

Portland General Electric

Fall 2023 Community Meetings

Tonquin Project

October 2023



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Overview

In late September 2023, PGE hosted two public meetings in the Stafford Hamlet area to share information about the Tonquin Project. In early phases of the Tonquin Project communications planning, these meetings were planned to help community members learn about the project.

Format

Two 90-minute, open house-style events provided a central greeting table to help direct attendees to specific 'stations' for one-on-one conversations. Meetings were held at different ends of the Rosemont-Wilsonville segment, the area of greatest impact and interest:

- Stafford on September 26 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Riverside High School
- Wilsonville on September 30 from 10:30 am - 12 pm at Wilsonville Public Library

Five stations were each staffed by subject matter experts and communications support, covering:

1. The project, need, approach and benefits to the community
2. Engineering, design and planning
3. PGE's approach to wildfire mitigation and resiliency
4. Information about property issues including rights of way and easements
5. PGE's tree and vegetation management efforts around this project



Preliminary research on area demographics indicated a minute percentage of non-English speakers in the area. American Sign Language interpretation services were available.

Meeting Goals

1. Broaden communication between the community and PGE.
2. Give an opportunity for interested parties to learn the facts about the project, ask questions of subject matter experts, and vocalize their concerns.
3. Allow the project team to learn about property owner, customer and community questions and concerns.
4. Demonstrate transparency and interest in collaborating with impacted landowners to find mutually beneficial outcomes that will enable the broader community and region to benefit from this project.

Event Stations and Presentation Materials

Five information stations were available for attendees to peruse display boards, engage with subject matter experts, and share concerns and feedback with the help of communications and JLA staff. The following stations included display boards outlined below. *See display board images in Appendix 1.*

- Project Overview Station:
 - Display #1: Project Overview Map
 - Display #2: Rosemont-Wilsonville Line
 - Display #3: Rosemont-Wilsonville Line photo simulations
- Engineering & Line Design:
 - Interactive website on large monitor
- Property Rights:
 - Display #4: Right of Way and Easement graphic
- Wildfire Mitigation & Resilience
 - Display #5: Public Safety Power Shutoff Areas & High Fire Risk Zones 2023
 - Display #6: How PGE Prepares for Wildfires
- Vegetation & Landscaping
 - Display #7: Utility Pole 101

All stations included a large flipchart to capture feedback and questions from the participants. Staff also used whiteboards and paper, as needed, to draw concepts to share context within their conversations.

PGE provided informational materials including a Tonquin Project factsheet, a comprehensive Tonquin Project FAQ document, an Electric and Magnetic Field fact sheet, wildfire preparedness brochures, tree clearances and vegetation selection brochures and Clackamas County's information sheet on the Stafford Road widening project.

Additionally, the meetings were family friendly and included kids' activity books, stickers and crayons. Snacks were provided, as well.



Meeting Promotion

- **Aug. 7:** Sent 250 letters to homes and businesses within a set radius of the Rosemont-Wilsonville segment indicating informational meetings would be held in late September.
- **Sept. 5:** Based on customer communication preferences, PGE mailed postcards or emailed with meeting details to 731 homes and businesses within a one-mile radius of the Rosemont-Wilsonville segment.
- **Sept. 12:** Presentation to Stafford Hamlet, which shared the dates on their website.
- Media coverage with detailed meeting information posted in the Wilsonville Spokesman (**Sept. 2**), Lake Oswego Review (**Sept. 11**) and West Linn Tidings (**Sept. 12**).
- A banner with meeting information was posted on the Tonquin Project website.
- Meeting information was shared with individuals who contacted PGE through the website functionality, and it was posted on the website of the opposition group.

Attendance

Combined, both meetings attracted between 50-60 attendees. Attendance at the first meeting was more robust with 45-50 attendees while the second drew only 7 attendees. Attendees at the first meeting included some who opposed the project outright, while many others engaged with PGE to seek information and understanding. At the second meeting, people stopped at most stations to ask questions. Both meetings facilitated productive conversations about the project, planning, and impacts - including to individual property owners. PGE is following up with those who requested additional dialogue around easements and property impacts.

