applicable requirements of the Land Use Code.

IX. Conclusion and Decision

After conducting the various administrative reviews associated with this proposal, including Land Use Code consistency, SEPA, City Code and Standard compliance reviews, the Development Services Director does hereby **approve with conditions** the proposal for vegetation management and maintenance within the critical areas and critical area buffers of the Puget Sound Energy's electrical corridors.

Note- Expiration of Approval: In special consideration of the extended time required to assess and management vegetation and in accordance with LUC 20.30P.150 this Critical Areas Land Use Permit automatically expires and is void within five (5) years of the effective date of the approval.

X. Conditions of Approval

The applicant shall comply with all applicable Bellevue City Codes and Ordinances including but not limited to:

<u>Applicable Ordinances</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Clearing and Grading Code- BCC 23.76	Tom McFarlane, 425-452-5207
Land Use Code- BCC 20.25H	Heidi M. Bedwell, 425-452-4862
Noise Control- BCC 9.18	Heidi M. Bedwell, 425-452-4862

The following conditions are imposed under the Bellevue City Code or SEPA authority referenced:

1. Restoration/Enhancement Plan for Areas of Temporary Disturbance: A restoration and/or enhancement is required to be submitted for review and approval by the Land Use Division as an attachment to the activity notification form referenced in condition of approval #6. The plan shall include documentation of existing site

conditions and identification of restoration measures to return the site, at a minimum, to its existing conditions per LUC 20.25H.220.H.

Authority: Land Use Code 20.25H.220.H
Reviewer: Heidi Bedwell, Land Use

2. Rainy Season restrictions: Due to proximity to a variety of critical areas including steep slopes, wetlands and streams, no clearing and grading activity may occur during the rainy season, which is defined as October 1 through April 30 without written authorization of the Development Services Department. Should approval be granted for work during the rainy season, increased erosion and sedimentation measures, representing the best available technology must be implemented prior to beginning or resuming site work.

Authority: Bellevue City Code 23.76.093.A
Reviewer: Tom McFarlane, Clearing and Grading

3. Pesticides, Insecticides, and Fertilizers: The applicant must submit as part of the required Clearing and Grading Permit information regarding the use of pesticides, insecticides, and fertilizers in accordance with the City of Bellevue's "Environmental Best Management Practices".

Authority: Land Use Code 20.25H.220.H
Reviewer: Heidi Bedwell, Land Use

4. Noise Control: Noise related to construction is exempt from the provisions of BCC 9.18 between the hours of 7 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday and 9 am to 6 pm on Saturdays, except for Federal holidays and as further defined by the Bellevue City Code. Noise emanating from construction is prohibited on Sundays or legal holidays unless expanded hours of operation are specifically authorized in advance. Requests for construction hour extension must be done in advance with submittal of a construction noise expanded exempt hours permit.

Authority: Bellevue City Code 9.18
Reviewer: Heidi Bedwell, Land Use

5. Programmatic Clearing and Grading Permit (3 Year): Prior to proceeding with any of the activities described in the programmatic vegetation management plan the applicant must apply for and obtain an approved clearing and grading permit. The clearing and grading application shall include the submittal of a programmatic SSWP.

The clearing and grading permit shall be good for a period of three years from the date of issuance.

Authority: Bellevue City Code 23.76
Reviewer: Tom McFarlane, Clear and Grade

6. Activity Notification and Inspection Procedure (form and transmittal): For each individual maintenance activity proposed, the applicant's project manager shall complete and submit to Development Services Department a Programmatic Vegetation Management Activity Notification form along with an application for an over-the-counter vegetation permit. The application form and notification are intended to provide Development Services with the information necessary to ensure compliance with this programmatic permit. It also serves as a tool for the applicant in determining if the scope of a particular activity is within the scope of the programmatic vegetation management permit.

The activity notification form and permit application shall be filled out and submitted by electronic mail a minimum of 48 hours prior to the commencement of activities. The notification shall be sent to the clearing and grading inspectors and the Development Services Department Land Use Division (clearandgradereview@bellevuewa.gov).

