

# Leavenworth substation sites narrowed

by Christine Pratt

March 6, 2017, 6:15 p.m.

WENATCHEE — Site selection for a new substation in Leavenworth has been narrowed to two favorites sites, both with willing sellers.

One is on city-owned property, about 1.5 miles north of Leavenworth on Chumstick Highway, near the intersection with North Road. Its build-out cost is almost \$8.4 million.

The second is on land owned by Upper Valley MEND, a nonprofit dedicated to health, food and housing services. The land is about a half mile west of the city's property, between Chumstick Highway and Titus Road. Its build-out cost is \$7.75 million.

A third site is on PUD property in an existing substation near the utility's Leavenworth office on Chumstick Highway. PUD officials say this site is already congested and, if expanded now, wouldn't have room, as the others do, for future growth.

Leavenworth Mayor Cherie Farivar told commissioners Monday that city officials are fine with either site. The city is willing to sell, and MEND is highly motivated to sell, she said.

All the Leavenworth sites have a cost differential within 5 percent of each other, PUD officials said Monday, making cost not as important a factor in the overall site decision.

Commissioners could make a site selection at their next board meeting March 20 in the PUD's Wenatchee headquarters.

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