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Skagit County Auditor

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Return to: City of Burlington
Planning Department
901 E. Fairhaven Avenue

RE: Parcel #P112835

Date: March 10, 2004

Lot 5 BSP 297 971280060

The City Council of the City of Burlington adopted Findings and Conclusions on November 25, 2003 in support of the decision to issue Conditional Use Permit #4-02 to construct an electrical substation. A condition of issuance of the permit is the requirement that Puget Sound Energy shall install acoustical barriers around the transformers, designed with easily removable panels to insure worker safety.

The plans for the substation show an acoustical wall that does not go all the way around the first transformer to be installed and that only has two sides at the location of a future second transformer to be installed as electrical loads increase in the future.

Because of concerns about worker safety and the location of the equipment, the installation of the acoustical wall is authorized as shown on the plans. If a second transformer is installed, the wall will be extended along the easterly side of the transformer to buffer the existing apartments from noise. If there are complaints about noise, Puget Sound Energy has agreed to conduct noise sampling/monitoring and if necessary, install additional mitigation to reduce substation noise below legal limits specified in any local and state noise laws.

A letter from Puget Sound Energy agreeing to these conditions is attached.


Margaret Fleek, Planning Director



March 3, 2004

Ms. Margaret Fleek
Planning Director
901 E. Fairhaven Avenue
Burlington, WA 98233

RE: Puget Sound Energy's Gages Substation Project

Dear Ms. Fleek:

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) recently submitted revised drawings for the Gages Substation project as part of the Building Permit application. You have asked whether the proposed acoustical wall meets the requirement specified in the Conditional Use Permit (#4-02) granted on November 25, 2003.

You and I spoke about this issue on two occasions in the past two weeks. PSE believes the wall, as designed, meets the requirements of the CUP with one caveat. PSE is unsure when a second transformer will be necessary and due to the configuration of the station we will not be installing a wall to accommodate a second transformer at this time. Installing the wall now would make future installation of the second transformer difficult and we would likely have to remove/demolish the wall at that time (when the 2nd transformer is installed). Per our discussion, please be assured that PSE will:

- Install the east acoustical wall when the second transformer is added in the future
- Answer any complaints regarding transformer noise by:
 - Conducting noise sampling/monitoring,
 - And, if necessary, installing additional mitigation to reduce substation noise to below allowable legal limits specified in any local and state noise laws.

We feel that the acoustical wall design and assurances of PSE's intent to be a good neighbor meet the requirements necessary for issuance of the Building Permit.

If you have any questions please feel free to call A.J. Ritter at (425) 456-3919.

Sincerely,

A.J. Ritter, PE, PMP
Project Manager

cc: Larry Tornberg, PSE
Teresa Loop, PSE
Ray Trzynka, PSE
Robert Heller, Riddell Williams, PS



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