Authority: Bellevue City Code 23.76
Reviewer: Tom McFarlane, Clear and Grade

7. Geotechnical Evaluation for Steep Slope Critical Areas: Authorized activities described in the programmatic vegetation management plan that disturb greater than 5,000 square feet of soil within a steep slope critical area require submittal of a geotechnical report, prepared by a qualified professional. The report shall demonstrate that the proposed activities will not have a detrimental effect on the stability of the steep slope and that downslope impacts are insignificant. The geotechnical evaluation should also review and recommend TESC measures that will ensure anticipated impacts are minimized.

Authority: Bellevue City Code 23.76
Reviewer: Tom McFarlane, Clear and Grade

8. Wetland Determinations and Delineations: When a project action is proposed within a wetland, the activity notification form referenced in condition of approval #6 shall be accompanied by a map identifying the approximate edge of the wetland in question, as well as the wetland category (I, II, III, IV) and the appropriate regulatory buffer (See LUC 20.25H.095.C).

If the proposed management action is within a wetland buffer, Development Services Department may require that the wetland edge be delineated by a qualified professional.

The delineation forms, the wetland rating forms and a map identifying the wetland edge shall accompany the activity notification form referenced in condition of approval #5.

Authority: Land Use Code 20.25H.020
Reviewer: Heidi Bedwell, Land Use

9. Stream Top-of-Bank Delineation: When a project action is proposed within a stream critical area buffer, the activity notification form referenced in condition of approval #6 shall be accompanied by a map delineating the stream in question, as well as the stream type (S, F, N, O), the “top-of-bank” (See definition in LUC 20.50.048) and the appropriate regulatory buffer (See LUC 20.25H.075.C). No work is allowed under this permit within a stream critical area.

Authority: Land Use Code 20.25H.020
Reviewer: Heidi Bedwell, Land Use

10. Other State and Federal Permits: The applicant is required obtain necessary state and federal permits for work that is not exempt within wetlands, wetland buffers, shorelines of the state, and stream riparian areas.

Authority: Land Use Code 30.30P
Reviewer: Heidi Bedwell, Land Use

6. Filter fabric will be installed around storm drains located in the vicinity of any vehicle staging areas.
7. The project area will be inspected daily to ensure that no additional sediment and erosion control BMPs are necessary.

6 SUMMARY OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The general BMP approach for each individual authorized activity has been described in Section 4. A more detailed analysis of the specific management controls and appropriate BMPs are presented in this section.

BMPs for each individual activity are presented below in Table 2. In addition to the BMPs presented below, proposed vegetation management activities must also be in compliance with the specific applicable performance standards for each individual critical area or critical area buffer described in the LUC. These include streams (LUC 20.25H.080), wetlands (LUC 20.25H.100), shorelines (LUC 20.25E.080) and steep slopes (LUC 20.25H.125).

Compliance with the BMPs described in this section shall also constitute compliance with the performance standards for HASLI (LUC 20.25H.160). The LUC (20.25H.160) requires that a wildlife management plan developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) be implemented on sites where a project or activity has the potential to impact habitat associated with species of local importance. Several species of local importance are also Priority Habitat Species (PHS) and therefore have had wildlife management recommendations developed for them by WDFW. Of these species, the following may use PSE corridors and subsequently could be impacted by activities covered under this permit:

- Bald eagle
- Peregrine falcon
- Pileated woodpecker
- Great blue heron
- Vaux's swift
- Purple martin
- Oregon spotted frog

- Western pond turtle

PHS on the Web (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/>) will be consulted when PSE submits their annual maintenance workload to City of Bellevue DSD. If occurrences of these species are identified on proposed work sites, PSE will work with the City and WDFW as needed to identify management practices to minimize impact to their habitat. The BMPs required under this permit address the majority of the recommendations developed by WDFW for these species through the permit’s overall goal of minimizing impacts, mitigating for tree removals, and restoring temporarily impacted access and staging areas. Specific management strategies recommended by WDFW and also employed by the programmatic permit include the replacement of hazard trees, the retention and/or creation of snags and large stumps, supervision of activities by a Consulting Forester and/or Wildlife Biologist, avoiding alteration and protection of wetlands, avoiding removal of riparian vegetation, and the use of herbicides under the guidelines set forth in the Bellevue Environmental Best Management Practices and Design Standards (EBMP&DS, 2012) and methodology detailed in Section 4.3.

