



## Field work fact sheet

### Murden Cove — Winslow 115 kV transmission line project

As part of the Murden Cove – Winslow 115 kV transmission line project to improve electric reliability on Bainbridge Island, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is evaluating field conditions, including inventorying trees, wetlands and streams along the transmission line corridor. The goal of this effort is, in significant part, to minimize impacts to trees, critical areas, and waters to the extent practicable as we design this transmission line. We share the Bainbridge Island community's commitment to minimizing environmental impacts and will work to balance our obligation to provide safe, reliable, and efficient energy with retaining the wooded character of the community. Where impacts are unavoidable, PSE is committed to fully mitigating for those impacts as required under applicable laws and regulations.

#### Tree tagging

In September 2022, PSE consultants inventoried existing conditions along the proposed corridor by placing metal tags on trees. PSE's inventory will inform the project design and be used to develop permit documentation for the new transmission line. Consultants tag the trees with an identification number, and then document the size and species. At this time, PSE is creating an inventory of the trees, and the tagging does not indicate which trees will be trimmed or removed.

#### Tree trimming and removal

In siting transmission lines, PSE works to remove as few trees as practicable. We know that we will have to remove trees, trim limbs, and trim some lower growing vegetation to install the transmission line and ensure the safe and reliable operation of the line. PSE standards require the removal of trees that are incompatible with construction and operation of the transmission line.

PSE is a willing steward in the community and we are committed to replacing trees we remove during the transmission line construction. PSE will work with the City and property owners to determine appropriate restoration and tree replacement opportunities depending upon the specific conditions of each affected property. Anticipated tree removal will be provided as part of the project permit documentation submitted to the City.

#### Wetland and Stream Delineations

Wetland and stream delineations within the public road right-of-way are complete. Additional delineations may be needed in select locations as the project design progresses. If access to private property is required for this work, PSE will provide advance notification to the affected property owners. Delineations involve consultants hanging flags to document the boundaries of wetlands or location of streams within the transmission line corridor. Whether a wetland or stream may be impacted by the project will be determined as the design progresses and will be included in the permit documentation that will be submitted to the City.



▲ Tree tags

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Why is PSE tagging trees and delineating streams and wetlands?

Having an inventory of features in the current landscape will inform PSE's design and be used to develop permit documents for the Murden Cove – Winslow 115 kV transmission line.

### Does a tree tag mean a tree will be trimmed or removed?

No, not every tagged tree will be trimmed or removed. The tags assist PSE with inventorying and locating trees in the field.

### Does delineation of a wetland or stream mean it will be impacted by the project?

Delineations are used to inventory existing conditions in the field. This does not mean that the project will impact the wetland or stream delineated. Impacts will be determined based on project design and PSE will avoid or minimize impacts wherever possible.

### Does the tree tag and nail hurt the trees?

The tree tags and nails do not hurt the overall health of the trees. Typically, mature trees seal off the hole from a nail to prevent infection or disease. For small trees, crews may tie the tag to the main branch with a wire instead of using a nail.

### Can I remove the tree tag or delineation flags?

We ask that you please keep the tags and flags in place. This will assist crews with locating these features from field inventory through project construction.

### How does PSE consider trees for trimming/removal?

When looking at tree removal and trimming along the transmission line corridor, our experts will look at a variety of factors in comparison to the project design including how close the tree is to the line, tree species, the mature height of the tree, and whether the tree is in poor health.

### What is the Murden Cove – Winslow 115 kV transmission line project?

The new Murden Cove – Winslow 115 kV transmission line project will connect the Murden Cove and Winslow substations to a second transmission line to create a transmission loop between the three substations on Bainbridge Island. When in service, the loop will connect each substation to two transmission lines. If one line goes out, the other line will provide power to customers. This project is one component of PSE's hybrid solutions package to provide more, reliable power to Bainbridge Island.



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