

Easements: A Shared Responsibility



It takes thousands of miles of wires and pipes to provide power and natural gas to the 1.4 million homes and businesses served by Puget Sound Energy.

Many of these power lines and natural gas pipelines are located in easement on private property. These rights may have been negotiated with you directly, or with prior property owners. Under these agreements, PSE is allowed to access, construct, operate and maintain our equipment and manage vegetation.


Sometimes questions arise regarding what a property owner may or may not do in PSE easement areas. "Encroachments" are uses that typically are not compatible with PSE's easement rights and uses. Keeping easement areas clear of encroachments is a shared responsibility between PSE and the property owner.

How do I apply for permission for property improvements in a PSE gas or power line easement?

Fill out the consent application form at pse.com/easements

E-mail us at RightOfWay@PSE.com

Or call us at
1-888-CALL-PSE (1-888-225-5773)
and ask to speak with a Right of Way Agent.

 **PUGET SOUND ENERGY**
Puget Sound Energy
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pse.com/easements

**A Property Owners Guide to Obtaining
Consent for Uses Within PSE Easement Areas**

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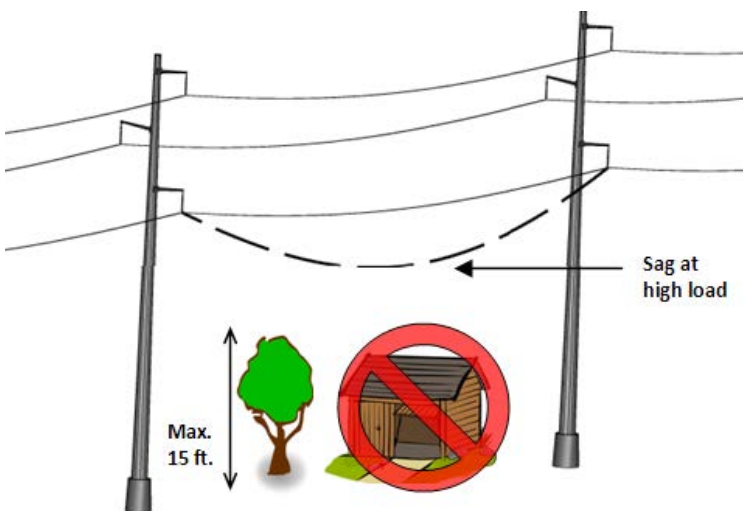


Why are encroachments a problem?

PSE designs and constructs our systems to meet federal, state and industry safety and operating guidelines. Anything that creates inadequate clearance from power and gas lines is extremely dangerous.

The height of power lines above the ground changes depending on weather conditions and the operating temperature of the lines. If there isn't enough clearance between a structure and a power line, the structure can become energized, creating electrical safety hazards and the potential for widespread power outages.

Structures or grade changes can violate required clearances for power and gas lines, compromising safety and obstructing access.



What are potential encroachments?

There are many uses that may not be compatible with PSE's easement rights and uses, the more common of which are the following:

- Buildings
- Structures
- Houses
- Sheds
- Excavation
- Decks
- Swimming Pools
- Changes to Existing Grade
- Retention Ponds
- Billboards
- Playground Equipment
- Rockeries
- Retaining Walls
- Fences
- Flammable Material

Additional incompatible uses are activities that change the land grade such as excavation or filling within the easement area.

What uses may be compatible with gas and power lines?

Property owners may make any use of their property that does not interfere with PSE's easement rights, or create hazards for PSE facilities. Generally speaking, driveways, lawns, gardens, low shrubs, and livestock grazing are examples of uses that are compatible with PSE's easement rights and its facilities.

If you are considering other uses, please contact PSE. Our Right of Way Agents will review your request to ensure that PSE can continue to provide safe and reliable electricity and natural gas to our customers. Compatible uses are often confirmed with a Consent Agreement between the property owner and PSE.

How do I know if there is an encroachment on my property (either constructed by me or a prior owner)?

Please call PSE and ask to speak with a Right of Way Agent. We'll work directly with you to explore what options may be available.

What if I want to use property that PSE owns?

Any use of PSE's property must be reviewed and approved by PSE. To inquire about use of PSE's property, please call us at the number listed above and ask to talk with someone in the Property Management department.

Where can I learn more about PSE easements on my property?

A title report for your property will typically identify easements on your property, including any PSE easements. You can obtain a copy of any easement mentioned in your title report from your county recorder's office. If you are unable to obtain a copy of a PSE easement, please call us at 1-888-CALL-PSE (1-888-225-5773) and ask to speak with a Right of Way Agent.



Safety is our primary objective

Whether you're a homeowner or contractor, call 811, the "Call Before You Dig" hotline, two business days before digging. State law requires anyone digging to call and have underground utilities located to avoid potential hazards. This is a free service and more information is available at www.Call811.com.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**