



City of Kirkland
123 Fifth Avenue
Kirkland, WA 98033

Attn: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

March, 2010

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

I understand you will be submitting an application for the Google Broadband pilot project. As a facility owner of utility poles, Puget Sound Energy is prepared to provide you with information to assist in the completion of section 5 (Facilities and Resources) of Google's request for information (RFI).

We have determined the approximate number of applicable poles owned by PSE within your city limits. Please be advised that we will not be able to provide information on poles owned by cities or other utilities, nor those that are unsuitable for attachments, such as our high-voltage transmission line poles. **Currently, our records indicate approximately 5,423 PSE-owned poles within the Kirkland City limits.**

As you work to complete your application, please note the following about our pole attachment program:

- PSE permits telecommunication and cable attachments to our poles in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations. Our first priority when considering pole attachment requests is to ensure the safe, compliant and reliable operation of our electric distribution and transmission network.
- Conduit installed by PSE is reserved for use by PSE in providing future capacity and reliability to our customers. Our conduit is not available for use by a third party such as Google.
- Attachments to PSE's poles by third parties other than cities and counties are subject to one time and annual attachment fees. Rates vary based on location and type of attachment; however, we estimate an **average initial rate of \$27.50 per pole per attachment and \$15 a year.** They are also subject to costs associated with make ready and structural analysis work as described below.

If your public agency is selected to participate in the Google Broadband pilot, please be aware that Google Broadband will be subject to PSE's pole attachment process and requirements as described below.

Pole Attachment Process

1. Complete a Joint Use Agreement (JUA), which reinforces PSE's four key priorities.
 - a. Safety and compliance. All proposed pole attachments must meet the requirements of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) and comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations,
 - b. Preservation and protection of PSE distribution and transmission reliability standards. All proposed pole attachments must adhere to applicable PSE engineering standards for existing pole capacity and future distribution and transmission requirements.
 - c. Notice/communication. Pole attachers must provide timely communication in accordance with the JUA as it applies to pole attachments, both existing and proposed.
 - d. Just and reasonable rates. Adherence to PSE's standard rates for pole attachments.

Once this agreement is in place, an application identifying which poles a party is intending to attach to must be submitted to PSE along with an application fee of \$27.50 for each pole identified on the application.

2. PSE will respond to an application with a cost estimate for "make ready" and structural analysis work – all associated costs are the responsibility of the pole attacher.

- Make ready work is work that is necessary to prepare the pole for attachment in compliance with the NESC. Examples of make ready work include:
 - Adjusting the electric facilities on a pole to make room for a new attachment (\$500 - \$600)
 - Replacing an existing pole with a new taller pole to allow for more vertical space (cost varies depending on pole type)
- In accordance with the NESC, a structural analysis (engineering study) is required to evaluate the stress loading if a designated pole has a voltage above 100 kilovolts. This analysis can take as long as three months to complete, depending on the line. Costs associated with a structural analysis are estimated at time of application.

3. Once this preparatory work is paid for and complete, the attachment process can begin. The attacher contracts with its own vendor to perform the attachment work, which is subject to PSE inspection. The pole attacher is then responsible for an annual attachment fee estimated at 15 a year based on a charge of \$10.14 per foot, calculated using the Federal Communication Commission's "Cable Rate" formula. (Note, the attachment fee will change in July 2010.) (Each

attachment requires 12 inches of distance from other attachments on the pole. When a line runs down the pole (either through a riser or directly on the pole) the attacher can utilize as much as 20 feet of pole space. On average, cable companies utilize 1.33 feet of attachment space per pole. PSE will work with the attacher to compute an actual average rate per pole for annual billing.

I hope this information helps your application effort. Please feel free to contact me at 425-462-3786 or jim.hutchinson@pse.com should you have additional questions about PSE's pole attachment process or how we can assist you with your application.

Sincerely,



Jim Hutchinson
Manager, Local Government & Community Relations
Puget Sound Energy