PUD seeks more feedback on substation proposal

Website Staff

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CHELAN — The Chelan County PUD will host a community meeting at Chelan City Hall Aug. 24 at 5:30 p.m. to gather more feedback about its plan to build an electrical substation on Lake Chelan's North Shore between Chelan and Manson.

At the top of the agenda is a presentation about two potential sites for a new substation, which is needed to handle area growth into the future, officials say.

Area land owners proposed the two sites for further study. The land owners have said they could be interested in selling, PUD spokeswoman Teka Sellers said Monday.

One of the properties is just south of the intersection of Boyd Loop Road and Winesap Avenue. The other is about 1.5 miles southeast, just off of Boyd Road.

The community meeting is the fifth public presentation the PUD has given on potential sites for the approximately \$3 million substation.

The PUD formed a community focus group last year, after many members of the public responded negatively to a site that PUD engineers had chosen and the utility had taken the first steps toward buying.

With the help of the focus group, the utility has narrowed its preferred sites to three general areas along the Highway 150, which connects Chelan to Manson. Its existing transmission line runs nearby.

The two properties identified fall within those three preferred areas, Sellers said.

Neither the utility nor the property owners are yet committed to siting the substation there, she said.

The PUD hopes get more public comment on the new sites at the Aug. 24 meeting and also by email to teka.sellers@chelanpud.org. The public comment period ends Sept. 9.

After that, the utility will pay a consultant to do a detailed cost analysis of each proposed site and an artist's rendering of what the substation would look like at each. Staffers hope to make a recommendation to commissioners in November and buy the land in December.

Construction would happen in 2019 and 2020. The PUD last built a substation in the Chelan-to-Manson area in 1980, Sellers said.

For more information and maps, visit http://wwrld.us/2b7npgi.