



News Release

Puget Sound Energy Working Hard to Restore Power to Nine County Service Areas Hit Hard by Friday's Fierce Windstorm

Field Crew Members Now Outnumber Regular Employees

BELLEVUE, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 18, 2006--Puget Sound Energy (PSE), which serves customers in nine Washington counties, today announced that the scope of damage to PSE's electric system from Friday's windstorm is unprecedented. Because the storm's damage is so severe, PSE confirmed it will take most of this week to restore power to everyone. "Puget Sound Energy has now successfully repaired the core backbone of our system - our high-voltage transmission grid - and restored power to more than 530,000 of the 700,000 customers who lost service after last week's unprecedented windstorm," said Sue McLain, senior vice president of Operations. "We are now tackling the hardest-hit residential neighborhoods. In many of these areas, field crews - after first clearing downed trees and debris - must re-build the distribution system from the substation to customers' doors."

PSE now has more than 420 crews, representing more than 2,000 workers, involved in the restoration effort. Besides local crews, PSE has enlisted nearly 170 additional crews from across the western United States and Canada, and another two dozen crews are arriving later today from Missouri.

Below is a report on the restoration status of the various counties and communities.

North and East King County Bellevue

Restoration efforts in various pockets of Bellevue, especially Lake Hills, Eastgate, and Phantom Lake, likely will continue until Wednesday or Thursday. PSE has been able to restore power to many homes and businesses and energized all of the company's substations but one - Northrup. PSE is currently working to repair the high-voltage transmission lines feeding power to this substation, and expect to energize it today. Once this work is complete, PSE will be able to concentrate solely on repairing damage to local distribution lines.

Woodinville area

Many customers remain without service in and around Woodinville, one of the company's hardest-hit areas. Because of severe damage in this area, PSE expects restoration efforts here to continue late into the week, perhaps Friday or Saturday. Work currently is focused on restoring the community's high-voltage transmission grid and the three substations that serve the Cottage Lake and Hollywood Hills areas. Once this work is complete, PSE will be able to concentrate solely on repairing damage to local distribution lines.

Redmond, Kirkland, Bothell and Kenmore areas

Restoration of the heavily damaged distribution lines here likely will continue until Wednesday or Thursday, though final restoration in isolated pockets in the Juanita, Inglewood, and Avondale areas may not be complete until sometime this weekend. Power has been restored to many homes and businesses. Service has been restored to all substations and PSE is now repairing local distribution lines.

Sammamish Plateau

Some customers on the heavily damaged Sammamish Plateau will have their power restored today, but scattered areas will not be restored until later in the week, probably Wednesday or Thursday. Service was restored to all substations early Sunday morning and PSE is now concentrating solely on repairing local distribution lines.

Mercer Island

PSE's electric system sustained tremendous damage on the island from falling trees and limbs. Two of three substations serving Mercer Island have been restored, with the third expected to be energized later today. Many customers have regained service on the north half of the island. Some customers on the south end will be restored later today, but complete restoration of the island's heavily damaged distribution lines likely will continue late into the week, perhaps Friday or Saturday.

Carnation, Fall City, Snoqualmie and North Bend areas

The North Bend, Snoqualmie and Snoqualmie Valley areas were among those hardest hit. Restoration work in the heavily damaged Snoqualmie Valley will continue late into the week, perhaps Friday or Saturday. Work is focused on restoring the high-voltage transmission grid and the substations that feed electricity to local neighborhoods. PSE plans to have substations in these areas re-energized by midweek. Once this work is complete, PSE will be able to concentrate solely on repairing local distribution lines.

Renton, Newcastle and Fairwood areas

Numerous pockets of outages still exist throughout these communities. Because of the widespread damage, restoration efforts here will continue late into the week, perhaps Friday or Saturday. Power has been restored to many homes and businesses. All local substations have been re-energized except for three serving Lake McDonald, Fairwood, and Lake Youngs. For neighborhoods served by the now-energized substations, PSE is working to repair the local distribution lines. PSE expects the Fairwood and Lake Youngs substations to be energized today and Lake McDonald substation by Tuesday. Once this work is complete, PSE will be able to concentrate solely on repairing damage to local distribution lines.