In addition to the questions and concerns documented below, 17 comment forms were submitted by participants. *See the full comment list in Appendix 2.*

Overall Feedback Themes

- Generally, attendees expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss the project with PGE staff and subject matter experts, although there were a small handful of attendees who expressed disappointment that PGE did not provide an introductory overview of the project.
- Many expressed relief that transmission poles and equipment would not include lattice towers and that poles would vary in size and be less impactful than they feared.
- Many expressed concerns about fire risks in general as a result of high-profile fires. Concerns also referenced the presence of higher voltage lines, and often included perceptions about fire response in the area.
- Many expressed upset about the amount of change this rural area is experiencing, including potential tolls, heavy traffic and high speeds, and a general sense that the area is bearing the brunt of regional growth.

- Still others expressed questions and concerns about the SW Stafford Road widening project and new traffic signals.



Station Questions, Concerns and Feedback

Station 1: Project Overview

- Why did you pick Stafford? What other routes were considered? Why not align the structures along I-205?
- Is this for future growth? Residential or commercial?
- Are photo simulations of current and proposed sites showing potential for tree removal, have they considered if easements or revisions may be reflected? Can PGE share clearance guidance?
- Many asked if the project required an opportunity for public input.
- "It looks like you are replacing the current poles. What is the protest about?"
- Why didn't PGE route down SW 65th Ave, which some people felt has fewer trees?
- Many were relieved that lattice towers would not be installed.
- At the first meeting, many questioned why PGE needed another connection between substations when each substation already had transmission connections. They also asked whether PGE could route to a different substation, such as Meridian.
- Will there be additional opportunities to influence the direction of the project?

Station #2: Engineering & Line Design

- How is PGE considering fire risk as part of project design? What safety considerations are made, and will this equipment increase risks?
- Will the structures fall if a car hits them? Can siding be added to locations where there are curves?
- How will this construction impact the traffic on SW Stafford Road? Did PGE consider that? Why can't this line be undergrounded, and what would be required if it was undergrounded?
- What do transmission lines do? How are they different from power lines?

- What will poles be made from?
- Will the lines be noisy?
- Will this impact human and animal health?
- Can poles be moved away from my driveway entrance?
- What will the poles look like on my property frontage?
- Will there be any down guy wires and/or anchors on my property?
- How was this route determined and were others identified prior to design?
- How long has PGE been working on this project?

Station #3: Right of Way and Easements

- Most property owners had questions about the easement area on their properties and were reassured upon learning that vegetation easements would enable vegetation management.
- Others wanted to understand what impact an easement might have on their use of their property adjacent to and within the easement.
- Some questioned how PGE calculated the dollar amount offered as compensation. PGE explained its method for calculating compensation.
- Some attendees wanted to talk about compensation for any change to property value resulting from PGE's equipment.

Station #4: Wildfire Mitigation & Resiliency

- Many were less interested in PGE's holistic wildfire mitigation strategy, and more interested in specific efforts pertaining to their area, regardless of its location inside or outside of PGE's identified High Risk Fire Zones
- How does PGE evaluate wildfire risk?
- What goes into that? What are qualifications?
- What is PGE doing to mitigate wildfires?
- How does PGE work with fire agencies?
- What can I do as an individual to protect against wildfire?
- Most of the concerns stemmed from the perspective that if an ignition occurred, they may experience significant delays in response time from local/county agencies.
- Are some pole materials more resilient against wildfires than others?
- Have you studied other locations with these transmission lines to assess whether the wildfire risk is indeed lower in other locations?

