



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Planning and Building Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Jeremy McMahan, Planning Supervisor
Eric Shields, AICP, Director

Date: May 4, 2016

Subject: Puget Sound Energy, Update on Sammamish-Juanita 115 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

RECOMMENDATION

Receive project update from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) on the Sammamish-Juanita 115 kilovolt (kV) project.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

PSE is proposing a new 115 kV transmission main connecting from the Sammamish substation in Redmond to the Juanita Substation in Kirkland (see Attachment 1). The project is needed to address capacity and reliability issues for residents and businesses. In 2011, a Stakeholder Advisory Group including representatives from the City and the Kingsgate, Juanita, and North Rose Hill neighborhoods developed three alternatives. Following multiple community meetings to review the alternatives, the advisory group ultimately selected the proposed alignment. The City Council has previously been briefed on the proposed alignment by staff and PSE representatives. Additional project details may be viewed on the [project page of PSE's website](#).

The Kirkland alignment east of I 405 is located in the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) and Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC). PSE owns a utility easement over the full length of the rail-banked portion of the ERC and CKC. This portion of the route is included in the approved CKC Master Plan. West of I 405, the alignment follows 120th Avenue NE to NE 124th Street, then turns north to connect to the Juanita Substation.

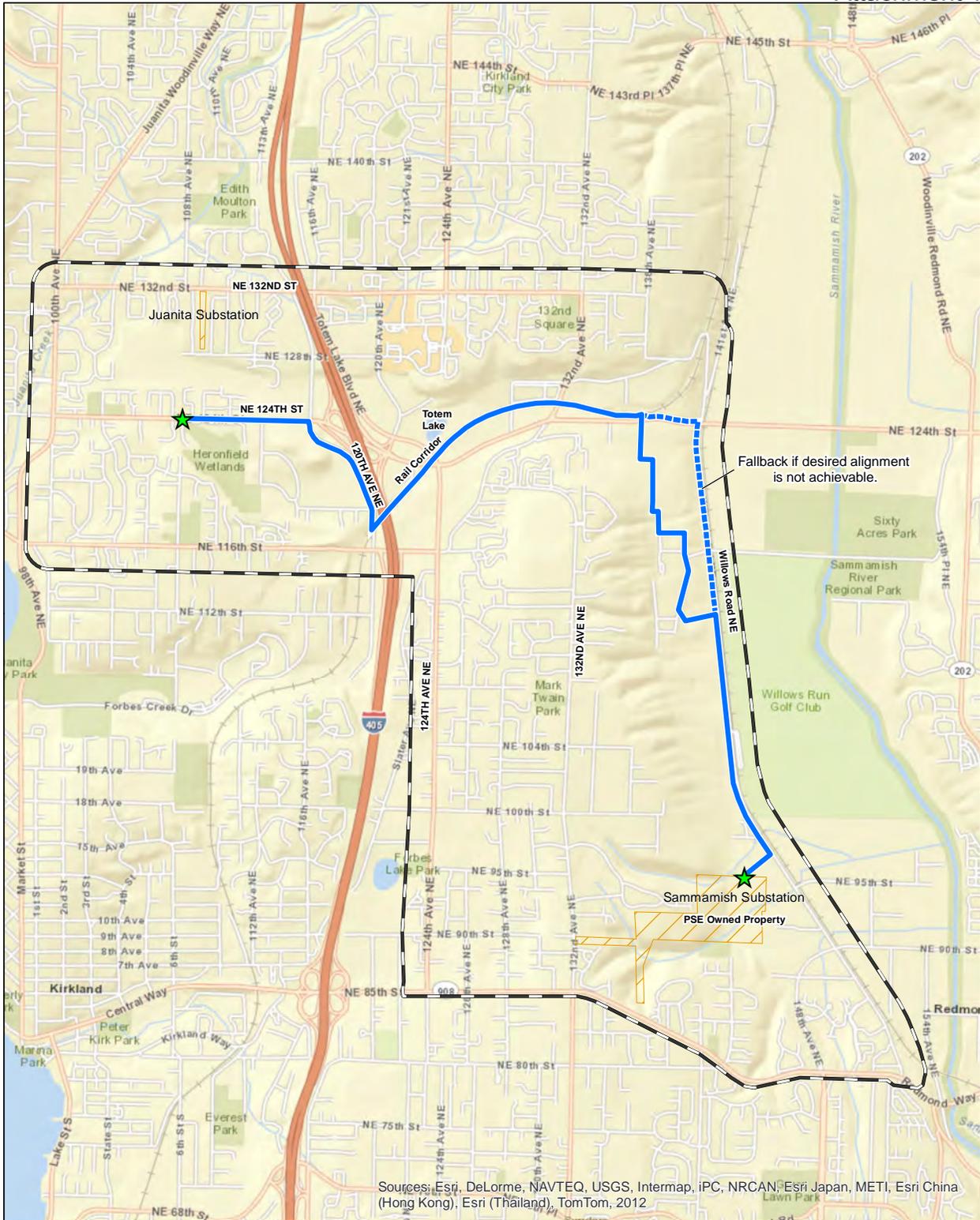
In the time since the route selection in 2012, staff has been working with PSE on the City's specific interests on issues including pole placement and relationship to planned projects - such as Totem Lake Park and the 124th CKC overpass. The project has been delayed as PSE and Redmond coordinate more complex issues with the project alignment within the City or Redmond. PSE has restarted their public outreach process to remind the community about the project and provide the most current information (see Attachment 2). Also, City staff recently sent out project information to CKC listserv subscribers along with links to the PSE project webpage.

