

# West side substation location removed from consideration

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One of the prime spots for a new substation has been removed from consideration. A location on the west side of town, near Heidelburger, was touted as the spot with the greatest electrical advantages.

"Site number three by the Heidelburger has some pros and cons associated with it. There's some great electrical advantages to having a substation out here, but there are also some aesthetic disadvantages," said PUD engineer Chad Rissman at the Nov. 2 substation meeting. "All of the circuits come out of the substation and come toward town. Anything that affects the pole line would affect the entire town. If we had another feed and an event occurred on either one of those, it could be picked up from the other direction. There is some redundancy for having a substation on the other end of town."

That west side site has been removed from consideration by the property owner, said PUD External Affairs Manager Shaun Seaman. PUD Project Project Manager Gary Rice said they added another site since the west side site has fallen from consideration.

The new site is located on the east side of town near the other two potential substation sites. One site is located at the existing substation, the other site is Rattlesnake Hill, and now this third site is located on Upper Valley MEND property on the Meadowlark site.

The city owns the Rattlesnake Hill site. Seaman said redundancy still exists, even though the three potential sites are close together.

"We still have what we want in an extra substation. It just won't be as conducive to picking up loads in certain areas," Seaman said. "If it wasn't site we were comfortable with, we would not be moving forward on them."

Rice said, with two of the three sites, they were able to separate the transmission lines a bit, which gives some reliability.

"It will allow us to switch from the existing substation . We can still keep one or the other operational," Rice said. "We're still looking at building redundancy that site three would have been, but think the other sites have some pretty good benefits."

Having two substations in the Leavenworth area should serve the public well into the future, of course, depending on the growth.

"The existing substation has a couple transformers. Each transformer brings the opportunity to have four separate circuits coming out of the substation. The existing substation is still pretty good size,"

Rice said. "The new substation would bring the opportunity to bring more circuits, then in the future, bring in another four circuits."

The existing substation is basically two substations in one, Seaman said.

"We're better off to have another one nearby. What Gary is talking about with all these different circuits, it's just means we have more ability spread out and pick up loads as we need," Seaman said.

Since the new site seems to be working well, Rice said they should be looking at the same timeline for the substation project. Another PUD Substation meeting is planned from 6-to-8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13 at Leavenworth City Hall.

"It is an update on the current sites we are reviewing. There are two sites that have been brought forth by our focus group and another brought to us by MEND," Seaman said. "We'll bring forward some drawings and other information on those three sites."

A consultant has been doing some higher level analysis on the three sites. Rice said some of that will be presented at the upcoming meeting.

"We'll have a rendering of each site. We have a plan view of what the site will look like. It is still in an engineering format. It will show the entrances, the routing and distribution lines in and out of the sites," Rice said. "Also, the costs estimates to cover the earth work, the substation costs, the transmission and distribution. The total cost, comparing all three sites."

The community focus group has ranked the three sites on a variety of criteria, from engineering to aesthetics, Seaman said.

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