Issaquah / Hobart area

Power has been restored to all five substations serving the Issaquah/Hobart community. Numerous pockets of outages, however, will still exist until later in the week, perhaps Thursday or Friday. For neighborhoods served by the now energized substations, PSE is working to repair local distribution lines.

South King County and Pierce County Kent, Auburn, and Federal Way areas

Restoration of distribution lines is progressing well, and power has been restored to many homes and businesses, but pockets of customers here likely will remain without power until Wednesday or Thursday. Service has been restored to all substations and PSE is now focused on repairing local distribution lines.

Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and Covington areas

Restoration of the heavily damaged distribution lines likely will continue until Wednesday or Thursday. Power has been restored to many homes and businesses. Service has been restored to all the areas' substations and PSE is now repairing local distribution lines.

Tukwila, Sea Tac, and Des Moines areas

Most customers here should have their power restored by Wednesday, but for some of North Des Moines and Normandy Park, it may take until Thursday or Friday. PSE has restored power to all the substations in these communities, and is now focused solely on repairing local distribution lines.

Enumclaw, Buckley, Bonney Lake, and Greenwater areas

Power has been restored to many homes and businesses. All substations except Greenwater have been re-energized. Many pockets of outages still exist, however. In neighborhoods where PSE has re-energized the substations, the company is concentrating on repairing local distribution lines. PSE expects to have service restored by Wednesday or Thursday for all customers in the Enumclaw, Buckley, and Bonney Lake areas, but it likely will take until late in the week, perhaps Friday or Saturday, before everyone in the Greenwater area has their power restored.

Puyallup, Sumner, Orting, Lake Tapps, and nearby East Pierce County communities

Restoration work here will be substantially complete by Wednesday, but in isolated pockets of some heavily damaged areas, power will not be restored until late in the week, perhaps Friday or Saturday. Service to substations has been restored, and PSE is now focused solely on repairing local distribution lines.

Vashon Island

There is extensive damage to the electric system on parts of Vashon Island. Even though the substation serving the island has been re-energized and many customers have had their power restored, complete restoration of electricity on the heavily damaged local distribution lines likely will continue late into the week, perhaps Friday or Saturday.

Whatcom and Skagit counties

Whatcom County customers have had their service restored, and the dozen or so Skagit County customers still without power should have their lights back sometime today or tomorrow.

Island County

PSE has now restored power to most of the company's customers on Whidbey Island, and is continuing to work on restoring power to those still without it, particularly on the south end of the island. Complete repair of local distribution lines here likely will continue until Wednesday or Thursday.

Kitsap and Jefferson counties

All but a handful of customers in Jefferson County have had their power restored, and those few still without service should have power sometime today. PSE has restored power to all substations in Kitsap County, and now is repairing local distribution lines. Though much restoration is complete, repairs will continue late into the week, perhaps Friday or Saturday, in scattered areas that sustained heavy damage. Pockets on Bainbridge Island and Fernwood likely will not be restored until Wednesday or Thursday.

Kittitas County

PSE has restored power to all but a few hundred customers in Kittitas County, with small pockets of customers, notably in the Easton area, still without power. PSE is focused on repairing local distribution lines, work that likely will continue until Wednesday or Thursday.

Thurston County

Power restoration for pockets of customers in various areas of Thurston County, including West Olympia, Tumwater, Luhr Beach, Lacey, and Rochester, likely will take until late in the week, perhaps Friday or Saturday. PSE's system sustained severe damage in many parts of the county. All of the county's substations have been re-energized, and PSE is now focused solely on repairing local distribution lines.

About Puget Sound Energy

Washington state's oldest and largest energy utility, with a 6,000-square-mile service territory stretching across 11 counties, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) serves more than 1 million electric customers and more than 700,000 natural gas customers. PSE meets the energy needs of its growing customer base through incremental, cost-effective energy conservation, low-cost procurement of sustainable energy resources, and far-sighted investment in the energy-delivery infrastructure. For more information, visit: www.pse.com.

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