

Citizens for Sane Eastside Energy (CSEE)

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May 23, 2017

Ms. Heidi Bedwell
Energize Eastside EIS Program Manager
City of Bellevue Development Services Dept.
450 110th Ave. NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

submitted in person at Hazen High School public meeting

Re: Additional Comment regarding Energize Eastside Phase 2 Draft EIS

Yesterday I submitted by email on behalf of CSEE two documents to be included in the public comments record regarding the Energize Eastside Phase 2 Draft EIS. One of those is a print-out of the text at <https://sane-eastside-energy.org/2017/05/21/four-big-lies-in-ps-es-hard-sell-of-energize-eastside-project/>. There I state *inter alia*: “Several emails produced by the City of Bellevue to CSEE under public records requests indicate the relationship between PSE, the City of Bellevue and the EIS consultants is far too cozy.” Further, “the writers of the Phase 2 draft EIS appear to have bought hook, line and sinker the PSE’s lies about how hard [PSE] supposedly worked to get cooperation from SCL, and how supposedly insurmountable such a task would be... We hope the EIS consultants do a better job and do their own homework on this SCL lines alternative rather than simply rely on whatever PSE tells them.”

Included in the several emails mentioned above is Attachment A hereto, from City of Bellevue’s Nicholas Matz to Chris Salomone, dated May 19, 2014, with subject header, “FW: Mayor’s Meeting Notes.” The email contains this language: “Energize Eastside: * Tonights [sic] objective is buy-off on plan.” That statement alone raises legitimate concerns about the City of Bellevue’s ability to serve as an objective and impartial Lead Agency in the EIS process. Other emails produced through public records requests add to a body of evidence that the City of Bellevue’s staff is unduly influenced by and clearly biased in PSE’s favor.

More important than the substance of the EIS document is the integrity of the EIS process itself. If that process is corrupted than any report resulting from it will be inherently worthless. PSE has had unlimited access to COB employees working on Energize Eastside, while CENSE and CSEE are limited to rushed sound bites at a handful of public occasions. Their pleas for total transparency and disclosure of basic data inputs for load flow studies PSE relies on to justify Energize Eastside fall on the deaf ears in Bellevue. Our experts are given not even 1% of the hearing time and access that PSE gets. For example, despite the many legitimate criticisms of Energize Eastside by former Puget Power Vice President for Power Planing, Richard Lauckhart,

and the independent flow studies he performed with Mr. Schiffman, *COB staff and the EIS consultants have never contacted him* to discuss his concerns. Indeed, COB staff and the Bellevue City Council have been consistently and remarkably incurious about why Lauckhart and CENSE (on flow studies and several other key issues) never get any straight answers or relevant information from PSE, which as stakeholders they are entitled to.

The entire EIS process to this point is reminiscent of how the SEC was asleep at the wheel for years while Bernie Madoff bilked investors of some \$65 billion with his giant Ponzi scheme, even though for most of those years financial experts were screaming at the SEC to investigate. The SEC dropped the ball, apparently thinking Madoff was somehow beyond reproach. The City of Bellevue is following down that same path with PSE.

Some other entity other than the City of Bellevue needs to be in charge of the EIS process if the EIS is to have any integrity and credibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry G. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Larry G. Johnson
Attorney at Law, WSBA #5682
Citizens for Sane Eastside Energy (CSEE)

cc: CENSE

From: Matz, Nicholas
Sent time: 05/19/2014 10:06:22 AM
To: Salomone, Chris
Subject: FW: Mayor's Meeting notes

From: Basich, Myrna
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Brennan, Mike; Helland, Carol; Matz, Nicholas; McCormick-Huentelman, Mike
Subject: Mayor's Meeting notes

Energize Eastside: • Tonights objective is buy-off on plan. • Be prepared to describe Essential Public Facility tonight, but may be more appropriate to discuss as part of regulatory discussion later in the process. • Will WUTC and Seattle Public Utilities come to our meeting? Please strongly encourage. • Alert Council when Energize Eastside (from City perspective) web page is published. • Re: Attachment A, this is the public engagement process not the decision-making process. Provide reminder of Council role on return visit. Public needs to understand how gets from talking to decision. • Make sure PSE prepared to show homework. • Start with public process piece and then invite PSE reps to table. PowerPoint PSE representatives will be at table. Please reserve seating in front row for them likely 3 spots. May need room opened up to 1E-108 Confirm that audio system has been remedied Schedule more regular updates to Council on this project going forward.

Attachment A

Mayor's Meeting – May 19, 2014

Confidential

General administration	
Item(s)	Assignments
Figure out how to provide PowerPoints to Council to view on personal laptops during Council meetings. (provide to Claudia for her Surface) How will this affect use of Granicus for agenda/packet?	
Remind Council to be mindful of tight agenda through Recess. Be aware if missing meetings that may not be able to work around specific topics.	
New Initiatives/Issues discussed	
Item(s)	Assignments
Tonight's agenda	Assignments
Item(s)	Assignments
Executive Session	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energize Eastside: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonight's objective is buy-off on plan. • Be prepared to describe Essential Public Facility tonight, but may be more appropriate to discuss as part of "regulatory" discussion later in the process. • Will WUTC and Seattle Public Utilities come to our meeting? Please strongly encourage. • Alert Council when Energize Eastside (from City perspective) web page is published. • Re: Attachment A, this is the public engagement process - not the decision-making process. Provide reminder of Council role on return visit. Public needs to understand how gets from talking to decision. • Make sure PSE prepared to show homework. • Start with public process piece and then invite PSE reps to table. 	<p>PowerPoint</p> <p>PSE representatives will be at table. Please reserve seating in front row for them – likely 3 spots.</p> <p>May need room opened up to 1E-108</p> <p>Confirm that audio system has been remedied</p> <p>Schedule more regular updates to Council on this project going forward.</p>
Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility:	PowerPoint/Desk Packet item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to be tee'd up with questions to pose tonight. They will be emailed later today and provided in Desk Packet. Encourage ST be mindful of short timeframe for some construction decisions. • Focus on slides relating to the ST2 Operating plan, now and beyond ST2. Explain how trains actually travel for service and constraints on the operations. • Send email to Betty Spieth reminding on agenda tonight. • Note significant contribution to regional transportation by siting of Metro bus and OMSF in prime TOD area. 	<p>ST representatives will be at table. Please reserve seating in front row for them – likely 3 spots.</p> <p>Provide feedback to ST – need "best presenter". Talk to Rick I.</p>
PACE MOU:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted Cmbr Chelminiak concern re: "will" v. "may" language, particularly page 3 discussion of City role. • Would have been better for City Council to have seen this before PACE Board signed the MOU. 	Print out copies of MOU for Desk Packet tonight.

General administration	
Item(s)	Assignments
Figure out how to provide PowerPoint(s) to Council to view on personal laptops during Council meetings. (provide to Claudia for her Surface) How will this affect use of Granicus for agenda/packet?	
Remind Council to be mindful of tight agenda through Recess. Be aware if missing meetings that may not be able to work around specific topics.	
Council Vision and Priorities: Claudia will introduce/lead the discussion. Action may be postponed if Councilmembers present wish to wait for return of missing members.	
Prepare memo for Human Services Commission appointments.	Desk Packet tonight
Future Meetings/Calendaring	
Recreational Marijuana	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has sufficient direction been provided to Planning Commission? How is mixed-use zoning implicated in "no residential zones"? • Important for staff and Stokes to be aware that have given direction in form of draft ordinance. Not expecting major changes. 	