

Purpose of checklist

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. **You may use “not applicable” or “does not apply” only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown.** You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to **all parts of your proposal**, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for lead agencies

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions (Part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in “Part B: Environmental Elements” that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

Background

[Find help answering background questions](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background)²

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

PSE VAS-22-23 Tree Wire Feeder Tie Tramp Harbor

2. Name of applicant:

Dylan Marcus, on behalf of Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

6500 Ursula Pl S | Seattle, WA 98108

(206) 716-2754 (office)

4. Date checklist prepared:

11/28/2023

5. Agency requesting checklist:

King County

6. Proposed timing of schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

PSE project work planned to occur starting in April 2024; construction will be scheduled as soon as required permits are approved and issued.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

The following reports have been prepared by GeoEngineers for this project:

- Wetland & Stream Critical Areas Report
- Geologic Hazards Evaluation Report
- Shoreline Restoration Plan

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

- King County Clearing & Grading permit with Critical Areas Review (associated with this checklist)
- King County Shoreline Substantial Development Permit

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

PSE is seeking a Clearing and Grading permit to allow for the replacement of existing conductors (power lines) along 87th Ave SW and Tramp Harbor Rd SW on Vashon Island. The existing conductors are at the end of their useful lifespan, and are being replaced with new conductors that are less likely to fail if they are struck by falling tree limbs. Consequently, this necessary circuit repair and maintenance work will allow PSE to continue serving its customers with safe and reliable power. Certain pole replacements, vault installations, and tree removals that are included in this project occur both outside of King County right-of-way and within critical areas that result in the need for coverage under a King County Clearing & Grading permit with Critical Areas review (KCC 16.82.051(B)). Because some of those pole replacements also occur on lands covered by water, categorical exemptions from SEPA for repair and maintenance and for utility activities are not applicable, and SEPA review is also required (WAC 197-11-800).

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

This project occurs on Vashon Island, along 87th Ave SW and Tramp Harbor Rd SW between SW Cemetery Rd and SW 216th St. However, only a portion of the project requires permitting and SEPA review.

Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions³](https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth)

a. General description of the site:

This project takes place in a rural residential area with single-family homes and associated driveways, landscaped vegetation, and mown grass yards. The upland areas of the site largely consist of road shoulder, gravel fill, and mown lawn, while some upland areas contain native vegetation (Douglas fir, Bigleaf Maple, red alder, and western red cedar, with typical native herbaceous understory vegetation).

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, **hilly**, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

75 to 90 percent slope adjacent to the project alignment.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

The Geologic Hazards Evaluation Report found the following soil types within the project alignment:

- Alderwood gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
- Alderwood gravelly sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Alderwood and Kitsap soils, very steep
- Coastal Beaches
- Everett very gravelly sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Everett-Alderwood gravelly sandy loams, 6 to 15 percent slopes
- Riverwash

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Neither indications of recent or historic landsliding or slope movement (bare soils; ground cracks; scarps; existing landslides; tilted, leaning, or bowed conifer trees; hummocky ground or leaning power poles and excessively tight power lines) nor recent or ongoing indications of erosion, surface water, or groundwater seepage at and adjacent to power poles were observed in the geologic hazard evaluation (see page 9 of the Geologic Hazard Evaluation Report).

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The permitted portion of this project will involve a total of approximately 259 cubic yards of grading (excavation + filling). Fill will include either excavated soils, appropriately sized and sourced gravel, or some combination of the two as is appropriate based on site conditions.

f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Temporary construction activities may result in erosion around pole removal/installation holes, around bore pits and/or trenches for underground cable installation, and around excavation for vault installations.

