

19 January 2018

**Re: Comments opposing PSE and Energy Eastside plan to erect an 18-mile transmission line through Bellevue and other Eastside cities.**

**DOCKET NUMBERS: UE-160918; UG-160919**

To the Utilities and Transportation Commission,

I am firmly opposed to Puget Sound Energy's plan to build additional high voltage transmission lines through Bellevue and surrounding neighborhoods. I stand with CENSE, 350 Eastside and thousands of other residents who believe these lines are an unnecessary part of an antiquated plan that makes no effort to analyze current power trends and renewable alternatives, instead relies solely on outdated studies selectively chosen only for their own financial benefit. We need a greener, cleaner plan that takes into account new technology geared towards providing power WITHOUT doing harm to the environment and our surrounding communities.

Bellevue has propped itself up as a future forward city claiming that it is building for "tomorrow", but this plan is straight out of the 1980's. Electricity consumption is trending downwards over the last 6 years, as both commercial and residential consumers have become more energy efficient in both technology and practice. Alternative power transmission and storage options are on the rise, including batteries that can (and should) be used for peak load capacity storage. Power production is rapidly moving away from fossil fuels and into greener alternatives like wind, solar and hydroelectric power for any number of reasons, from cost to reducing greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions. And in an area of the country that is at constant risk of a catastrophic earthquake, old technology is the last option we should be considering.

Studies have shown that modern society must start drastically reducing our GhG emission in the next five years or we run the risk of pushing the planet over the tipping point into a perpetual state of negative climate change and rising temperatures that will eventually become. We must do our part, and we can start with this proposal by rejecting it in favor of a greener, cleaner safer alternative. PSE and Energy Eastside are blatantly promoting this archaic plan simply as a way to increase consumer costs and ultimately their bottom line because it has the highest profit margin for them. This plan by PSE is tantamount to letting an oil company design an electric vehicle... do you really think they are going to design an efficient car that does NOT run on their most profitable product?

The facts are out there, a better alternative to this plan can be easily achieved with research and the environmental benefits in mind, not just the bottom line. Old technology like high voltage power lines is a waste of energy, time, construction resources, and it damages the environment in countless ways. With the current trends in green energy production world wide, it is inevitable that we will need to REBUILD THE POWER GRID AGAIN sooner than later once alternative power overtakes fossil fuel production and alternative storage. Yes, Bellevue is growing, but we need to grow in a smarter and more efficient manner. We need to get out ahead of the curve NOW, and lead the way as the green, forward thinking city we claim to be.

Thank you.

Jason Beffa  
Clyde Hill, WA 98004