



Fact Sheet

The City of Richland and the Benton Public Utility District (PUD) propose to construct a new collocated substation to support the existing and growing demand for power in the area of southeast Richland and to provide backup reliability to neighboring Richland and Benton PUD substations.

Background – As identified in the Richland Energy Services (RES) 2015 Long Range Plan, a new substation is needed to support the growing RES load in the Leslie Road area to serve new and existing customers. Benton PUD also continues to experience significant customer growth in the Badger Canyon and Dallas Road areas, as well as in the areas in west Kennewick along Clodfelter Road and West Clearwater Avenue. The joint substation project will provide RES and Benton PUD with needed strategically located electrical capacity.

Customer Benefit – At the current rate of growth, in about ten years six RES substation transformers are projected to be overloaded. These limiting conditions result in temporary outages in order to shift loads from one location to another. The growing development and pressure on the load capacity in SE Richland specifically, could eventually lead to increased planned power outages due to system overload. The new substation will contribute to balancing the system to reduce the need for load shifts, provide reliable service, and allow for continued growth.

Siting Study – In April 2015, RES initiated a two-phase siting study for the new substation. The purpose of the siting study was to select a suitable site for a new substation in the Leslie Road area to collocate both RES and Benton PUD equipment. The two-phase approach allowed for an initial search of sites within the broad study area, narrowing down the list of suitable sites through application of established siting criteria. The first phase evaluation started with 34 potential sites which were narrowed down to 4 recommended sites for further evaluation. The second phase was a more rigorous evaluation using detailed criteria including potential title issues, distance to feeder line connections, costs associated with connections and site acquisition, and site acquisition schedule. The selected site was the highest ranked site in both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 evaluations.

Land Purchase – At the April 5, 2016, Richland City Council meeting, the Council authorized purchasing land to site the substation near the intersection of Leslie and Reata Roads.

Anticipated Project Schedule – RES Substation design, June-December 2016; RES Substation Construction, January-October 2017; RES Substation Commissioned, December 2017. Benton PUD does not currently have a defined project schedule.

For more information:

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