Table 2. Summary of Best Management Practices (BMPs)

PSE Action Location	Best Management Practice
Hazard Tree Removal	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and selection of hazard trees are performed by qualified Consulting Foresters. • Minimize disturbance to soil, shrubs, groundcover, and non-targeted trees. • Stage and refuel equipment outside critical areas and buffers, or if not possible, designate a “safe area” within the buffer. • Follow specified tree removal methods. • Leave limbs, trunk and wood chips when not creating a hazard or increasing instability. • Leave roots and stumps when feasible. • Create wildlife trees or snags where possible. • Removal of felled trees should be completed in a manner that does not damage native vegetation, riparian vegetation, or banks of streams, lakes or wetlands. • Minimize additional light introduction to streams or stream buffers. • Replace with native trees at 4:1 ratio, either on site or at a designated off site mitigation area. If PSE Consulting Forester or qualified professional determines that site conditions are not favorable to tree replacement, native shrubs and/or groundcover can be substituted onsite or tree replacement can occur at an off-site mitigation property at a 4:1 ratio.
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above, except requires a wetland determination and recommendation by a PSE Consulting Forester or other qualified professional.

PSE Action Location	Best Management Practice
Steep Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above, except requires documentation by qualified field Consulting Forester. • Stabilize plants with appropriate bioengineering techniques when necessary. • Prevent stormwater runoff from saturating or loading slopes.
Tree Trimming/Crown Thinning	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of clearing will be minimum necessary. • Minimize disturbance to soil, shrubs, groundcover, and non-targeted trees. • Stage and refuel equipment outside critical areas and buffers, or if not possible, designate a “safe area” within the buffer. • Perform work in accordance with ANSI A-300-2008 Standards. • Leave healthy limbs and wood chips when not creating a hazard or increasing instability. • Protect existing vegetation from falling plant materials. • Minimize additional light introduction to streams or stream buffers.
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above, except requires a wetland determination and recommendation by a PSE Consulting Forester or other qualified professional.
Steep Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above, except requires documentation by qualified Consulting Forester. • Stabilize plants with appropriate bioengineering techniques when necessary. • Prevent stormwater runoff from saturating or loading slopes.
Herbicide Use	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All herbicide applications within shoreline, wetland and riparian buffers will be made under an approved NPDES Aquatic Noxious Weed Permit. • Stage and refuel equipment outside critical areas and buffers, or if not possible, designate a “safe area” within the buffer. • Use Garlon 4 (25%) or Rodeo (50%) depending on proximity to water. • Follow specified application guidelines. • Do not use herbicides within 25 feet of a water body unless using an approved herbicide by licensed applicators and approved by DSD.
Wetlands	Same as above, except requires a wetland determination and recommendation by a PSE Consulting Forester or other qualified professional.
Steep Slopes	Same as above, except requires documentation by qualified Consulting Forester.
Invasive Species Removal	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of ground-level vegetation should be minimized; activities on slope-type wetlands and steep slopes should be stabilized using bioengineering techniques such as wattling, mulching, and biodegradable netting if removal of ground-level vegetation is unavoidable. • Any potentially soil-disturbing activity, such as grubbing or root removal, should be accomplished by hand whenever possible. • Properly identify target species.

PSE Action Location	Best Management Practice
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark all desirable vegetation around control area to ensure that non-targeted native plants are protected. • Use soil from roots to fill in any divots to lessen the amount of disturbed soil. • Use mechanical means such as mowers and string trimmers when hand removal is not feasible; do not use string trimmers near native vegetation. • Stage and refuel equipment outside critical areas and buffers, or if not possible, designate a “safe area” within the buffer. • Girdle English ivy infestations on trees to prevent further spread and weakening of the tree. • Remove all cut or grubbed non-native vegetation off-site, or can be left on site in areas of existing non-native vegetation in a manner that would not cause the spread of invasive species. • Replant bare areas when necessary, following guidelines specified in the Handbook. • Use selective herbicide application only where manual and mechanical removal are not possible and only in accordance with guidelines specified in this document. • Do not use hydroseeding, hand seeding, or straw mulch as means of controlling erosion in areas of invasive species removal.
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above, except requires a wetland determination and recommendation by a PSE Consulting Forester or other qualified professional. • Do not use mechanized equipment within a wetland.
Steep Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above, except requires documentation by qualified Consulting Forester. • Do not use mechanized equipment within a steep slope area. • Minimize removal of vegetation from the ground layer. • Stabilize plants with appropriate bioengineering techniques when necessary. • Prevent stormwater runoff from saturating or loading slopes.

