

E2 Energize Eastside EIS Scoping Comments Received to Date
05/19/2015

To date Development Services staff have held two scoping meetings, one in Bellevue on May 12 and one in Renton on May 14. Comment (in the form of oral testimony) received during the scoping meetings has identified several alternative forms of facility design to be considered with Phase 2 but has not identified new alternatives for evaluation in Phase 1. Additionally comments have suggested additional elements should be added for study with the EIS, such as safety and economics. Alternatives and elements of the environment are listed below.

Alternatives

Highlighted items were identified in testimony delivered at scoping meetings on May 12 and 14.

Alternatives				
Phase 1 – Identify viable solutions based on project objectives; analyze alternatives for possible impacts	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
	New Transformer and 230 kV Transmission Line	Demand Side Reduction/Non-Wire Technology	New Transformers at existing substations and new/re-wired 115kV Transmission Lines	No Action
Phase 2 – Identify facility design with focus on avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underground • Submerged (lake) • Pole design • Conductor size/ arrangement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart meters • Grid management • Conservation efforts • Storage • Off-Peak Usage • New technology (self-healing power lines) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC/DC conversion • Optimize conductor capacity • Strategic transformer addition 	

Elements of the Environment

Highlighted items were identified in testimony delivered at scoping meetings on May 12 and 14.

Earth

Geology and unique physical features (Landscape topography and faults)

Air

Air quality (Impact on air quality from construction and maintenance activity)

Climate change (Impact on greenhouse gasses from tree removal causing loss of canopy function)

Water

Surface water movement/quantity/quality (Additional impervious surfaces from maintenance roads and other infrastructure and tree removal may cause loss of canopy function)

Groundwater movement/quantity/quality (Depth of excavation and foundations from larger poles may disrupt groundwater movement and tree removal may cause loss of canopy function)

Plants and animals

Habitat for and numbers or diversity of species of plants, fish, or other wildlife (Impacted due to clearing of trees and vegetation for installation and from ongoing vegetation management during operations causing loss of canopy function)

Unique species (Impacts to habitat resources due to tree removal and impacts from noise and operations)

Fish or wildlife migration routes (Submerged option causing impacts to nearshore environment)

Energy and natural resources

Conservation and renewable resources (Impacts on conservation programs from reduced conservation needs due to bolstered electrical capacity)

Scenic resources (View sheds)

Environmental health

Noise (Conductor noise)

Risk of explosion (Transmission Line and Pipeline Conflict)

EMF (Schools/Children)

Safety/Operational Risks (e.g. releases or potential releases to the environment affecting public health – transformer fires at substations)

Land and shoreline use

Housing (Property values, home purchase financing, property taxes)

Light and glare (Impacts from facility construction – pole and conductor glare)

Aesthetics (View shed, neighborhood character, property taxes)

Recreation (Impact to public resources)

Transportation

Transportation systems (Long term impacts due to facility siting – potential future conflicts)

Vehicular traffic (Impacts during construction)

Rail traffic (Impacts to future BNSF operations)

Movement/circulation of people or goods (Impacts during construction)

Traffic hazards (Risk of facility failure in ROW)

Public services and utilities

Emergency Services (Resource requirements for increased risk)

Schools (EMF and children)

Parks or other recreational facilities (Linear corridor crosses parks)

Maintenance (Impact on facility maintenance due to corrosion)

Communications (Effects on radio frequency for emergency radio systems)

Other governmental utilities (effects of impact to OPL operations at SeaTac/Lewis McCord)

Rates (Increased as a result of cost of project)

Economics

Property Values/Property Taxes (Reduced property values associated with adjacency and view shed)

Electrical Rates (Impact on rates as a result of cost of project passed on to customer)

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Property Financing (Impacts on eligibility for loans to conform to underwriting requirements)
Appropriateness of Mitigation Measures (Decision regarding appropriate mitigation should not take into account who pays for measures)