

IEEE Power Engineering (PE-31) - Seattle Chapter

Topic: Tacoma Narrows Crossing Rebuild Project

Date: Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 6:00 – 6:30PM Food & Drinks, 6:30PM-7:30PM Presentation

Place: Washington Group, 10900 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Speaker: Bob Kirchmeier, Tacoma Power

The Tacoma Narrows Crossing was considered an engineering marvel when it was built in 1926. At 6300 feet, the recently rebuilt crossing is still one of the longest power transmission spans in the world. After nearly 80 years of reliable service, the original crossing had lasted well beyond normal life expectancy for such a “river” crossing.

Tacoma Power replaced four 320 foot high single circuit towers with two 450 foot high double circuit towers (shown below) to ensure safety, avoid extensive maintenance and support a new higher capacity conductor required for meeting load growth for BPA customers. The overall project cost including several additional upgrades to Tacoma’s 115 kV Potlatch Lines was nearly \$17 million.

The construction phase in 2006 followed many years of study, project scoping, considering alternatives, permitting, community involvement and design. This presentation will briefly review how the project was developed and implemented using a “design build” construction process.



**Speakers Bio:** *Bob Kirchmeier has worked for Tacoma Power since 1982 on a wide range of generation, transmission and distribution facilities. He was the Project Manager for the Narrows Crossing and several other substation and transmission projects. He's an IEEE member, Electrical Administrator and Professional Engineer in Washington State.*

Contact: Contact Max Emrick, [memrick@ieee.org](mailto:memrick@ieee.org), 253-502-8826 for information on this talk.

**PARKING and DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS:**

There is limited street parking. There is a fee for garage parking. NOTE meeting is on second floor.

**DIRECTION TO GET TO  
Washington Group International Office  
10900 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500 (Fifth Floor)  
Bellevue, WA 98004**

NOTE meeting is on second floor

**From I-405 South:**

- Exit #13B/NE 8<sup>th</sup> ST. onto NE 8<sup>th</sup> St
- Go west (right) about 0.3 miles
- Turn right on 110<sup>th</sup> Ave and take immediate left on NE 9<sup>th</sup> Street
- Drive straight into the parking lot after pulling a ticket if required.
- Plaza Center Building is on the left hand side before you enter the parking lot. Kindly note that there is one more Plaza center on the other side of the parking lot too.
- Note the building doors close after 7.00 PM. If you reach after 7.00 PM, give a call to 425-205-0271 for access.

**From I-405 North:**

- Exit #13B/NE 8<sup>th</sup> ST/NE 4<sup>th</sup> ST onto NE 8<sup>th</sup> ST
- Go west about .4 miles
- Turn right on 110<sup>th</sup> Ave and take immediate left on NE 9<sup>th</sup> Street
- Drive straight into the parking lot after pulling a ticket if required.
- Plaza Center Building is on the left hand side before you enter the parking lot. Kindly note that there is one more Plaza center on the other side of the parking lot too
- Note the building doors close after 7.00 PM. If you reach after 7.00 PM, give a call to 425-205-0271 for access.