Station #5: Vegetation & Landscaping

- If a part of the tree, or the tree itself becomes hazardous, who's legally liable for trimming/removing trees under an easement, the landowner or PGE?
- How many trees will PGE be trimming and why?
- There was some confusion when easement requests were sent out as customers believed it meant all vegetation would be removed in the proposed area. Many

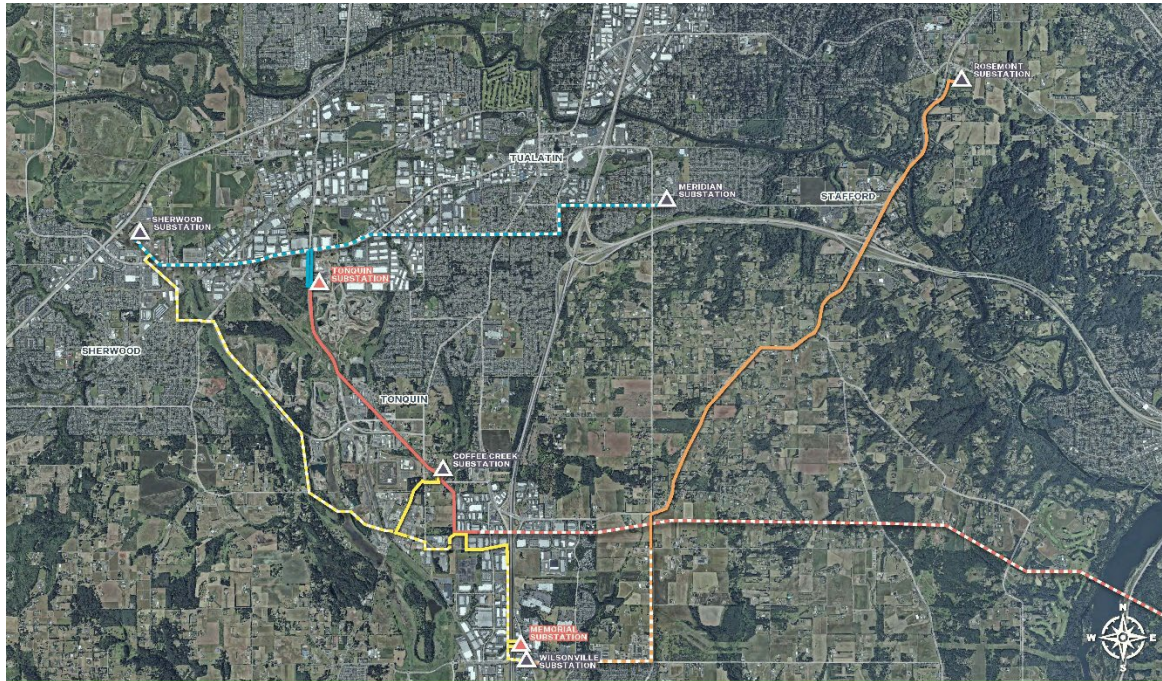
customers were reassured with an explanation of the concept of “right tree right place;” and in those instances, PGE scheduled follow-up meetings.

- How do you determine what will be restored by PGE?

Next Steps

PGE has contacted all individuals who requested follow-up. The [Tonquin Project website](#) will continue to be updated through the project’s full duration. Ways to submit feedback to PGE and/or ask questions remain available on the project website.

