

Alaskan Way Viaduct 12-inch high pressure natural gas main relocation project

Fact sheet
PSE.com
Summer 2012

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Project background

In conjunction with Washington State Department of Transportation's Alaskan Way Viaduct project, Puget Sound Energy plans to relocate approximately 2,500 feet of existing 12-inch high pressure natural gas pipeline in the Pioneer Square area.

In summer 2013, the Alaskan Way Viaduct will be removed and replaced with a bored tunnel. PSE's existing 12-inch natural gas main, which brings natural gas service to all customers in the greater Seattle area, is currently located underneath the Viaduct and above the proposed deep bore tunnel. Just as I-5 is the main freeway moving traffic through the city, PSE's 12-inch high pressure natural gas main is the key pipeline bringing natural gas to the Seattle area.

Need for project

It is PSE's top priority to maintain the safety and reliability of our natural gas system. The existing natural gas main, in its current location, is at risk from potential ground settlement related to the construction of the deep bore tunnel. To maintain the safety and reliability of this essential natural gas pipeline, the pipeline must be relocated. The relocation project will protect the integrity of the pipeline during and after tunnel construction.

New pipeline route

We are currently in the route selection phase for the natural gas pipeline relocation project. Multiple route options have been researched and considered. We have narrowed down and identified two possible route options for the pipeline (see map below).

- Option 1 (green line): From Main Street via Occidental Avenue South, Yesler Way and Western Avenue to Madison Street
- Option 2 (red line): From Main Street via First Avenue South, Yesler Way and Western Avenue to Madison Street

We would like feedback from the Pioneer Square community on the two route options, with the goal of selecting a route that will minimize impacts to the neighborhood as much as possible.



Project timeline

The natural gas main relocation project must be completed before the start of tunnel construction, which is currently scheduled for June 2013. Additionally, we plan to avoid construction during the summer and holiday construction moratoriums in the Pioneer Square neighborhood. While timing is dependent upon permitting, below is our estimated project timeline.

- **Summer 2012:** PSE initiates public outreach and incorporates public comments into the preliminary design
- **Summer/fall 2012:** Final design and environmental review and permitting
- **Fall 2012:** Start construction
(Note: Construction will not occur during the summer high season and will cease during the holiday moratorium in December)
- **Early 2013:** Complete construction

Construction activities

Construction activities will include open trenching in the roadway, installation of new 12-inch natural gas pipeline and associated equipment, backfilling the trench, and paving. Once the new pipeline is installed, we will decommission the existing pipeline before construction begins on the deep bore tunnel in June 2013. At every step along the way we will work to keep the community informed of the project's progress.

Minimizing neighborhood impacts

We recognize that Pioneer Square has seen its share of construction projects, so it is our goal to minimize our construction impacts as much as possible. We will be working with residents and businesses in the neighborhood, as well as coordinating closely with other agencies working in the area, to decrease local impacts as much as possible. While our construction plan is dependent upon permitting, it will likely include some night work to minimize traffic impacts, parking mitigation to offset lost parking, and multiple crews to expedite the work as much as possible.

PSE's commitment

PSE's mission is to deliver vital energy to meet the needs of our customers now and in the future. We are committed to keeping everyone informed of scheduled activities in their communities, and to ask for suggestions and opinions as we plan those activities.

For additional information/questions, please visit our project Web page at PSE.com/Viaduct or contact:

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