

The Chelan County PUD welcomes public comment on the Northshore Substation project

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A map of the proposed areas the Chelan County PUD is researching and analyzing to find any viable properties for the North Shore Substation. The areas are not committed sites. (Image courtesy of Chelan County PUD)

Chelan County PUD held a public meeting on August 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Chelan City Hall to present the two sites in consideration for a new substation that will serve the Chelan and Manson area. The PUD asked for community feedback from residents.

The Chelan County PUD narrowed down viable sites for a new Chelan PUD substation on the North Shore of Lake Chelan but following a public hearing in May, the Chelan County PUD readjusted its plans, seeking willing property owners who have viable land to host the substation site.

The two sites the Chelan PUD are looking to include are located near Boyd Loop Road and Winesap Avenue and in the area of 54 Boyd Road. Both proposed areas have willing landowners offering up pieces of their properties to house the new substation.

Northshore property owner, Scott Franzen based out of Seattle, offered his land as a viable site stating that, “We have a pretty good sized chunk of property up there. I don’t want to make enemies with anyone, but we have orchard and trees that would surround it. No one would even see it.”

Manson resident, Marilyn A. Clements asked why the new developments in the area that are driving the need for the substation are not being asked to provide the land?



Vacation-home owner, Robin Vogel spoke at the public meeting held on August 24, 2016 at Chelan City Hall. Vogel is stressed to the Chelan County PUD that she is not willing to sacrifice property values to help cut project costs for the PUD. (Photo by GoLakeChelan.com)

Chad Rissman, Chelan PUD’s distribution engineering manager, addressed Clements’ question informing the audience that, “We are not the one’s driving the growth, but we are responding to it.” He added that he agreed that Clements offered up a great idea but, “one of the reasons we have had to look away is because the transmission lines required will impact everyone from where it takes off all the way to the substation. We decided that the other sites would limit that impact.”

The majority of community comments regarding the proposed sites mentioned concerns regarding the visible impact of the substation on residents’ property views which would then affect property values.

Seattle resident and Chelan vacation-home owner, Robin Vogel spoke during the meeting. Vogel vocalized her concerns for property value and added that, “We want to remain completely oblivious to a substation in our area. The primary reasons we purchased in the area was the quiet, the privacy all the time and the ability to count on star gazing.” Vogel continued to voice that she was not willing to sacrifice any of these things to lower project costs for the PUD.

In addition to concerns regarding property views, community members brought up light pollution, noise and the effect the new substation would have on local wildlife.



Tom Watson voiced his concerns that wildlife will be effected by the new substation and stated that he believes the location at Boyd Road and Winesap to be the best option of the two presented. (Photo by GoLakeChelan.com)

Tom Watson of Chelan spoke to the group regarding the negative impact the substation would have on the wildlife in the area. “Anything that you do in the Franzen orchard (the proposed site near 54 Boyd Road) is going to impact the deer and the other animals that live around it drastically. I think it would be better if we put the location at the Winesap location,” Watson concluded.

Chelan’s Northshore area has not had a new substation since 1990, but the current substations are reported to be at 80% capacity. The PUD will be bringing in a consultant in September to perform a cost analysis on both proposed sites.

Chelan County PUD will welcome public comment on the new substation through September 9, 2016. A decision is slated to be made in November, with land being purchased by December. The construction for the substation is proposed to take place in 2019 through 2020.

Community members seeking to have their opinions and comments heard by the Chelan County PUD should email teka.sellers@chelanpud.org.

To learn more about the Northshore Chelan Substation project, to provide public comment, and to view a video of the August 24th meeting, visit the Chelan County PUD website at [this link](#).

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(By Jillian Foster)