Although erosion could occur because of clearing, construction, or use in certain parts of the permitted project area, section 7.4 of the Geologic Hazard Analysis outlines Best Management Practices and Conditions that will be implemented in concert with the Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) Plan to mitigate potential erosion, sedimentation, and slope destabilization.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

There will be no net change to the existing coverage of the site with impervious surfaces as a result of the proposed project. All sites of excavation will be restored to previous condition when work is complete.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

Standard erosion control and best management practices, as well as any specific conditions proposed in the Geologic Hazards Evaluation Report and Temporary Erosion & Sediment Control (TESC) Plan, will be implemented during construction to reduce impacts to the earth.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions](#)⁴

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

There will be no ongoing emissions from the project once construction is complete. During construction, minor dust and exhaust from construction equipment could result and will be minimal and temporary.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Vehicles will meet required emission standards for their class.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions](#)⁵

a. Surface:

[Find help answering surface water questions](#)⁶

- 1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

Yes – surface water bodies occurring in the vicinity of the proposed project are listed below. Those water bodies are discussed in the Wetland & Stream Critical Areas Report and the Shoreline Restoration Plan produced by GeoEngineers.

- Puget Sound
- One fish-bearing (Type F) stream (Ellis Creek, 165-foot buffer)
- Four wetlands:
 - Offsite Wetland (Category III, 110-foot buffer)
 - Wetland A
 - Wetland B
 - Wetland C

- 2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

Yes – work occurring within 200 feet of the waters listed above is detailed in the Shoreline Restoration Plan and Wetland and Stream Critical Areas Reports. Site plans depicting the water bodies listed above and the proposed project work are attached (TESC Plan, figures in the Wetland & Stream Critical Areas Report, and figures in the Shoreline Restoration Plan).

- 3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

A total of two poles will be replaced/installed in wetland areas, resulting in roughly 1.6 cubic yards of grading in wetlands. Native soil will be used to the extent practicable as fill, and responsibly-sourced gravel will be utilized as needed to stabilize poles in wetlands.

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>

- 4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No.

- 5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

Yes – the 100-year floodplain is depicted on the attached TESC Plan.

- 6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

No.

b. Ground:

[Find help answering ground water questions](#)⁷

- 1. Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No – no groundwater will be withdrawn from a well and no water will be discharged to groundwater.

- 2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

No waste material will be discharged into the ground.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

- 1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

Stormwater runoff could occur along the project route at the site of excavations for pole removal and installation; boring and/or trenching for cable installation; and/or excavation for vault installation. Stormwater will be diverted away from the work site using standard BMPs and kept away from surface waters via BMPs, and it will flow from generally from west to east throughout most of the project area (where deviations from that flow direction occur, orientation of BMPs will be appropriately modified). In the event of inclement weather, stormwater could possibly migrate from the immediate site and enter ground or surface water.

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Yes – in the event of inclement weather, stormwater could possibly migrate from the immediate site and enter ground or surface water.

3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

BMPs and TESC measures will be used to control stormwater runoff based on the following:

- The attached TESC Plan;
- The conditions outlined in the attached reports; and
- Site and weather conditions at the time of construction.

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**
- shrubs**
- grass**
- pasture**
- crop or grain**
- orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.**
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other**
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other**
- other types of vegetation**

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

A total of 32 trees will be removed from critical areas and their buffers in the proposed project site. A number of other trees along the project alignment must be pruned or removed to provide adequate clearance from the power lines. Vegetation disturbance occurring in critical areas is outlined in the attached reports produced by GeoEngineers. A number of other trees will be removed from private properties outside of any critical areas, and those trees are depicted on the attached TESC plan.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be on or near the proposed project site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

As prescribed by the attached Shoreline Restoration Plan PSE will snag multiple larger trees that are to be removed so that they can continue to provide habitat value. PSE will also plant 13 native shrubs to ensure that there is still cover, shelter, and shoreline stabilization as a result of the project.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*).

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

- **Birds:** hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- **Mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- **Fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

Species known to be in the vicinity of the project area include:

- **Birds:** hawk, eagle, songbirds
- **Mammals:** squirrels, rabbits, voles, fox, raccoon, deer
- **Fish:** salmon, trout, herring, shellfish

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The portion of Puget Sound adjacent to the project area is listed on Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Priority Habitat and Species GIS as a Resident Coastal Cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarki*) migration area.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

PSE will apply BMPs as prescribed in the TESC Plan and three GeoEngineers reports to preserve habitat in the vicinity. PSE will also coordinate with its own internal avian protection specialists to ensure that impacts to avian habitat and known populations are minimized.