Appendix 1: Display Boards

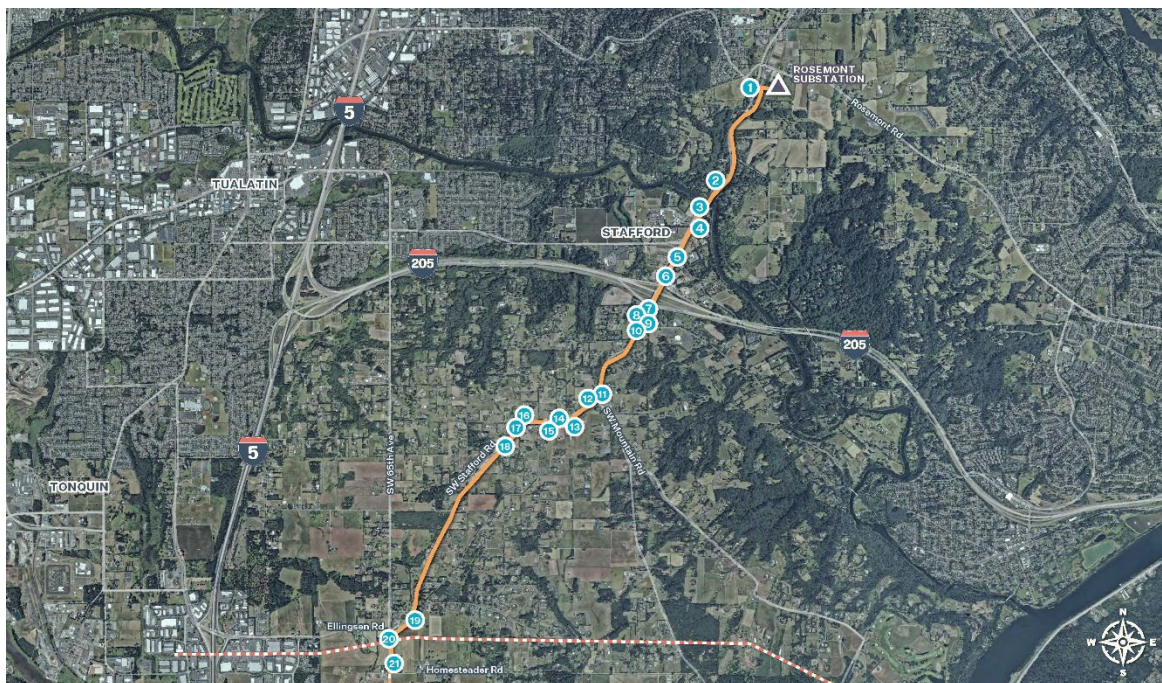


TONQUIN SUBSTATION PROJECT
PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Meridian - Sherwood Loop
- Sherwood - Wilsonville
- Rosemont - Wilsonville
- Existing Transmission Lines
- ▲ Existing Substation
- ▲ Proposed Substation