PSE plans to submit permit applications for the project by summer 2016. A portion of the project will require a Process IIA permit (Hearing Examiner decision). 115 kV lines are typically exempt from SEPA, however, the proximity to wetlands and streams will require SEPA review in this case. PSE anticipates beginning construction of the project in 2017.

Attachment:

1. Proposed Route
2. Community Mailer from PSE

cc: Dave Jenness, Puget Sound Energy



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2012

**Puget Sound Energy
Sammamish to Juanita 115 kV Line**

PSE Preferred Final Route

- Preferred Route
- Project Study Area Boundary
- - - Route Fallback
- PSE Owned Property
- ★ Route Start and End Points



Note: A final alignment will be selected after public review, micro-siting with property owners and further studies are completed.





May 2016

RE: Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV Project in Kirkland

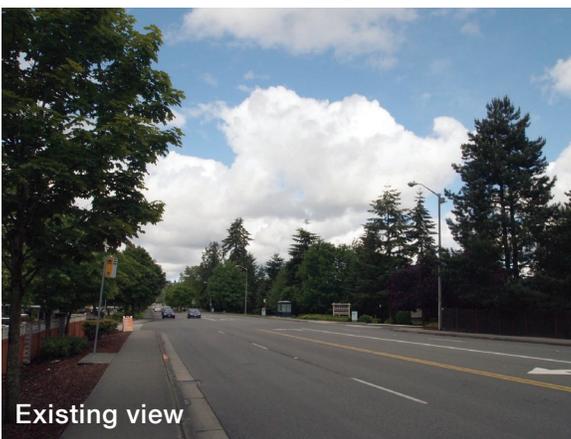
Improving your **ELECTRIC SERVICE**



Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is working to improve electric service reliability for more than 150,000 residential and commercial customers in northern Kirkland and Redmond.

Customer power usage is straining the electric system serving the area, which reduces PSE's ability to reliably serve power and increases the possibility of outages. To increase system capacity and improve reliability for customers, PSE plans to build a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Sammamish substation in Redmond to the Juanita substation in Kirkland.

NE 124th Street Looking West



Existing view



Proposed view



View other photo simulations at pse.com/SammJuan115

How we got here

PSE launched the Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV project in 2008. In 2011, PSE convened a stakeholder advisory group to help identify a route for the new transmission line.

For nearly a year, PSE worked with the advisory group and consulted the broader community through open houses and neighborhood briefings, along with reviewing public comments, to develop a route that reflected community input.