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

- e. **List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.**

None known.

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)⁹

- a. **What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.**

This project has no energy needs, but will provide energy needs to the surrounding residences.

- b. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

No.

- c. **What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.**

None are proposed; existing overhead electrical cables are proposed to be replaced with ones that are more resistant to falling tree limbs, thereby allowing PSE to provide more reliable electricity to the surrounding area.

7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)¹⁰

- a. **Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.**

No – normal operation and replacement of electrical cables will not result in any environmental health hazards.

1. **Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.**

Washington Department of Ecology's Water Quality Atlas indicates that the portion of Puget Sound adjacent to the proposed project site is listed as a Category 1 water; and that the soils in the proposed project area may have arsenic concentrations between 40.1 ppm to 100 ppm (northern project area) or may be over 100 ppm (southern project area) as a result of the Tacoma Smelter Plume.

2. **Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.**

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>

None known.

- 3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.**

No toxic or hazardous chemicals will be stored, used, or produced.

- 4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

No special emergency services will be required. In the unlikely event that an electrical cable is damaged, normal response procedures will be followed.

- 5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**

The proposed electrical cables will be constructed according to applicable federal and state standards, as well as PSE's operating standards.

b. Noise

- 1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

None.

- 2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?**

There will be short term noise generated by construction vehicles and equipment. Once the project is complete, no noise will be generated.

- 3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

Construction will be limited to permitted daytime hours only. Construction equipment will have muffled exhaust systems.

8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)¹¹

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

The majority of the proposed project will occur in King County road rights-of-way. Adjacent properties are generally rural single-family residential uses, zoned either RA-2.5, RA-5, or RA-10. A portion of the project (the primary area in which the proposed work overlaps with critical areas) crosses the eastern end of Ellis Creek Natural Area (still RA-5 zone, but the natural area is owned by King County and hosts no dwelling units). The project will not affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance**

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

None of the proposed project site has been used as working farm or forest lands.

- 1. Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?**

No, not applicable.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

Structures on the properties adjacent to the project alignment include single-family homes, garages, storage sheds, and residential driveways.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**

No.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

RA-2.5, RA-5, and RA-10.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**

Rural area 2.5-10 ac/du

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

The project alignment passes through a part of Puget Sound shoreline jurisdiction designated primarily as Rural Shoreline, with two small (approximately 50-foot long each) patches of Conservancy and Natural Shoreline designations.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.**

Yes – portions of the project alignment pass through or adjacent to areas classified as critical areas (erosion hazard areas, potential steep slope hazard areas, streams, and wetlands). Detailed investigation by GeoEngineers of the potential critical areas in the vicinity of the proposed project site is articulated in the three reports that are attached, which also contain figures showing the actual location of any critical areas that were found.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**

The completed reductoring (rewiring) project services the existing single-family residences and the general area surrounding the proposed project.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**

None.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.**

Not applicable.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.

The proposed overhead electric conductor maintenance will be like-kind replacement, with minor deviations from the current alignment of the existing corridor. The result will be compatible with existing and projected land uses.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Not applicable.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The tallest poles installed will be approximately 43 feet above existing grade. Poles will be made of either wood, fiberglass, or an appropriate alternative.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

No views in the vicinity of the proposed project will be altered, as the general appearance of the existing electric corridor will remain the same.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

- a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

None.

- b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

No.

- c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

None.

- d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

Not applicable.

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

- a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

Tramp Harbor Park provides public access to Puget Sound, and is just east of the project. Ellis Creek Natural Area is traversed by the project alignment.

