
Energize Eastside DEIS
Phase 2 scoping comment review

Bellevue City Council – May 9, 2016



Phase 2 EE DEIS – timeline

- ▶ April 14 – May 31, 2016 comment period
- ▶ Tonight and May 16 for Council comment review
- ▶ Early 2017 – DEIS issued
- ▶ Spring or summer 2017 – FEIS issued

EE EIS – Council Role

- ▶ State Environmental Policy Act requires environmental review on “actions”
- ▶ Action with respect to this PSE project is anticipated issuance of a permit
- ▶ Responsibility for the City’s environmental review process delegated to the City’s SEPA Responsible Official
- ▶ Process proceeds under codes and regulations
- ▶ City of Bellevue is lead agency with a number of other jurisdictions through which the project is expected to run
- ▶ Council participating in this process as a stakeholder, not a decision-maker

EE DEIS – Phased Approach Review

- ▶ Two-phase process allows more thorough understanding
- ▶ Phase 1 focused on linking need to objectives so that scoped alternatives can be considered viable
- ▶ Phase 2 focus is on specific impacts of viable alternatives and identifying mitigation for those impacts
- ▶ A single EIS supports partner cities permitting actions

Phase 2 EE DEIS – Scoping

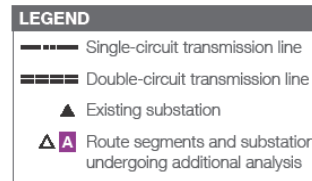
- ▶ Purpose – to help the City of Bellevue and partner cities identify elements of the environment studied in Phase 2
- ▶ Purpose – allow public to suggest reasonable alternatives to proposal that address project and [which] present fewer environmental impacts
- ▶ Project level evaluation
 - No action alternative
 - Action Alternative (PSE) with specific transmission line segment alternatives

Phase 2 EE DEIS

WILLOW 2

(Segments A-C-E-M-N, connection choices utilizing I-J-K2 and SE Newport Way)

Route options are configured to go from Segment A to Segment N and connect with Lakeside substation site.



NOTE: These maps are for illustrative purposes only. Preliminary route, pole types, and pole heights are subject to change pending design, engineering, and environmental review. Poles may need to be taller in certain locations such as when crossing a highway.

Phase 2 EE DEIS – Narrowing the range to project specific

- ▶ Reasonable alternatives – actions that could feasibly attain or approximate the proposal's objectives, but at a lower environmental cost or decreased level of environmental degradation.
- ▶ Reasonable alternatives – those over which an agency with jurisdiction has authority to control impacts, either directly or indirectly through requirement of mitigation measures.
- ▶ Council Direction for Phase 2 scoping: Scoping Notice clarifies that DEIS should identify Phase 1 alternatives not carried forward and articulate reasoning for not carried forward

Phase 2 EE DEIS – Council scoping topics from Phase 1

- ▶ Visual impact simulations conducted
- ▶ Alternatives or measures to minimize visual impacts
- ▶ Alternatives or measures to minimize risk associated with colocation of transmission lines with Olympic Pipeline

Phase 2 EE DEIS –

Council comment letter draft – identifying impacts

- ▶ **Transparency** • provide an understanding of the detailed impacts of variations along Willow 2 preferred alternative
- ▶ **Visual** • robust simulations along entire alignment to give true reflection of impacts along different geographies, topographies and surrounding land uses • best available technologies • undergrounding for mitigation • undergrounding when facility located within proximity to pipeline
- ▶ **Safety** • collocated • project-specific impacts in the event of disaster/damage to either facility
- ▶ **Ecological** • significant trees/tree canopy likely to be removed with preferred alternative • evaluating modifications to minimize tree loss, ecological functions or habitat loss

- ▶ Draft letter direction for May 16