

**From:** [Cathy Beam](#)  
**To:** [K. Sylv.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on LAND-2020-00198  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:29:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Dear Ms. Sylvester,

Thank you for your patience while PSE looked into addressing your additional questions.

Industry standard noise information for 115kV lines was provided by PSE's noise consultant. The anticipated noise produced is less than 25 dBA, which is why it was stated previously that the noise is expected to be less than that experienced in a library.

The substation contains both 115 kV and 230 kV equipment. The dBA levels vary depending on a number of conditions (e.g. electric system configuration, customer energy usage, weather/temperature), so the exact dBA levels for the equipment within the substation near your property can vary. PSE is assuming that you meant transformer as opposed to transducer, and therefore the following example. The manufacturer's guaranteed maximum noise level for one of the two 230kV existing transformers is 70 dB (at 60 Hz) at 6 feet; therefore, at 500 feet away the calculated noise level would be approximately 32 dB. Again, this is the maximum noise level provided by the manufacturer and would only occur under certain conditions. The other existing substation equipment including switches and breakers, create a negligible amount of noise, which is not audible outside the substation. The new transmission line and associated substation equipment will not noticeably increase the noise. PSE will not be adding a transformer as part of the Sammamish-Juanita project. Lastly, there are many sources of ambient noise, including traffic, mechanical equipment and air conditioning units, deliveries, and other business activities that emanate from the commercial/industrial area west of Willows Road NE in the general vicinity of the substation. However, the substation is not a significant source of that noise today, and will not be in the future.

This project is required to meet the City's adopted noise regulations. You may contact one of the City's Code Enforcement Officers should you believe noise levels have exceeded City regulations once built.

Sincerely,



Cathy Beam, AICP  
Principal Planner | Planning and Community Development  
☎: 425.556.2429 | ✉: [cbeam@redmond.gov](mailto:cbeam@redmond.gov) | [Redmond.gov](http://Redmond.gov)  
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### COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATION REGARDING CITY HALL

Out of an abundance of caution and in accordance with the King County Public Health guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Redmond City Hall will be closed through July 1, 2020. I will be available through email during this time.

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**From:** K. Sylv. <[ksylv@hotmail.com](mailto:ksylv@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 8:10 AM  
**To:** Cathy Beam <[CBEAM@REDMOND.GOV](mailto:CBEAM@REDMOND.GOV)>  
**Subject:** Re: Public comment on LAND-2020-00198

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Hi Ms. Beam,

Thank you for your response to my questions. You provided some very interesting details and I appreciate the time you took in gathering the historical information about the fire at the Sammamish substation. I do hope we never have another large fire incident as it is disconcerting that we will have to wait hours for an airport crash truck to arrive to put out an electrical fire of this magnitude.

I still have concerns and additional questions regarding the noise from the substation once the construction is completed. We do currently hear the noise from the existing substation so any increase will be noticed.

- 1) I would like to know your source of information on the 25 dBA for transmission lines?
- 2) What about the transducers and/or circuit breakers at the substation or any other mechanical equipment? What dBA levels are they spec to produce?
- 3) How many existing transducers are there at the substation and how many additional ones will be added? What is the cumulative dBA levels of all transducers, power lines and any other equipment **AND what will be the projected total of dBA levels after project completion?** I do not know the algorithm as it probably is not just a simple addition problem.

600 feet may seem a long distance on paper but sound carries far from the valley to our uphill neighborhoods with no hardscape barriers between the substation and our homes. There is barely any softscape barriers such as trees etc to absorb the noise between the line of sight

from substation to our street, 142nd Ave NE. The Willows Park which does provide lots of trees does not seem to deaden the noise much either as had been measured by a hired professional sound engineer. There are concrete buildings to the East and South East of the substation which also reflect the noise back up. These businesses also provide their own source of noise at a different wavelength frequency.

These mechanical noise operating 24/7 daily is noticeable and aggravating. Unfortunately, dB levels is the only criteria used in code compliance and not quality of noise. Street traffic is way more tolerable and variable than constant mechanical noise from the substation or HVAC systems from the business park. Many of my neighbors have complained about it over the years. One even went so far as to hire a professional sound engineer about four years ago to measure it at various locations and she was just addressing the power line noise.

