



DATE: June 20, 2016

TO: Mayor Stokes and City Council Members

FROM: Mike Brennan, Director, 452-4113
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Development Services Department

SUBJECT: Energize Eastside Phase 2 EIS-Additional Scoping Comment Period

As the Council is aware, last year the city began its formal review of Puget Sound Energy's "Energize Eastside" project by conducting a multi-agency Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Energize Eastside EIS is taking place in two phases. Phase 1 focused on the programmatic aspects of the project. The Phase 1 Draft EIS was issued on January 28, 2016, and public comments were accepted on this document through March 14, 2016. A report was prepared that summarized comments submitted in response to the DEIS, and provided a brief response to those comments.

Phase 2 of the EIS includes a more specific and detailed review of alternatives and will focus on project design and construction proposed by PSE. A scoping notice was issued and comment period initiated on April 14, 2016. Three public meetings were held and public scoping comments were accepted through May 31, 2016, to help the City of Bellevue and the partner cities identify project-level alternatives and elements of the environment to be studied in the Phase 2 Draft EIS.

During the scoping comment period for Phase 2, PSE submitted additional route alignments which they would like evaluated as part of the project-level EIS. Because these additional route alignments were not part of the notice for the Phase 2 scoping, and because the routes have the potential to impact new stakeholders not engaged in the EIS process to-date, staff concluded that an additional scoping comment period will be opened to allow the public and interested stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on the new routes and elements of the environments to be studied. The additional comment period will be 30 days in length.

Notice regarding the new alignment alternatives identified by PSE will be provided in the same manner as the prior scoping process including signs, email notification of interested parties, newspaper and print ads, and notice to the EIS distribution list and parties of record. The additional notice period will open as soon as the noticing logistics (i.e. creation of signs and ads) are complete, and is anticipated to occur in the next few weeks. An announcement describing the additional notice period has been posted to the EIS website to inform the public of this next step in the EIS process.

A Scoping Comment Summary Report based on the Phase 2 Scoping Comment Record compiled through May 31st is currently being prepared for public release, and will be available on the project website before the opening of the additional scoping comment period. A second Scoping Comment Summary Report and Comment Record will also be prepared to capture feedback from the additional scoping comment period. The Phase 2 Draft EIS analysis will begin this summer and publication of the Draft EIS is anticipated in the first quarter of 2017.

For more information about the EIS process and PSE project please refer to the project webpage: <http://www.energizeeastsideeis.org/>