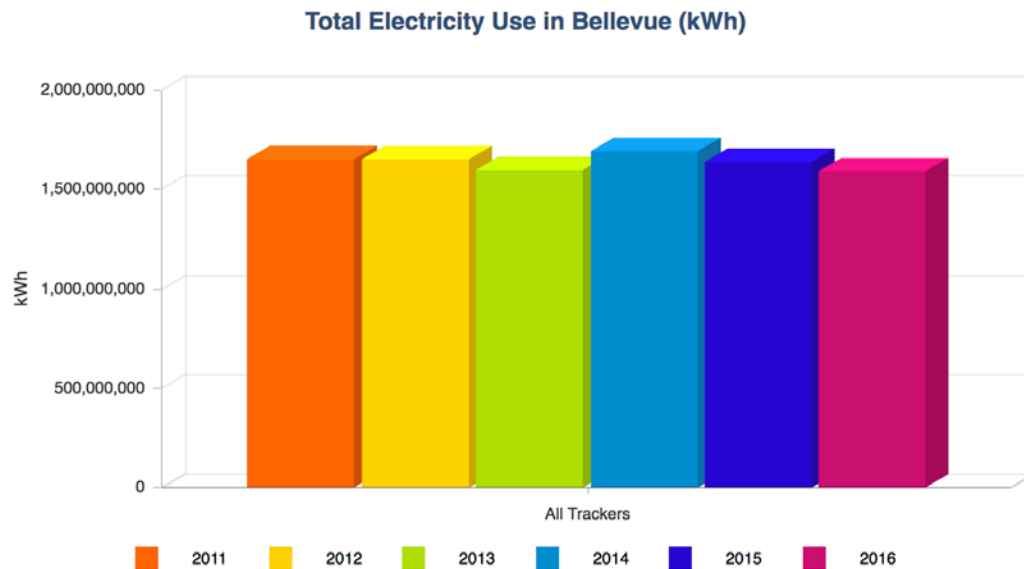


Docket #: UE-160918 and UG-160919

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Title: **Delivery Infrastructure Planning** (PSE's Integrated Resource Plan) January 15, 2018

PSE's Energize Eastside project will leave the Eastside with an expensive, overbuilt transmission system built on yesterday's technology. Total demand for electricity has remained basically stable in Bellevue, for example, from 2011 to 2016 despite the rapid increase in jobs and 7% increase in population.



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

PSE's EE will not increase the reliability of the electric grid. Most outages are due to downed powerlines or trees on power lines. Undergrounding would be the best strategy for increasing reliability. Batteries can play a great role here as well. Relying on natural gas peaker plants and electricity based on fossil fuels to meet short term peak demand would increase greenhouse gas emissions and cause leakage of methane into our atmosphere. EE would also require the cutting of 6,000 trees, thereby reducing carbon sequestration and impacting the habitat of plants and wildlife on the Eastside.

EE will be built along the same corridor as the Olympic Pipeline. There is the risk that a fallen 230,000-volt line could start arcing through the ground and pierce the pipeline casing. We

should be risk averse for the sake of our neighborhoods and schools and not build these high voltage transmission lines in this vulnerable area.

PSE has failed to adequately to evaluate alternative technologies. PSE's assumptions about the size of battery required and length of time to complete battery installations are overstated. Battery technology has improved dramatically in just these past two years, making it feasible for stacking flow batteries at various substations, to substantially increase our capacity at a fraction of the cost of Energize Eastside in a shorter time period than building EE would require

In summary, PSE's EE cannot be justified based on need or on reliability. It will harm our environment and increase risk of explosion on the Olympic Pipeline. EE will leave us with an infrastructure based on yesterday's technology and costlier than using the advanced technologies of wind and solar, battery storage and demand respond, for example.

So why does PSE want to build EE for \$300 million? It will be a way to increase ratepayers' rates and increase profits for the shareholders of PSE at the cost of the Eastside's environment and pocketbooks.