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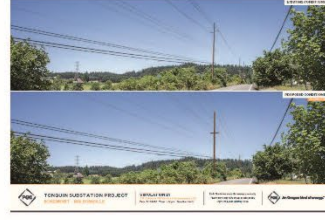
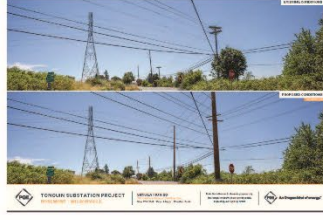
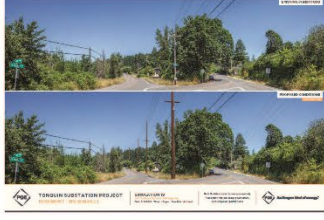
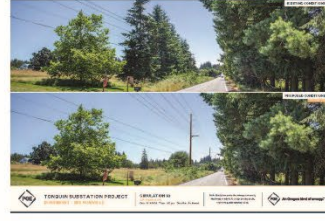
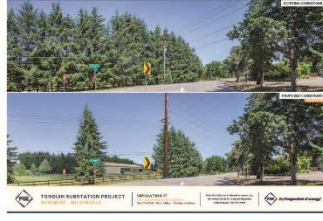
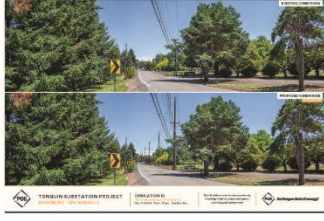
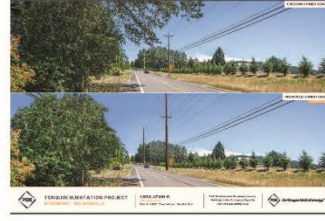
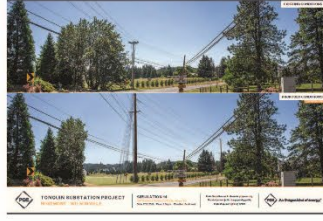
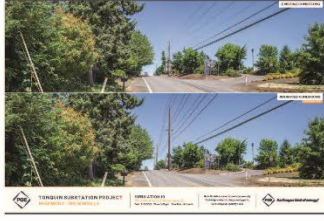
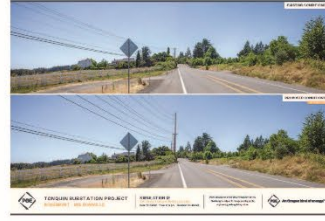
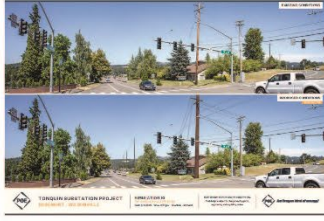
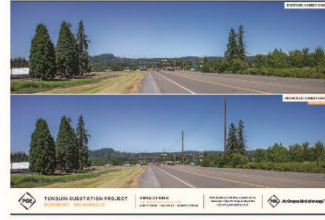
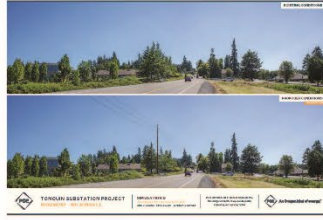
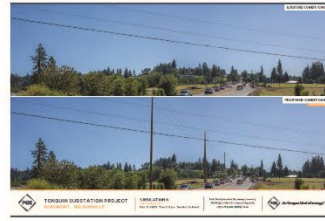
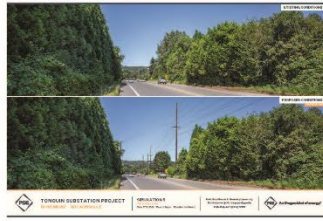
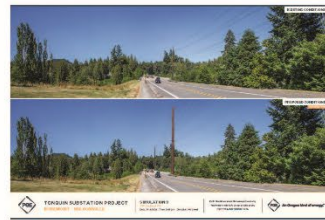
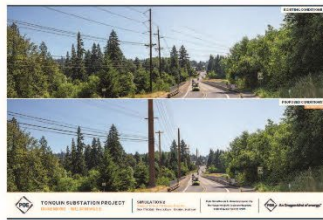
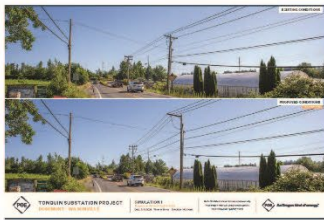
TONQUIN SUBSTATION PROJECT
PHOTO SIMULATIONS

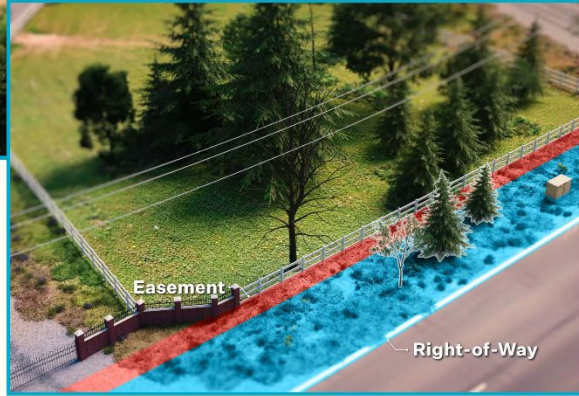
ROSEMONT WILSONVILLE

- Rosemont - Wilsonville
- Existing Transmission Lines
- Photo locations
- ▲ Existing Substations