If after all is said and done if the nighttime measurements are not code compliant what is our course of action?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Karen Sylvester

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**From:** Cathy Beam <[CBEAM@REDMOND.GOV](mailto:CBEAM@REDMOND.GOV)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 1:59 PM  
**To:** K. Sylv. <[ksylv@hotmail.com](mailto:ksylv@hotmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Kriner, Kerry (<[Kerry.Kriner@pse.com](mailto:Kerry.Kriner@pse.com)> <[Kerry.Kriner@pse.com](mailto:Kerry.Kriner@pse.com)>); Scott Turner <[STURNER@REDMOND.GOV](mailto:STURNER@REDMOND.GOV)>  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on LAND-2020-00198

Dear Ms. Sylvester,

Thank you for your patience as I sought out input from both the Redmond Fire Department and Puget Sound Energy in response to your comments below.

With respect to your first comment concerning noise. The Sammamish Substation is located more than 600 feet from the closest residential neighborhood. The new transmission line route heads northwest from the substation, away from residential areas. An unnoticeable increase in noise is

expected to result from adding this new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The audible noise from 115 kV transmission lines is generally less than 25 decibels (dBA) under worst-case wet weather conditions. This sound level is less than the noise in a library, which is considered to be an average of approximately 35 dBA.

New substation equipment is being added to the south side of the substation within the existing fence line. Noise produced by new substation equipment will also not be noticeable above current noise levels. All noise generated by the project will be within City of Redmond noise regulations. As such, any additional noise is not expected to be detectable; therefore noise abatement measures are not necessary.

Concerning your second comment on fires at the substation. We appreciate your questions about the capabilities of Redmond Fire Department and our preparedness to handle emergency situations at the Sammamish substation.

The Redmond Fire Department, in partnership with PSE and neighboring agencies, is capable of handling any foreseeable emergency at the proposed facility. Redmond Fire Prevention Division reviews plans for code compliance prior to construction, inspects the site during various phases of the construction process, and conducts fire and life safety inspections on at least an annual basis to ensure compliance with fire codes and standards. One important item on the fire and life safety inspections is ensuring the correct fire extinguishers are available on site, and properly mounted and maintained.

With regards to the fire you referenced, we regret that a complete answer was never provided to you or your neighbors. The following is an explanation from a member of the engine company first arriving on scene. He is also trained as an Eastside Hazardous Materials Response team member.

Technically not a transformer, the equipment on fire was more of a massive circuit breaker. The fuel was mineral oil, about 1,000 gallons, with an added hazard of energized electrical equipment, about a quarter million volts overhead. Both dry chemical (Baking soda) and carbon dioxide would have been appropriate. Portable dry chemical fire extinguishers are available on our rigs and at the facility. Portable carbon dioxide extinguishers are also available on our rigs. However, Redmond Fire had no way to confirm, at the moment, the structural integrity of overhead power lines and their supports, which could have been compromised by thermal, electrical or mechanical damage in the explosion. Fire officers appropriately chose not to place firefighters beneath the cables because the fire was limited and contained, and presented no immediate life safety hazard.

The decision to wait for the airport crash truck was not for lack of any special fire extinguishing agent, but for the ability to enter the scene and operate in it without exposing firefighters to overhead power cables. The foam agent ultimately used took only a few seconds, and used only a few gallons. At the time, we carried an almost identical AFFF (aqueous film forming foam) product on our rigs, but the safest way to deploy foam was by requesting and patiently waiting for the airport crash truck. Firefighters inside the airport crash truck are protected and ungrounded, and able to operate a front mounted turret from within the cab.

I hope this information is helpful to you. I have added your comments to the public record and have listed you as a party of record.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Cathy Beam, AICP

Principal Planner | Planning and Community Development

☎: 425.556.2429 | ✉: [cbeam@redmond.gov](mailto:cbeam@redmond.gov) | [Redmond.gov](http://Redmond.gov)

MS: 4SPL | 15670 NE 85<sup>th</sup> St | Redmond, WA 98052



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## COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATION REGARDING CITY HALL

Out of an abundance of caution and in accordance with the King County Public Health guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Redmond City Hall will be closed through May 4, 2020. I will be available through email during this time.