- b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

No.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:**

Not applicable.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)¹⁵

- a. **Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.**

The proposed PSE Vashon project proposes to replace existing power lines along 87th Ave SW and Tramp Harbor Rd SW on Vashon Island. A records search undertaken to determine if any buildings, structures or sites are located within the project area or nearby used the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) as well as historical maps and

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

aerial photographs available through on-line search tools. In addition, review of the King County Historic Preservation database and PSE Archives was completed. According to WISAARD and King County Historic Property Inventory databases, two properties (i.e. historic buildings and/or structures aged at least 45 years old) have been recorded in the pole replacement alignment an additional twenty-one have been previously recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the pole replacement alignment (Table 1). Based on the nature of the work proposed, neither property within the alignment will be impacted by the project.

Table 1. Properties previously recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE.

| PROPERTY ID | COMMON NAME | ADDRESS | NRHP ELIGIBILITY | DISTANCE FROM ALIGNMENT |
|-------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|
| 104661 | Furbush House | 21034 Tramp Harbor Rd SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | Within alignment |
| 104663 | Fuller House | 8518 SW Ellisport Rd, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | Within alignment |
| 104659 | Berry House | 21324 Tramp Harbor Rd SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 150 feet |
| 104660 | Chicken House / Schrader Residence | 21314 Tramp Harbor Rd SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 150 feet |
| 51097 | No Data | 21432 Tramp Harbor Rd SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 250 feet |
| 104658 | Graham House | 21524 Tramp Harbor Rd SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 250 feet |
| 51093 | No Data | 21705 Highland Ave SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 400 feet |
| 51098 | No Data | 21701 Highland Ave SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 400 feet |
| 51102 | Dockton Road Seawall | Vashon, WA | Not Evaluated | 450 feet |
| 51099 | No Data | 21713 Highland Ave SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.1 mile |
| 51089 | No Data | 21727 Highland Ave SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.12 mile |

| PROPERTY ID | COMMON NAME | ADDRESS | NRHP ELIGIBILITY | DISTANCE FROM ALIGNMENT |
|-------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|
| 38759 | Van Olinda's Store and Post Office | 21931 Dockton Rd SW | Not Evaluated | 0.22 mile |
| 104657 | Charles F. Van Olinda House | 8222 SW Quartermaster Dr, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.27 mile |
| 104662 | Maggie S. Van Olinda House | 22006 Portage Way SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.26 mile |
| 38829 | Schwartz, B. I., House | 20233 81st Ave SW | Not Evaluated | 0.31 mile |
| 51092 | 8430 SW Quartermaster Dr | 8430 SW Quartermaster Dr, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.32 mile |
| 51090 | 8620 SW Quartermaster Dr | 8620 SW Quartermaster Dr, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.37 mile |
| 51095 | 8708 SW Quartermaster Dr | 8708 SW Quartermaster Dr, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.38 mile |
| 51091 | 8624 SW Quartermaster Dr | 8624 SW Quartermaster Dr, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.40 mile |
| 51096 | 8712 SW Quartermaster Dr | 8712 SW Quartermaster Dr, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.40 mile |
| 38865 | KVI Transmitter | 7810 SW 204th St | Not Evaluated | 0.44 mile |
| 38863 | Mattson Summer House | 22403 Dockton Rd SW, Vashon, WA 98070 | Not Evaluated | 0.48 mile |
| 38866 | No Data | 20255 77th PL SW | Not Evaluated | 0.48 mile |

No registered properties (i.e. properties that have been listed on the Washington Heritage Register [WHR], the Washington Heritage Barn Register [WHBR], or the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) have been documented in the pole replacement alignment or within 0.5 mile.

No heritage corridors are within the pole replacement alignment. The Dockton Road Heritage Corridor, designated as a King County Community Landmark, is adjacent to the alignment, but will not be impacted by the project (King County Historic Preservation Viewer 2023).

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

According to WISAARD, since 1995, two cultural resource studies have been conducted within and adjacent to the pole replacement alignment (Table 2), and one other has been conducted within 300 feet. Northwest Archaeological Associates (NAA) conducted a cultural resource survey that identified one a precontact shell midden (45KI784) and one historic-aged property recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP (Taylor et al. 2010). Neither resource will be affected by the pole replacement project.