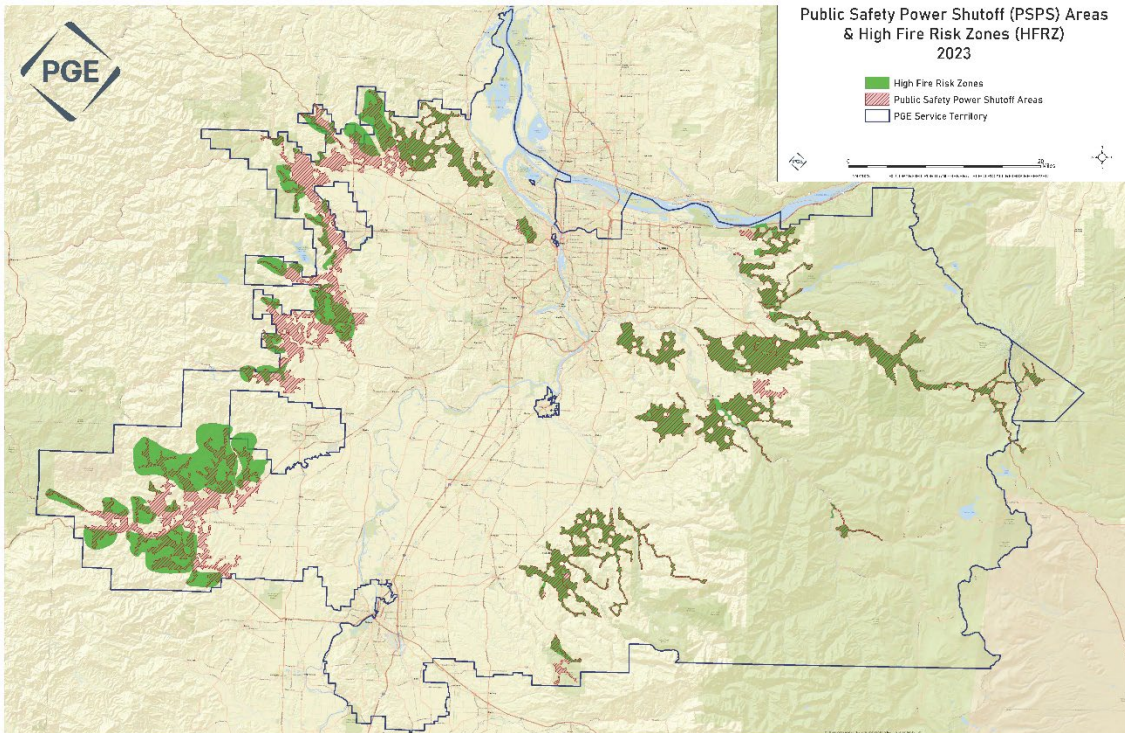
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TONQUIN SUBSTATION PROJECT
RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT

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How we prepare for wildfires

As Oregon becomes hotter and drier, we're working harder than ever to reduce the risk and impact of wildfires.



Our wildfire plan is designed to protect **people, property** and **natural environments**.

Design and construction

With smarter designs, select line equipment and upgrades, we can help reduce the risk of sparking and increase fire resiliency.

- Fire-resistant poles and cross arms and insulated tree wire
- Expanded line inspections
- Safety-adjusted equipment settings
- Enhanced remote monitoring
- Increased early alert systems

Tree and brush trimming

Our crews work year-round to keep trees, branches and brush clear of our lines by managing:

- 2.2 million trees
- 12,000 miles overhead power lines
- \$26 million annual budget



Our work is one part of the big picture.

Wildfire prevention takes all of us, which is why we work closely with a local, state and federal land and emergency management agencies.

Our wildfire preparation will continue to evolve.

As we plan for the future, we'll keep the customers and communities we serve at the heart of everything we do.

Visit partlandgeneral.com/wildfire to learn more about what we're doing to prepare.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

Turning off the power in **higher-risk areas** is a last-resort safety measure to help protect lives and property.



Wildfire season happens in the summer, but we do prevention work **all year long**.

