

Transmission Line Routing Community Sounding Board

Meeting 2 Summary

May 21, 2020

Overview

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) hosted an online meeting for Community Sounding Board (CSB) members on May 21, 2020. The meeting introduced CSB members to transmission line routing criteria for the Murden Cove – Winslow Transmission Line Project.

The meeting was held online via Webex due to PSE and public health requirements restricting in-person gatherings at this time. Attachment 1 contains the list of meeting participants.

Opening remarks

- Renee Zimmerman, PSE, welcomed the CSB and provided the safety moment. Renee provided a brief recap of what was discussed at CSB meeting 1.
- Safety moment.
- Introduction of Mark Fisher to the CSB group. Mark Fisher will represent the Suquamish Tribe on the CSB.

Routing process overview

Kirk Moughamer, HDR gave a [presentation](#) on PSE/ HDR's proposed transmission line routing criteria for the Murden Cove – Winslow Transmission line. The presentation began with a look at the routing process and how it is designed to set up feedback loops between PSE and the community to enable a two-way conversation on the development of the “missing link” transmission line. The [study area](#) that PSE considering for the “missing link” will be looked at through a variety of lenses and perspectives as PSE begins gaining feedback on the transmission line routing. Kirk briefly went over key terms which include:

- **Route segment:** A discrete section of a potential future transmission line. Route segments will follow existing road right-of-way and generally travel in the direction of the designated terminal points (e.g., Murden Cove and Winslow substations).
- **Route option:** A pathway between two identified terminal points that link together route segments.
- **Criteria:** A set of factors by which route segments and route options will be assessed and compared.
- **Metrics:** Criteria are measured in metrics. Metrics change as the project develops.

Kirk described the three categories (Built Environment, Natural Environment, Engineering) that are used to group different criteria together. During his explanation of each category, Kirk outlined each set of criteria's metric and significance for the development of route segments and route options.

After the presentation on the routing criteria, Kirk, Renee, and Andy Swayne, PSE, addressed questions from CSB members. Key discussion points are noted below:

- **Parks and recreation:** HDR is using data on designated parks and trails that are maintained by Bainbridge Island Metro Parks & Recreation. Some CSB members suggested including the informal trails and green spaces that people have created over time. HDR acknowledged those spaces and trails are important, but hard to find and track since informal spaces and trails are not in official databases.

- **Zoning on Bainbridge Island:** The City of Bainbridge Island does not specifically zone for transmission lines. The transmission lines that PSE builds go through a permitting process that involves applying for conditional use permits based on the zone the transmission line goes through. There is no “one-size fits all” option for the permitting process since different areas and spaces on Bainbridge Island have different criteria for conditional use zoning under the authority of various departments and jurisdictions.
- **Property acquisition:** As the design phases progress, PSE will begin to identify parcels that may be impacted. Once PSE knows a property will be impacted, they will reach out to the property owner to coordinate on various design options like pole location. If PSE needs operating rights on a property for line construction, PSE will obtain an easement agreement with the property owner and provide fair market value compensation for the easement. If PSE already has an easement on or over private property, PSE will look at options to use the existing easement in coordination with the property owner.
- **Identification of cultural resources:** PSE will hire a cultural resources consultant for identification of potential cultural resource sites that may be impacted by route segments. The cultural resource consultant will use archeological data and field visits to locate cultural artifacts. Investigations of cultural artifacts are coordinated with the Suquamish Tribe. If a cultural artifact is found, its whereabouts will be confidential and any information gathered will not result in public disclosure.
- **Past community feedback:** Between 2008 and 2010, PSE and the Bainbridge Island community were in conversation about building an additional substation between Winslow Substation and Murden Cove Substation with the consideration of linking all three substations with a new transmission line. PSE adapted to the community’s desire to address the need for capacity through increased energy efficiency measures. PSE will review their records of past discussions with the Bainbridge Island community to report back on the themes heard from the community at that time regarding route options.
- **Designated migratory flight data:** HDR will investigate data on the migratory flight pattern of birds in their development of route segments and route options.
- **Trees:** There is no regulation on tree canopy coverage on Bainbridge Island. PSE is aware of the importance of trees in the environment and community and to property owners and works to reduce the number of trees that need to be removed. Impact to tree cover will be an important consideration during routing and property owner coordination.
- **State Route 305:** SR 305 is designated as a scenic corridor--PSE should be mindful of its zoning.
- **WSDOT Ferry electrification:** PSE is aware of WSDOT plans to install ferry electric charging capability at the Eagle Harbor ferry terminal and is working with WSDOT on building a new distribution line to serve their ferry electrification needs. The “missing link” transmission line isn’t related to serving the ferry’s needs; rather, we’ll install a distribution line to serve their electrification needs. PSE’s consultant, Navigant, considered the ferry’s need as part of the non-wires analysis.
- **Future proofing the transmission line:** With successful implementation of a utility-scale battery combined with energy efficiency and demand response programs, PSE anticipates it can defer building a new distribution substation on the island for about 10 years or more. PSE is being mindful of the route the Murden Cove – Winslow transmission line takes and its ability to serve a new substation when the need arises.

- **Building heights:** When determining route segments and route options, PSE will be using both building code and electrical code to ensure there is a safe distance between buildings and the transmission line.
- **Study area boundary and Ferncliff Avenue NE:** HDR did not believe Ferncliff Ave NE is included in the study area boundary but will verify.
- **Collocating with other utilities:** HDR explained that they will review the data they have on other existing utility easements, like water, wastewater, and stormwater rights of way. PSE does consider collocating with other utilities. For example, PSE looks for opportunities to 'overbuild' new transmission lines over existing distribution lines (using taller poles), which uses existing corridors and can reduce the overall impact of new transmission lines to properties and trees. When it comes to sewer, they are often in a road right of way, which does not lend itself to collocation with an overhead line. If there is a cross-country utility right of way, then it could be considered.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance at this meeting.

Next steps: upcoming meetings

- CSB Meeting 3: Routing Criteria Feedback (June 8, 5-6:30 p.m.)

Closing remarks

Susan and Renee thanked CSB members for participating. The meeting concluded just after 6:30 p.m.

Attachment 1: Meeting Participants

Community Sounding Board

Individual Interests

Bill Lemon	Matt Kowalski
Carl Siegrist	Norm Jones
Elizabeth Doll	Stephen Hellriegel
Erik Fong	Ted Jones
Keith Bass	Winifred Perkins

Organizational Interests

Glen Tyrrell, Bainbridge Island School District
Hank Teran, Bainbridge Island Fire Department
Maradel Gale, Sustainable Bainbridge
Maria Metzler, Helpline House
Mark Epstein, City of Bainbridge Island
Mark Fisher, Suquamish Tribe
Perry Barrett, Bainbridge Island Metro Parks & Recreation District
Walt Hannon, Walt's Market

PSE Staff

Andy Swayne, PSE CSB Technical Liaison
Barry Lombard, PSE Project Manager
Renee Zimmerman, PSE Community Projects Manager

EnviroIssues Staff

Darcy Edmunds, EnviroIssues, Webex host and technical support
Nyles Green, EnviroIssues, Notetaker
Susan Hayman, EnviroIssues, Facilitator

HDR Staff

Bridget Brown, HDR
Kirk Moughamer, HDR

Observers

Diann Strom, PSE	Kerry Kriner, PSE
Gretchen Aliabadi, PSE	Shelby Naten, PSE
Kierra Phifer, PSE	