Table 2. Cultural resource studies previously conducted within a 0.5-mile radius of the pole replacement alignment.

| NADB | AUTHOR (DATE) | TITLE | DISTANCE FROM ALIGNMENT |
|---------|----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1354265 | Taylor et al. (2010) | Cultural Resources Assessment of the Dockton Road Preservation Project, Vashon Island, King County, Washington | Within |
| 1349334 | White (2007) | Letter to Laird O'Rollins RE: Ellis Creek Estuary Restoration Project | Within |
| 1351375 | Demuth et al. (2006) | King County Vashon Island Seawall Repair Project | 300 feet |
| 1351193 | Taylor (2007) | The Vashon Island Archaeology Project, Summer-Fall 2007, Parcel /3 822039093 | 0.27 mile |

No archaeological sites have been identified in the pole replacement alignment. Three archaeological sites have been identified near the alignment. The closest is located 750 feet from the alignment (45KI746), an isolated projectile point.

Table 3. Archaeological sites previously recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE.

| SMITHSONIAN | FINDINGS | NRHP ELIGIBILITY | DISTANCE FROM ALIGNMENT |
|-------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| 45KI746 | Precontact isolate projectile point | Not Evaluated | 750 feet |
| 45KI784 | Portage shell midden, precontact, human remains | Not Evaluated | 0.25 mile |
| 45KI747 | Quartermaster harbor-1, pre-contact lithic scatter and possible village site, basalt lithic scatter, shell midden | Not Evaluated | 0.34 mile |

No cemeteries (or burials or funerary items) have been previously recorded in the alignment. One cemetery has been identified within a 0.5-mile radius of, the pole replacement alignment.

Table 4. Cemetery sites previously recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE.

| SMITHSONIAN | FINDINGS | DISTANCE FROM ALIGNMENT |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| 45KI784 | Van Olinda Store human skeletal remains | 0.24 mile |

No Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) have been previously recorded in, or within a one-mile radius of, the APE.

According to WISAARD the APE is located in a high to moderately high variable-probability area for cultural resources, with the highest probability estimated at the Ellis Creek Natural Area.

Harlan Smith began his exploration of the Puget Sound in 1899, recording large shell middens on Burton Peninsula, on the shores of Quartermaster Harbor, and on the Quartermaster side of Portage Bay all south of the project area. Smith described numerous projectile points, bone tools, and groundstone tools found on Vashon Island.

Based on Smith’s work, E.O. Roberts (1930) surveyed and tested archaeological sites along the shoreline of Quartermaster Harbor in 1919 and 1920. He recorded the location, extent, and contents of 22 large shell middens. Roberts also reported that a homesteader at the Portage in the late 1800s noted a system of “Indian trails” all over the islands.

Ethnographies of the southern Puget Sound region include those of Arthur C. Ballard (1929), Thomas.T. Waterman (Waterman 1920, 2001), and Marian Wesley Smith (1940). Ballard’s work centered on narratives from his interviews with native peoples from King and Pierce counties from 1916-1929 as part of an independent research effort to document native cultures of the Puget Sound. Waterman aided Ballard in his research. Waterman’s ethnographic research in this region took place while he taught at the University of Washington from 1918 to 1920. He traveled throughout the Northwest plotting locations of houses and canoes and recording geographic place names in the traditional Lushootseed language. Intrigued by Waterman’s work and the writings of other Northwest Coast anthropologists including her mentor Franz Boas, Marian Wesley Smith (1940) published an account of her observations of southern Puget Sound tribes who she referred to as the “Puyallup-Nisqually.” The fieldwork for the book was funded by a grant from Columbia University and was completed in 1935. Smith wrote about culture and traditions based on the memories of informants who were 68 to 80 years old.