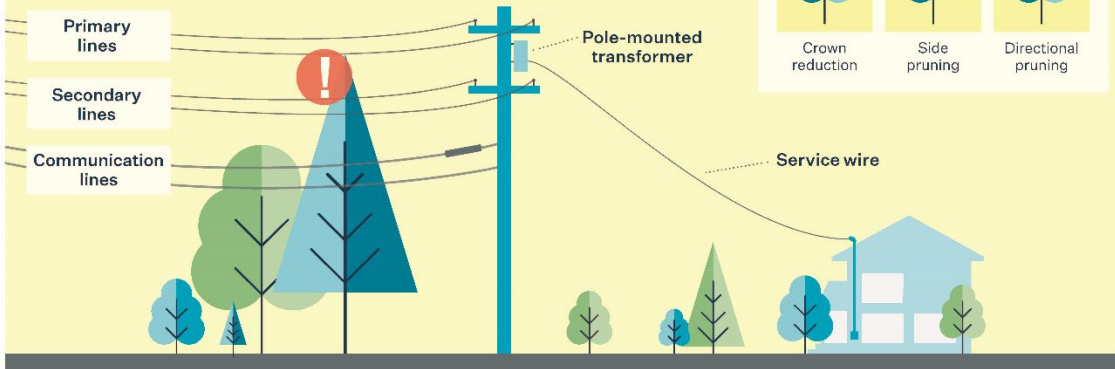
Risk assessments

Using the latest scientific data and risk modeling, we've identified areas that are at higher risk for a safety-related outage:

- Climate
- Geography
- Population
- Equipment

Utility pole 101

Depending on the neighborhood you live in, different types of overhead lines may be visible. Because of this, the methods of tree pruning will vary accordingly. Not all lines you see attached to utility poles are PGE power lines.



PGE power lines

1. Transmission lines

These are usually located on tall, metal towers that extend up to 180 feet into the air. They transport high-voltage electricity to large population centers and are a critical part of our infrastructure. Because of this, we maintain year-round clearances around these lines to reduce the likelihood of an outage occurring.

2. Primary distribution lines

These serve local neighborhoods and are typically located at the very top of power poles, above the pole-mounted transformer. When we prune, our crews will remove enough vegetation to maintain at least 10 feet of clearance around these lines.

3. Secondary distribution lines

Most often you'll find these on the same poles as the primary distribution lines, but below the pole-mounted transformer. These usually carry electricity directly to a building in conjunction with the service wire. If we see that branches are creating a strain on, or are abrading, these secondary lines, we'll prune them.

4. Service wires

These extend directly from the secondary distribution lines to the wall of a home or business. We ask for customers' help in maintaining clearances by not piling vegetation underneath and/or around these wires. If we find branches that are creating a strain on or abrading service wires, we'll prune them.

Appendix 2: Comment Form Submission

Below is an unabridged list of comments written by participants or recorded by staff during the community meetings. Names have been removed for privacy's sake.

1. Need property to reach out for site visit with forester and other PGE reps. (PGE spoke with him and his wife).
2. PGE spoke with property owners about the sequoias on their property. They would like someone to reevaluate the trees and follow up with them.
3. 2 trees - fir trees have been topped over the years. Would like the trees to stay if possible.
4. What trees will need to come out or be pruned for the project?
5. When are you scheduling a general information meeting?
6. One overall presentation would have been very beneficial to many of us. Even 20 minutes, then break up and go to specific areas. I had to wait over 15 minutes at 2 stations to talk to the person. Seems like this was manipulated so we couldn't really participate.
7. Trees that may have to come out between Johnson/Borland on Stafford Road?
8. How far in from my property line must I plant a giant sequoia to avoid getting it cut down?
9. I don't remember getting an easement letter.
10. 4 poles on property where easement requested. What trees need to be removed? From streetview images it just looks like scrub trees round poles will need to be cleared for construction.
11. What is the fire mitigation specification/technology package that we're planning to install specifically? Is it better than what's there now?
12. Talked with PGE about whether or not her trees would be removed or trimmed.
13. What happens to existing trees in the ROW?
14. Follow up with property owner. Her property has a new easement for the roundabout. Can PGE coordinate work? Trees to hide poles? She wants to talk to vegetation and forestry too.
15. Follow up with property owner to see if she has other follow-up thoughts. She is worried about health, fires, congestion, and property values. She's hiring an attorney. Frustrated that she had no say in the matter.
16. Would like to discuss easement and 2 old trees - alternatives.
17. Maple trees - is there potential for these trees to impact PGE lines? If so, her preference would be to have removed. A couple years ago County said it wouldn't be a problem for trees to remain.



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