7 POTENTIAL CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

It is the intention of this programmatic permit to preserve and enhance the functions and values of critical areas and critical area buffers located in PSE corridors within the City of Bellevue. The activities covered under this permit provide the opportunity to couple routine maintenance with habitat management and enhancement. The following paragraphs describe how the methods required by this permit accomplish the goal of protecting and enhancing ecological functions.

BMPs designed for hazard tree removal include retention of standing and downed wood. These are extremely valuable habitat features for wildlife, including birds, herptiles, and small mammals. When safety dictates the removal of a hazard tree and snag, the enhancement of the area with native species designed to meet future safety needs preserves habitat function by promoting a low-maintenance corridor that requires less intrusion for ongoing maintenance. Pruned native vegetation provides low cover for wildlife and adds complexity to habitat. Replanting with more appropriate tree and shrub species reduces the need for future disturbance. Following guidelines in this document and the Handbook will also ensure a more diverse habitat designed to enhance not only habitat function, but other buffer functions such as slope stabilization, stormwater flow attenuation, and water quality improvement.

Removal of invasive species, when implemented, will be designed within the parameters of this permit to result in improvement in vegetated corridors. Any removal that results in bare ground will be accompanied by installation of replacement plants in the form of native species. Not only is this likely to result in denser, more complex vegetative structure than the existing infestation, and provide an aesthetic visual screen, the resultant native plant community will represent an improvement from a wildlife perspective. Limiting the use of herbicides further protects the functions of buffers and critical areas.

This permit recognizes the need for expedient and financially unrestrictive maintenance. Provisions for authorized activities and implementing mitigation plans enable routine maintenance to be conducted hand-in-hand with ecological improvement, without cumbersome regulatory processing. With careful application, it will result in powerline corridors and designated mitigation sites that provide dense and complex screens of native vegetation, habitat features for wildlife, and enhanced functions as critical area buffers.

City of Bellevue Submittal Requirements	27a
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST	
<p style="text-align: right;">2/11/2015</p> <p>If you need assistance in completing the checklist or have any questions regarding the environmental review process, please visit or call Development Services (425-452-6800) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (Wednesday, 10 to 4). Assistance for the hearing impaired: Dial 711 (Telecommunications Relay Service).</p>	
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	
<p>Property Owner: Puget Sound Energy (easement and franchise holder)</p> <p>Proponent: Puget Sound Energy</p> <p>Contact Person: Kerry Kriner (If different from the owner. All questions and correspondence will be directed to the individual listed.)</p> <p>Address: PO Box 97034, PSE 9N, Bellevue WA 98009</p> <p>Phone: 425-462-3821</p> <p>Proposal Title: PSE Vegetation Management Programmatic Permit</p> <p>Proposal Location: Various locations – see attached map (Street address and nearest cross street or intersection) Provide a legal description if available.</p> <p>Please attach an 8 ½" x 11" vicinity map that accurately locates the proposal site.</p>	
<p>Give an accurate, brief description of the proposal's scope and nature:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General description: Puget Sound Energy (PSE) performs routine vegetation management along existing overhead transmission and distribution line corridors to ensure the safety and reliability of our electrical system. Electrical utility corridors are linear and often align with public rights-of-way or are cross country. Some of the maintenance activities will occur within critical areas or critical area buffers, including: wetlands and wetland buffers, stream buffers, steep slopes and steep slope buffers, and shoreline buffers that abut or intersect the public rights-of-way and cross country corridors. Maintenance activities occur in yearly cycles to ensure clearance standards are being met. 2. Acreage of site: Site acreage varies by location. Project area is dependent upon vegetation conditions and corridor width and length. Corridors receiving vegetation management will be reported to the City of Bellevue on an annual basis. 3. Number of dwelling units/buildings to be demolished: None/Not Applicable 4. Number of dwelling units/buildings to be constructed: None/Not Applicable. 5. Square footage of buildings to be demolished: None/Not Applicable. 6. Square footage of buildings to be constructed: None/Not Applicable. 7. Quantity of earth movement (in cubic yards): Excavation and fill are not proposed as part of this proposal. 	