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**From:** Cathy Beam  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:30 PM  
**To:** K. Sylv. <[ksylv@hotmail.com](mailto:ksylv@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment on LAND-2020-00198

Hello,

Thank you for submitting comments on PSE's proposal. I wanted to acknowledge that I have received your email. I am waiting for responses from Fire and PSE regarding your questions. I will include a formal response to you once I receive them.

Sincerely,



Cathy Beam, AICP

Principal Planner | Planning and Community Development

☎: 425.556.2429 | ✉: [cbeam@redmond.gov](mailto:cbeam@redmond.gov) | [Redmond.gov](http://Redmond.gov)

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## COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CENTER

Out of an abundance of caution and in accordance with the King County Public Health guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Redmond City Hall will be closed through April 30, 2020. Please contact [permittech@redmond.gov](mailto:permittech@redmond.gov) or 425-556-2473 with any questions regarding permits. Please allow ample time for responses to inquiries.

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**From:** K. Sylv. <[ksylv@hotmail.com](mailto:ksylv@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 7:13 AM  
**To:** Cathy Beam <[CBEAM@REDMOND.GOV](mailto:CBEAM@REDMOND.GOV)>  
**Subject:** Public comment on LAND-2020-00198

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#### Public comment on LAND-2020-00198

1. Noise: Any addition to the Sammamish Substation is bound to also increase the noise generated by the transformers and the buzzing from the power lines. The substation is in a valley with homes up the hill on the Southern and Western sections. All noise from the lower levels sweep up the hillsides onto our properties. Constant mechanical noises is stressful and reduces enjoyment of our homes and properties. The Sammamish substation is not the only business in the valley that affects our neighborhoods but each one contributes to the nuisance. What noise abatement barriers are proposed to add to this project if any?
2. Fire: Will or has there been a better means of provided the right set of chemicals nearby for the Redmond Fire Department to address a fire at the Sammamish Substation? In the past years we had to endure black smoke and who knows what unhealthy sediments falling upon our soil and lungs because there was not the correct materials to put out the fire. The material had to be brought in from an airport terminal which of course took hours before it could get here letting that black smoke continue for hours. For each new project at this substation I keep asking this question. I don't think I have ever gotten an answer.

Karen Sylvester  
8806 142nd Ave NE  
Redmond, WA 98052

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**From:** [Mathers, Alex J](#)  
**To:** [Cathy Beam](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: LAND 2020-00198  
**Date:** Thursday, May 21, 2020 3:51:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Please use the following:

Alex Mathers  
Director of Operations

11411 139th Place NE  
Redmond, WA 98052-2025

Thank you.

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**From:** Cathy Beam <CBEAM@REDMOND.GOV>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2020 3:12 PM  
**To:** Mathers, Alex J <alex.mathers@rocket.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: LAND 2020-00198

Hi Alex,

Thanks for your email. Can you please send me a mailing address as well? I can then add you as a Party of Record. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cathy Beam, AICP  
Principal Planner | Planning and Community Development  
☎: 425.556.2429 | ✉: [cbeam@redmond.gov](mailto:cbeam@redmond.gov) | [Redmond.gov](http://Redmond.gov)  
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**COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATION REGARDING CITY HALL**  
Out of an abundance of caution and in accordance with the King County Public Health guidelines

to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Redmond City Hall will be closed through July 1, 2020. I will be available through email during this time.

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**From:** Mathers, Alex J <[alex.mathers@rocket.com](mailto:alex.mathers@rocket.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2020 3:04 PM

**To:** Cathy Beam <[CBEAM@REDMOND.GOV](mailto:CBEAM@REDMOND.GOV)>

**Subject:** LAND 2020-00198

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Hello Cathy- I received the letter sent to Aerojet Rocketdyne. I would like to be added to the interested parties list.

Alex Mathers  
Director of Manufacturing and Production Planning  
Redmond Operations  
Aerojet Rocketdyne  
Office: 425-936-6670  
Cell: 425-765-0998

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