

Comments on PSE's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

Docket number (UE-160918 and UG-160919)

I am specifically commenting on Chapter 8 of the IRP.

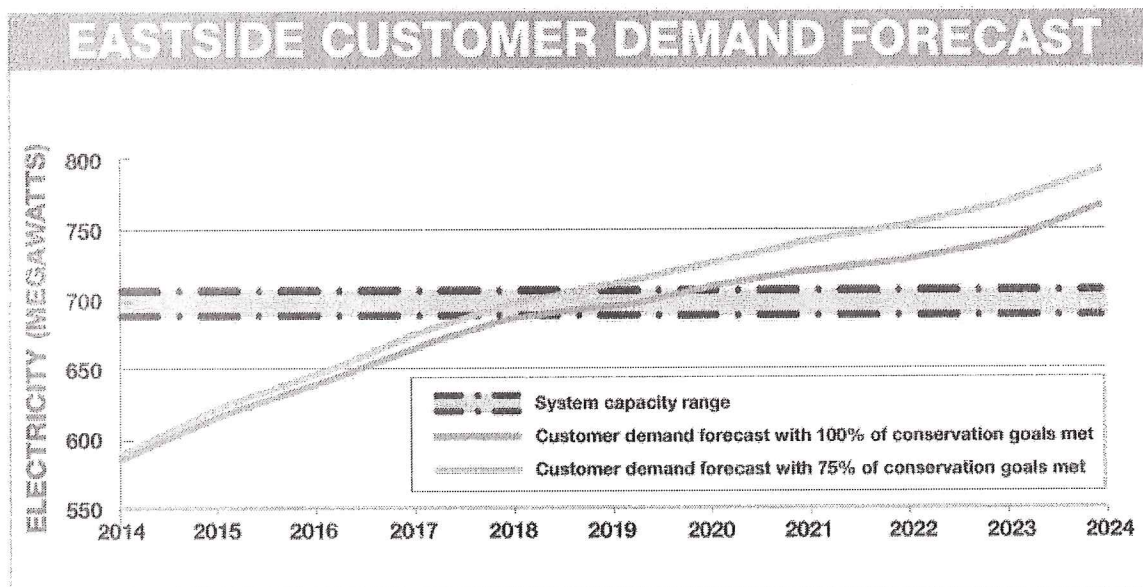
## Demand Trends 01/16/17

A lot has changed since Puget Sound Energy first announced Energize Eastside to the public. Back then, their demand forecast looked possible. They predicted electrical demand growth along the lines of the population growth we have witnessed.

Unfortunately, they failed to take into account the impact of conservation efforts, like energy-saving lightbulbs and more efficient appliances that are installed in people's homes and businesses, apartments and institutions.

In fact, although the population has grown 1.8% since 2009, the use of electricity has decreased by 7 percent. The seven-percent figure is based on an insert in the mail that Puget Sound Energy sent its customers, congratulating them on saving 7% in energy conservation.

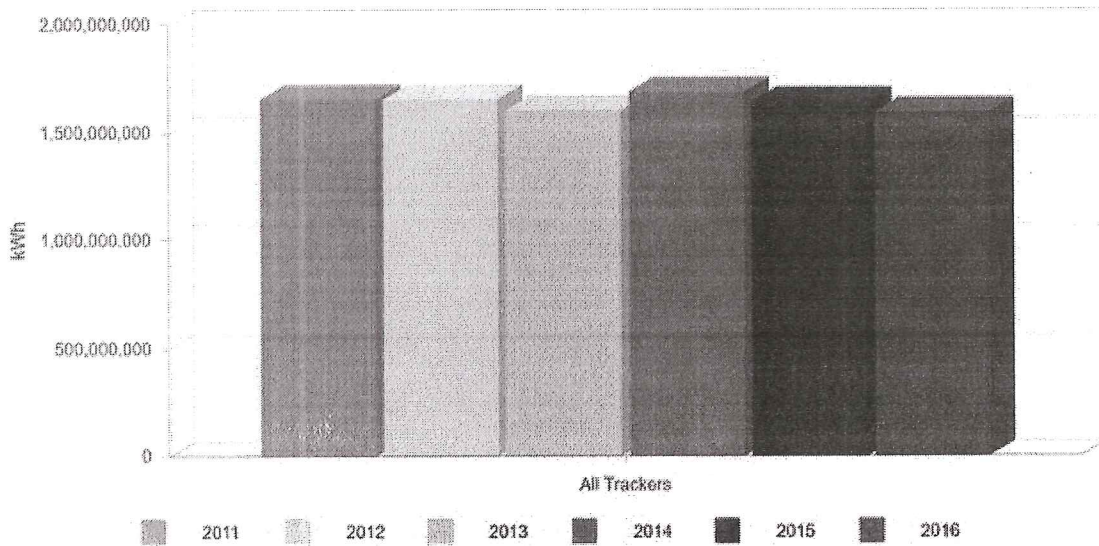
This is in high contrast to their demand forecast, which saw a steady increase in electricity demand up through 2024. I have provided a chart below from an archived webpage. The chart has been removed from the webpage, and has not been replaced. (Image 1)