More recently, several potential archaeological sites were identified based on information from Vashon community members at the public excavation at Burton Acres Shell Midden in 1996 run collaboratively by the Burke Museum, University of Washington, King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Vashon Park District, and McMurray Middle School. In 2007, Amanda Taylor prepared a report for King County Road Services Division in anticipation of seawall repairs and roadwork to be conducted. This fieldwork attempted to locate or relocate archaeological materials and sites identified by previous work in the area including work by TT Waterman among others. While many sites were impacted by erosion and development, the study recommended further work in several areas south of the project area (Taylor 2007).

TT Waterman recorded three place names within the vicinity of the project area. One near Portage, south of the project; one near Point Heyer, to the east of the project; and one near Point Beals, to the north of the project.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

PSE archaeologists completed a literature review for the project area. This included a search of the WISAARD database for all cultural resource assessment reports, archaeological records, General Land Office maps, probability data, cemetery data, and historic property inventory records data within 0.5 mile of the project site. A review of the King County Historic Preservation Viewer was completed.

The PSE Archaeologist also conducted a review of the PSE Library and Archives for relevant information related to this project. This includes ethnographic literature in the form of manuscripts, reports, books, and documents as well as Kroll Map Books and other PSE company-related materials relevant to this area.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Due to the likelihood of encountering archaeological materials in portions of the proposed project corridor, PSE archaeologist conducted a field survey of the area to determine if project work would affect archaeological materials. Between September 12 and September 14, 2023, ten shovel probes were excavated in probable areas and a pedestrian survey was conducted throughout the project corridor. Many poles were inaccessible due to heavy vegetation from trees or bushes, or difficult terrain. PSE also contacted the following Tribes prior to fieldwork to determine if any more information could inform methods for fieldwork:

- Suquamish Indian tribe
- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Puyallup Indian Tribe
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Tulalip Indian Tribe
- Squaxin Indian Tribe

The Suquamish Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) responded and referenced the TT Waterman study place names, but stated that the Tribe did not have historic or ethnographic information specifically referencing the project locality.

Fieldwork resulted in the location of one archaeological site consisting of a charcoals lens, fire cracked rock and shell materials. The site is located approximately 6 feet from a pole replacement location. Large trees around the pole prevented further testing of the area. PSE proposes to do a same-hole replacement of the pole and have a professional archaeologist monitor work. Any archaeological materials observed during pole replacement will trigger the

PSE Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) and PSE will stop work. The archaeologist will notify DAHP and Tribes before work continues. An archaeological permit may be required at this time.

PSE archaeologists will also prepare an Inadvertent Discovery Plan and implement it in accordance with applicable regulations, including RCW 68.60, RCW 27.44, and RCW 68.50.

PSE is in the process of drafting the cultural resource assessment report and site record. PSE plans to submit to DAHP and Tribes in first quarter of 2024. Based upon recommendations and comments of these parties further work or mitigation may be required.

14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)¹⁶

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

The project occurs along 87th Ave SW, SW Ellisport Rd, Dockton Rd SW, and Tramp Harbor Rd SW. No changes to access are proposed as a part of this project.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

King County Metro's 118/119 bus route has a stop just east of the project site, next to the pull off for Tramp Harbor.

- c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

No.

- d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

No.

- e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

None.

- f. Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.**

No.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

Not applicable.

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions¹⁷](#)

- a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

No.

- b. **Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

No.

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

- a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:**

Note: the electric utility is the one of primary concern for this project, as it revolves around power pole and conductor replacement.

- b. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

This project is proposed by PSE so that the utility can replace its existing electric conductors with ones that will provide more reliable power to customers.

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

Signature

[Find help about who should sign](#)¹⁹

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

X *Dylan Marcus*

Type name of signee: Dylan Marcus

Position and agency/organization: Associate Municipal Land Planner / Puget Sound Energy

Date submitted: 12/22/2023

Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet](#)²⁰

Do not use this section for project actions.

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:**

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-d-non-project-actions>

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

- **Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:**

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

- **Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.