

Energize Eastside 2023 Transmission Line Construction Initiation

Considerations around initiation of 2023 Energize Eastside Transmission Line construction – south half.

April 18, 2023

Outage Constraints

There are specific system outage constraints between the Sammamish and Talbot Hill substations in 2023. In addition, there are three major projects that require outages on these lines, all of which need to be in service by the end of the year. Energize Eastside requires an outage on the TAL-LAK lines in order to complete the south half of the Energize Eastside 230 kV lines and energize the RIC substation. This work includes completion of the remaining poles in Renton and south Bellevue, along with the entire Newcastle segment.

The SAM-JUA 115 kV transmission line project also needs to be completed this year. In order to complete this project, a number of the Energize Eastside 230 kV poles need to be installed just outside of the SAM substation to make room for the SAM-JUA drops into the station. This work requires an outage on the SAM-LAK 115 kV lines. According to load office studies, the TAL-LAK and SAM-LAK lines cannot be taken out of service at the same time. This will require the Energize Eastside lines (*i.e.*, TAL-LAK, but after construction, TAL-RIC) be put back into service before taking an outage on the SAM-LAK lines. Therefore, the sooner the Energize Eastside lines are put into service, the longer the construction window for the SAM-JUA project.

Newcastle Permit

PSE met with the city of Newcastle staff leadership on Friday, April 14, 2023, to discuss the status of the Energize Eastside Engineer Review Permit (ERP). According to city staff, the only thing that needs resolution, is the work being performed by Stantec on behalf of the city in regards to AC interaction with the OPL pipelines. DNV and Stantec had conversation last week and DNV transmitted the requested information to Stantec on Monday, April 17th. During the meeting with the city, it was stated that final review should take around a week or two, followed by permit issuance.

Remaining work outside of Newcastle

Outside of Newcastle, Wilson Construction needs to set the remaining Renton poles and a couple of poles located at the southernmost end of the south Bellevue segment. It is anticipated that Wilson will take 2 to 5 weeks for mobilization and a couple more weeks for the Renton and south Bellevue work. As soon as the Newcastle ERP is issued, vegetation clearing and mat placement can commence. Overall, it is expected for the remaining south transmission line work will take between 8 and 15 weeks. In addition, public noticing of construction is required in Newcastle prior to initiation of work.

Recommendation

Therefore, it is recommended that notice to proceed to Wilson be issued on April 20th and Public Noticing start on April 24th. This provides adequate time for the remaining Newcastle poles to arrive and additional time for Newcastle to issue the ERP while the remaining Renton and south Bellevue poles are being installed. Following this approach, the south half of the project can be energized allowing for the SAM-LAK line outage by mid-August.