- 8. Proposed land use: **No change from current use – electrical utility corridors.**
- 9. Design features, including building height, number of stories and proposed exterior materials: **Not Applicable.**
- 10. Other

Estimated date of completion of the proposal or timing of phasing:

This is a programmatic proposal. Vegetation management activities occur year round.

Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No. No further plans regarding vegetation management however PSE is in process of planning for new transmission lines extending from Redmond to Renton through Bellevue. For more information see the following <http://www.energizeeastsideeis.org/>

List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Programmatic Permit: Critical Areas Land Use Permit/Clearing and Grading Permit/SEPA for Puget Sound Energy. The Watershed Company. August 2014

Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. List dates applied for and file numbers, if known.

There are no other known applications pending that may affect the property covered by the proposal.

List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. If permits have been applied for, list application date and file numbers, if known.

Programmatic approval of a Critical Areas Land Use Permit, SEPA threshold determination, and a Clearing and Grading Permit are being requested.

Please provide one or more of the following exhibits, if applicable to your proposal. (Please check appropriate box(es) for exhibits submitted with your proposal):

- Land Use Reclassification (rezone) Map of existing and proposed zoning
- Preliminary Plat or Planned Unit Development
Preliminary plat map
- Clearing & Grading Permit
Plan of existing and proposed grading
Development plans
- Building Permit (or Design Review)
Site plan
Clearing & grading plan
- Shoreline Management Permit
Site plan

A. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

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1. Earth

a. General description of the site: X Flat X Rolling X Hilly X Steep slopes Mountains Other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Steep slopes may be present within cross country utility corridors exceeding 40 percent in grade.

c. What general types of soil are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, and muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Various types of soil are found within the City of Bellevue. The most prominent soil types within the city based on the National Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey include: Alderwood gravelly sandy loam, Alderwood and kitsap soils, Arents, Everett gravelly sandy loam, Everett-alderwood gravelly sandy loam, Kitsap silt loam, and Seattle muck. None of PSE's existing overhead facilities is known to cross farmland.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

There are no known indications or history of unstable soils along the transmission and distribution corridors.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

No filling or grading is proposed as part of this programmatic permit.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion is not anticipated due to the limited ground disturbance as a result of the vegetation maintenance activities.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

No impervious surface is proposed as part of this programmatic permit.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Appropriate BMPs as outlined in the programmatic permit will be implemented as necessary to reduce or control erosion.

Erosion control per BCC 23.76

2. AIR

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e. dust, automobile odors, and industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Minimal air emissions may result from vegetation maintenance activities. Emissions will result in areas where machinery is used.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

There are no known off-site sources of emissions or odor that will affect the proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to the air, if any:

No substantial impacts are anticipated, therefore no measures are proposed.

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3. WATER

a. Surface

- (1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

There are several areas along transmission and distribution corridors that are within the immediate vicinity of a surface water body. The attached map "Bellevue Critical Areas" shows general locations of corridors within close proximity to streams, wetlands, and lakes.

- (2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If Yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Vegetation management work will occur within regulated stream, wetland, and shoreline buffers, as well as within wetland areas.

- (3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Dredging and filling is not proposed as part of the vegetation management programmatic.

- (4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

The proposal will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

- (5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Vegetation management activities may occur within areas designated as 100-year floodplain, but will not impact floodplain capacity.

- (6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No waste material discharge is proposed as part of the vegetation management program.

b. Ground

- (1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description.

No ground water withdrawal or discharges to groundwater are proposed.

- (2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.) Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground as part of this proposal.

c. Water Runoff (Including storm water)

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- (1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Stormwater runoff is not anticipated as a direct result of the vegetation management activities.

- (2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

It is not anticipated that waste will enter ground or surface waters from vegetation management activities.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Impacts are not anticipated, however BMPs will be employed to prevent impacts as appropriate.

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Vegetation removal will be dependent upon maintaining required clearances from transmission and distribution lines. Most impacted vegetation will be trimmed. Generally, trees growing over 25 feet in height must be trimmed or removed to ensure clearances are met.

