



June 20, 2017

Heidi Bedwell
Environmental Planning Manager
Development Services Department
City of Bellevue
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009 - 9012

RE: BDA Comments for Energize Eastside Phase 2 Draft EIS

Dear Ms. Bedwell:

On behalf of the Bellevue Downtown Association, we wish to share our comments on Energize Eastside Phase 2 Draft EIS.

Our members are greatly concerned about the projected deficiency in transmission capacity under the current system. Businesses and residents in Downtown Bellevue depend on reliable energy to sustain growth and fully operate. Updating the 50-year-old transmission line with proven infrastructure is paramount for the Eastside's economy. Rolling blackouts, possible as early as 2018 without the project, must be avoided.

We have strongly supported the environmental review process and the full reporting of potential impacts. Alternative 1: New Substation and 230 kV Transmission Lines is the only viable alternative. The BDA stands by our conclusion that the "No Action Alternative" would be detrimental to our economy and community as a whole. Alternative 1 is the responsible option to pursue. In addition to updating the system, the benefits of Alternative 1 include its use of the existing 115 kV transmission corridor, thereby reducing cases of eminent domain and vegetation loss.

We're encouraged to see mitigation measures listed for this Alternative and expect potential environmental impacts and pipeline safety to be addressed through the permitting process with the five Eastside cities. Permitting should be conducted in a timely manner, so Puget Sound Energy can adhere to its timeline of beginning construction by the summer of 2018.

Thank you for offering this public comment period and considering our feedback on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Irene Plenefisch".

Irene Plenefisch, BDA Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Bannon".

Patrick Bannon, BDA President