

**From:** [Bob Moore](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** Puget Sound Energy Energize Eastside Project Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2018 8:49:52 AM

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January 18, 2018

TO: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

FR: W. Robert Moore, Bellevue  
resident

RE: Proposed Puget Sound Energy Energize Eastside project proposal – Docket numbers UE-160918 and UG-160919

I am writing in response to the above named project – PSE’s plan to build 18 miles of high voltage energy lines through 29 Eastside communities. Based upon available data and current developments, I believe this project is both unnecessary and unduly burdensome on rate-payers far into the future. When PSE originally presented this plan almost 5 years ago, it was based upon future consumption estimates. Actual consumption has fallen far short of the original estimates, so much so that PSE has removed the information from their website. The truth is, while population and business construction have both increased, actual consumption has declined due to conservation measures and improved technology. Seattle City Light has released figures showing the decline in actual usage throughout the region, which parallels what we would expect throughout the Eastside. Even though the demand for energy will probably grow somewhat in the coming decades, there are better ways to meet that demand that are much less expensive, more responsive to new technologies, and far less damaging to the environment than expanding huge, expensive high-voltage transmission lines powered by coal-fired plants.

Bottom line: Lacking evidence that increased high-voltage transmission lines are the only way to meet future energy needs, it would be wrong to allow PSE to go ahead with the Energize Eastside plan that is not needed as submitted and will cost consumers millions of unnecessary dollars for years to come.

I am also concerned that PSE is unresponsive to local community interests in plowing ahead with this plan in the face of vast public resistance. Perhaps the explanation lies in the fact that PSE is no longer a locally-owned utility, and foreign ownership need not face the consumers who will foot the bill for the infrastructure build-out. PSE is moving ahead with Energize Eastside to remedy falling profits, their solution for which is to increase capacity. Foreign ownership knows Washington State laws governing utilities guarantee a 10% return on infrastructure construction. The unfortunate corollary to that guarantee is local consumers will pay for it in increased electricity charges far into the future.

The electric utility industry is experiencing a rapid technology revolution, driven by renewable energy and battery storage. Many future-minded communities are moving away from unsightly transmission lines to meet demand and implementing 21st century solutions that bring batteries, clean renewable energy and advanced technology to the center of planning. It is absolutely imperative that Washington State take note of these rapid changes, move with the times and demand that our utility

suppliers employ every possible innovative option before they are allowed to expand traditional methods of transmission which are expensive, unsightly and dangerous to human safety and the environment.

I am counting on the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to review the PSE plan and ensure it is responsive to public interests and using every possible means to reduce the negative impact on consumers while providing for future energy needs.

Sincerely,

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