<https://web.archive.org/web/20161024224832/energizeeastside.com/need>

Below is a chart that is available on the City of Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Website: (Image 2)

### Total Electricity Use in Bellevue (kWh)



Source: PSE. Data provided as a courtesy to Bellevue solely for the purposes of GHG accounting. Data is pulled based on tax code. The data should not be used for predicting future trends. Past data will occasionally be updated to correct for errors

<https://k4c.scope5.com/pages/61>

As you can see, the “Demand Forecast” was incorrect; the actual demand has declined instead of increased. Both sets of this data are from PSE.

It seems that when they want to sell someone on how much they are contributing to the environment (i.e. saving energy) they give one picture (Image 2) and when they try to sell someone else on the justification for Energize Eastside, they give a completely different set of figures (Image 1).

I hope that the UTC sees these tactics for what they are: a manipulation of data to suit whatever purposes are needed for a particular audience.

In the future I would be very pleased if the UTC were able to incentivize a utility company’s use of renewables, specifically. This policy change would make wasteful projects like Energize Eastside a thing of the past. As it stands, the only incentive for utilities companies are for building more infrastructure. This policy is outdated and harmful to the environment and consumer’s wallets.

For now, I urge the UTC NOT to grant a rate increase on a project that is outdated and based on questionable assumptions and flawed data.

Cynthia Vautier

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## Batteries 01/15/17

The UTC exists to protect rate payers from a utility company's ability to charge its customers for any projects that don't go toward saving us money. Since flow batteries have come on the market, and continue to fall in price, I believe that these batteries are the way to go for all new utility projects, as they can be installed much quicker, for less cost, and less environmental damage than an unsightly transmission line.

I admire that the UTC recently stated that energy storage needed to be considered for all new projects and upgrades to utility infrastructure. I would hope that this applies to PSE's Energize Eastside project as well. The study they had done three years ago is out-of-date, thanks to the advancements in battery technology. That study does not reflect current trends in battery prices or efficiency. Please tell PSE that they need to do a new study that reflect these changes.

In the future, I hope that the UTC is granted the additional authority to approve (or not approve) these projects outright. The UTC does not receive benefits like the \$1 million price tag the City of Bellevue will receive for PSE to take away our valuable trees.

