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PSE.com

Puget Sound Energy

4/3/2025

Kittitas County
Community Development Services
Jaymey Ayling – Planning Manager
411 N Ruby St, Suite 2
Ellensburg WA 98926

KITTITAS CO CDS
RECEIVED
04/04/2025

RE: PSE 101176754 WOD-13 S HWY Cable Remediation Project – Application for Shoreline Exemption

Dear Mr. Ayling:

I am writing on behalf of Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to apply for a Shoreline Exemption approval from Kittitas County. This approval will allow us to carry out the repair and maintenance of existing utility electrical cables on a site adjacent to the Yakima River. These cables are in poor condition and in danger of failure. This repair and maintenance will allow PSE to continue serving its customers with safe and reliable power.

The proposed project occurs within 200 feet of a water of the state, the Yakima River, so a Shoreline Exemption is required. At a total of 286 combined cubic yards of disturbance the project exceeds the threshold where a permit is required. However, per KCC 14.05.060 (4), excavations for utilities are exempt from this requirement. A floodplain occurs within the project limits, but the proposed work will have no effect flood storage capacity on site. As normal and routine maintenance of PSE's distribution lines, as executed by trenching, exemptions in KCC 17A.01.050.3.b, g, and j all apply. The project will not further encroach into, or increase the impact to critical areas or their buffers are exempt from critical area permit requirements. The project proposes no increase in impervious surface, disturbance of vegetation or increased intensity of use. The work will occur within areas already developed as vehicle drive aisles.

The project is categorically exempt from SEPA threshold determination per WAC 173-27-040-2(b) which specifies that normal maintenance activities are exempt from substantial Shoreline development permits. Per WAC 197-11-800(3) and (23d) maintenance of utility service connections are not considered development for the purposes of the Shoreline Management Program. No in-water work is proposed so no JARPA or HPA submittals are required. PSE's internal Cultural Resources team has been made aware of this project and their review has already begun.

Project Description:

The project is located at 61 S. Thorp Hwy, and involves replacing 949 lineal feet of existing electrical cables in new conduit. The preferred method of remediation in this case will be done using an open trenching method. Appropriate BMPs will be employed in order to mitigate risk of sediment escaping the area of work. All work on private property will occur within utility easements. All disturbed surfaces will be restored to original condition or better upon completion of construction. No tree removal is necessary for this project.

The project begins just west of the Ellensburg right of way, crosses beneath the Thorp Hwy, and ends on the eastern property limit of the KOA campground. The area beneath the Thorp Hwy overpass has more than sufficient height for a vehicle to drive beneath it, see the photo included in the submittal document set. A scalable site plan is provided in the submittal set, the image below generally shows the area of work.



Primary Use of the Project:

The primary use of the project will be repair and maintenance of utility infrastructure.

Specific Use of the Project:

The specific use of the project is maintaining the safety and reliability of power for PSE customers.

Fair Market Value of the Project (including labor, materials, equipment rentals, etc.):

The approximate value of the project is \$62,600.

Anticipated Start and end dates of construction:

Start: Summer 2025 End: Summer 2025

If you have any questions, please feel contact me at carol.orr@pse.com.

Sincerely,

Carol Orr (She/Her)

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