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be located within any PSE corridors within the City of Bellevue.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

A majority of the impacted vegetation will be trimmed and not removed. When removals take place, replacement with native species compatible with utility line clearances and appropriate to the impacted critical area will occur. In most cases, off-site mitigation will result in a better

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environmental outcome.

5. ANIMALS

a. Check or circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

- x Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- x Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- x Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Coho, chinook, steelhead trout, and bull trout are all threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. These species occur in Lake Sammamish, Lake Washington, and tributary streams (see Fish and Wildlife maps attached).

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The City of Bellevue is located within the Pacific Flyway.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

All significant trees and vegetation will be preserved that do not conflict with utility clearance requirements. Where incompatible vegetation is removed, lowing growing species appropriate for the applicable critical area environment may be planted. For best success, off site mitigation will be used where successful onsite mitigation is not feasible. Off-site mitigation locations will be coordinated with the City of Bellevue.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy need? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Not applicable.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

The project will not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of the proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

There are no anticipated health hazards that will result from the vegetation management activities.

(1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No emergency services are anticipated to be required.

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- (2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

No impacts are anticipated, therefore no measures are proposed.

b. Noise

- (1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example, traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Noise near the utility corridors will not affect the vegetation management activities.

- (2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example, traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short-term noise impacts include those associated with vegetation management tools and equipment.

- (3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Vegetation management activities will comply with the noise regulations in BCC 9.18.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The vegetation management activities will take place within transmission and distribution utility corridors located on PSE has fee owned property, on easement, or within a public right-of-way by franchise. The surrounding uses vary and include parks and open space, residential, commercial, and industrial.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

There is a possibility that maintenance activities may occur in areas used for agriculture in the past, but these areas have not been identified at this time.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures within vegetated areas that will be maintained.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished as part of the vegetation management activities.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The zoning varies by location – including residential, commercial, office, and industrial districts.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The comprehensive plan designation varies by location – including residential, commercial, office, and industrial designations.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Some utility vegetation management activities may occur within 200 feet of a designated shoreline waterbody. These areas do not have master program designations.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an “environmentally sensitive” area? If so, specify.

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Critical areas including wetlands, streams, and steep slopes coincide in some areas with PSE transmission and distribution corridors. See attached map "Bellevue Critical Areas" for locations.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

No impacts will occur, therefore no measures are proposed.

i. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.

There are no proposed changes in existing land use.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable. Housing is not a part of this proposal.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable. Housing is not a part of this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable. Housing is not a part of this proposal.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The proposal does not involve adding structures.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

View impacts are not anticipated, however there may be minimal view improvement as vegetation is altered or removed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Impacts are not anticipated, therefore no measures are proposed.

11. Light and Glare

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- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

No light or glare will result from the maintenance activities.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable. No light or glare will result from the maintenance activities.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

No off-site sources of light or glare will affect the proposal.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light or glare impacts, if any:

No measures are proposed as not impacts are anticipated.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Some of the maintenance activity will take place within or adjacent to city parks and trails.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No recreational activities will be displaced as a result of the maintenance activities.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

No impacts are anticipated, therefore no measures are proposed.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

According to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) WISAARD database, there are three historic register sites within the City of Bellevue. The Frederick W. Winter's House is located along Bellevue Way SE, the Wilburton Trestle located east of I-405 over SE 8th Street, and the Twin Valley Dairy located within Kelsey Creek Park.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

There is no known evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance within or next to the transmission or distribution corridors aside from those sites listed in 13a.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

No impacts are anticipated, therefore no measures are proposed.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Many of the transmission and distribution corridors align with public rights-of-way that may abut

critical areas or critical area buffers. Please see attached map [insert title].

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Transit is not applicable to this project.

- c. How many parking spaces would be completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Not applicable.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The proposal will not require any new roads or streets or improvements to roads or streets.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The vegetation management activities will not use water, rail, or air transportation.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Not applicable.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Transportation impacts are not anticipated, therefore no measures are proposed.

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for the public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Vegetation management activities will not result in an increased need for public services.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

No impacts are anticipated, therefore no measures are proposed.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site (electricity) natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Not applicable. The proposal is to maintain existing electrical transmission and distribution facilities.

Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is

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Signature..... *Kerry Brunis*

Date Submitted..... *2/20/15*

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