Current status of the project

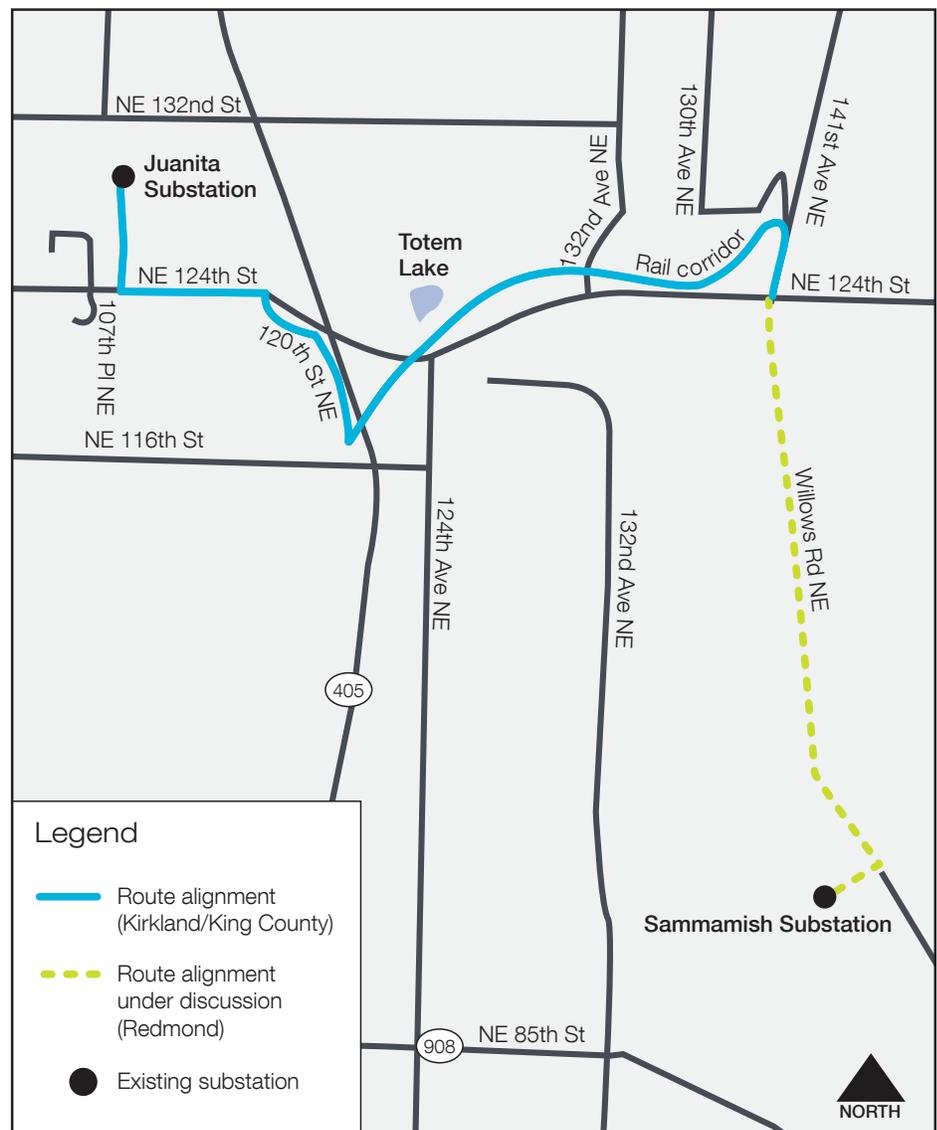
For the past few years, we've been learning about on-the-ground conditions to identify environmental effects and potential mitigation for environmentally-sensitive areas, such as wetlands and streams. Our engineers are designing the poles and wires to comply with regulations and local codes. We've also been coordinating with property owners and agencies, like the Washington Department of Transportation, King County, Eastside Rail Corridor Regional Advisory Council, and the cities of Kirkland and Redmond, to inform our work.

This year we're focused on finalizing the route alignments in both cities, submitting permit applications, and continuing to coordinate with property owners. We anticipate beginning construction in 2017.

Our work on the different portions of the project varies, specifically:

- In Kirkland, we have a route alignment along the rail corridor, 120th Avenue NE and NE 124th Street. We plan to submit permit applications for this portion of the project by summer 2016.
- In Redmond, we are working with the City to finalize the route alignment.
- If an easement is needed on your property, a PSE real estate representative will reach out to you soon.

Kirkland/Redmond electric system improvement Attachment 2 Sammamish-Juanita 115 kV transmission line



We are committed to keeping the community up to date on our progress. Additionally, we would be happy to give a project presentation to your neighborhood or organization.

To learn more about the project, please visit pse.com/SammJuan115. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me any time.

Sincerely,

Dave Jenness, Project Manager
Puget Sound Energy
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majorprojects@pse.com