Cynthia Vautier

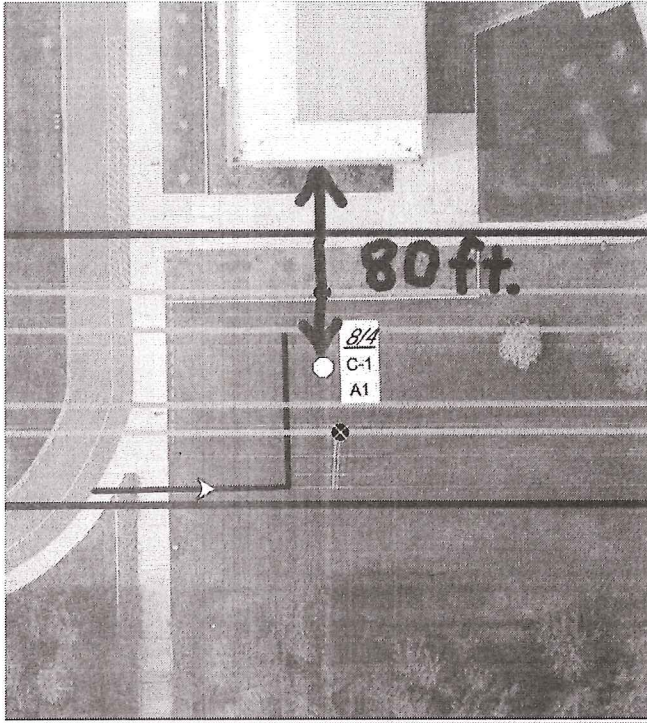
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Safety

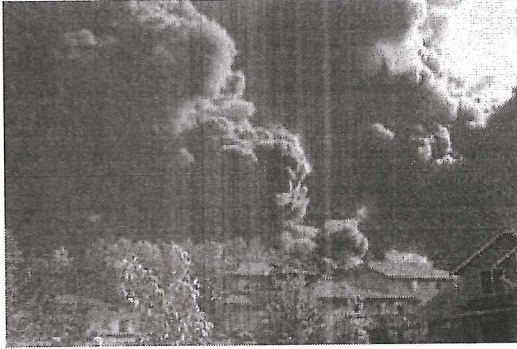
01/16/17



To the left is a diagram taken from PSE's permit application. It shows Tyee Middle School in Bellevue at the building at the top. The "80 ft." and corresponding arrow represent the distance from Tyee and the proposed pole location. That pole, which is 110 feet tall, is embedded 15 feet into the ground leaving a 95 foot tall steel pole only 80 feet from the school building. What is not made clear in the application is what material will be holding the pole in place. Many of the poles in the application show installation not with concrete, but with gravel fill. Questions remain as to what fill will be used at this site. If that is not troubling enough, take another look at the diagram—near the bottom of the page you see a turquoise-colored horizontal line. That line represents the gas pipeline.

The gas pipeline is approximately 140 feet from the school. More than 1,000 students attend Tyee Middle School. If PSE's pole were to be built so close to the school, every day those students attend school, they would be risking their lives. What is worse is that if something were to happen, they would die horrific deaths—being electrocuted, if the pole falls directly onto the school building, or possibly being burned alive by a pipeline fire or explosion, caused by arcing for example. (Please scroll down).

Here is another picture, taken from historylink.org.



<http://www.historylink.org/File/5468>

This picture shows the explosion that resulted from a pipeline rupture in Bellingham, Washington on June 10, 1999. This accident took the lives of three children. The Olympic pipeline was the pipeline that was ruptured, which is the same pipeline that runs next to Tyee Middle School.

The incident in Bellingham happened because initial construction resulted in a weakened valve. This pressure relief-valve failed, and no one knew. An Olympic pipeline worker that happened to be in the area reported the smell of gasoline, an hour after the valve failed. When a river of gas was discovered, the area was evacuated. One-and-a-half hours after the valve failed, the explosion took place.

Evacuation efforts likely saved more lives, but unfortunately, three children still died. It is unacceptable to me that we would knowingly sanction a scenario where more children's lives were at stake, solely so that investors on another continent can profit.

In total, there are 13,000 children in schools that sit less than 600 feet from gas pipelines (some at high-pressure carrying jet fuel) along the utility corridor where PSE wants to build these proposed transmission lines for Energize Eastside.

In an era of climate change that repeatedly results in record lives lost around the world, we should do everything we can to protect children close to home. One thing that we can do is to not allow projects that put our children in peril. If there is a 1% chance that the accident in Bellingham could take place again, next to 1,000 Tyee students, we should not allow PSE to double that chance.

Please do not allow PSE to put our children at risk in a time where the world is already a treacherous place to live. Tell them "no" to higher rates in exchange for the possibility of more children dying. Thank you.

Cynthia Vautier