



DISCUSSION WITH THE SNOQUALMIE TRIBAL COUNCIL

October 27th, 2023



SHARING OUR STORY

- On July 28th, 2020, the Tolt Dam Warning System went off just before lunch on a Tuesday. The sirens began wailing, and an ominous message started blasting across the Snoqualmie Valley: **“THE TOLT DAM HAS FAILED. EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.”** This message continued blasting from the sirens for 45 minutes.
- Over 2000 people simultaneously attempted to evacuate. Gridlock on our streets stopped all movement, as there is only one road out of town. People abandoned their cars and fled to higher ground. Some older residents and disabled residents, who couldn’t make it to the evacuation site, simply waited to die. Others were injured in their attempts to get to high ground. In the chaos, pets and livestock were lost.
- First responders found that their emergency response plans either (a) didn’t exist, or (b) were so old that they were rendered useless. King County did not have a plan. Seattle Public Utilities did not have a plan. 911 did not have a plan. Our City staff of 13 people were desperately trying to find out what was happening while trying to get themselves and other residents to safety. They did this act of public service all while believing that their friends, families, and properties were in danger.
- 30 minutes after the siren first sounded, Eastside Fire and Rescue and the King County Sherriff’s Office got on their loudspeakers to tell fleeing citizens it was a false alarm. All the while, Seattle’s siren system kept insisting: **“THE TOLT DAM HAS FAILED. EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.”**
- On September 9th, 2020, January 13th, 2021, and May 10th, 2023, the siren failed to sound during the regularly scheduled test. Each of these resulted in a flurry of concerned messages from citizens to City Staff and Councilmembers.
- On June 19th, 2023, a siren at the nearby girl scout camp sounded and triggered an emergency notification from Eastside Fire and Rescue. Seattle Public Utilities had no idea what was happening, and panicked citizens flooded the City’s phone lines. This instance demonstrates that the City of Seattle has not adequately coordinated with its partners in the Valley.
- On August 22, at 1:17 PM, Seattle’s sirens sounded again.

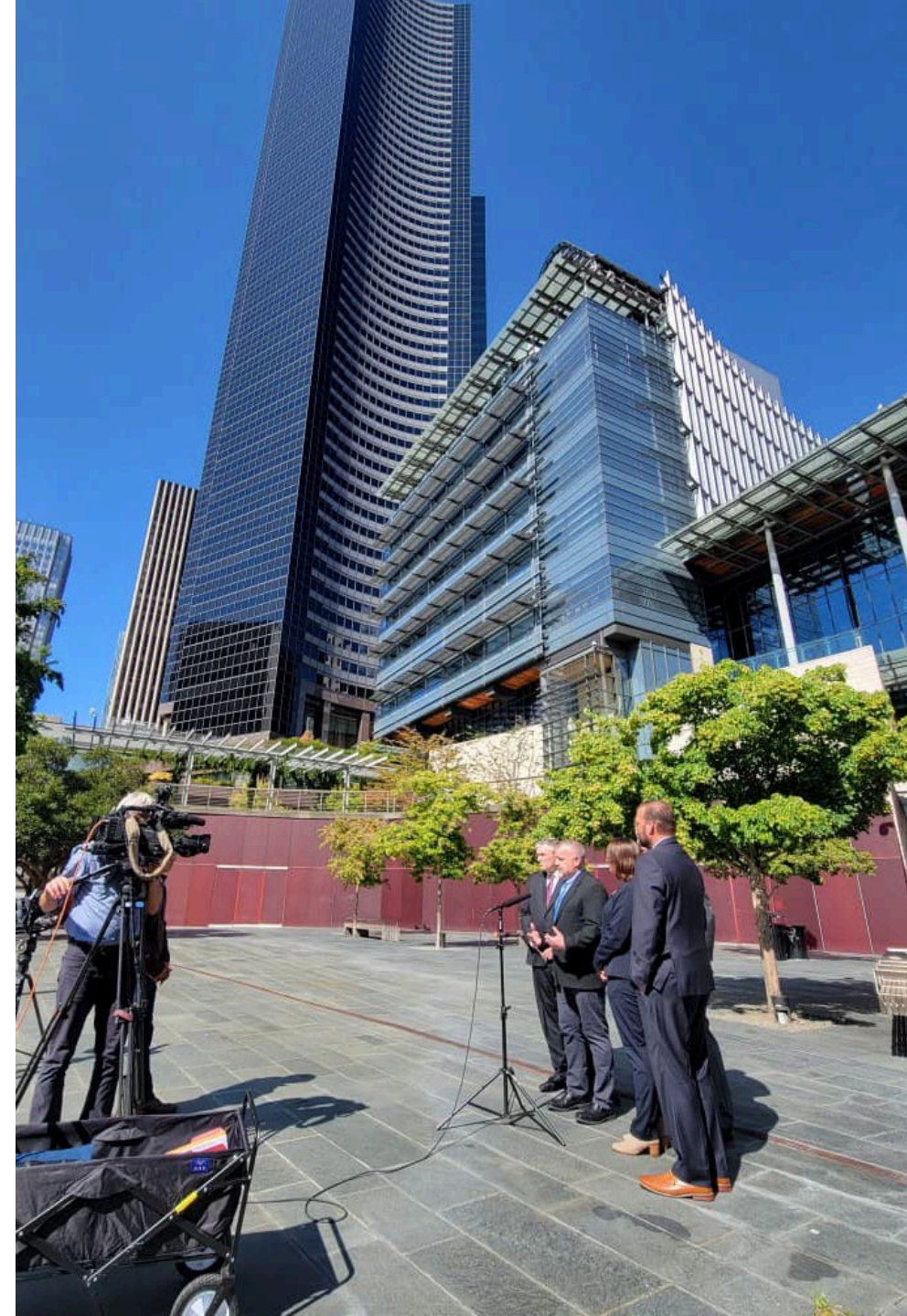
CURRENT STATUS

End of 2022:

- Final construction of the new alarm system.

Today:

- New alarm system inaugurated on Wednesday October 18, 2023
 - Too low
 - Too hard to understand
 - Inadequate
- No Interlocal Agreement outlining Seattle's responsibilities.
- Direct interaction between City and Seattle's Mayor and City Council.
- Media campaign



STATE OF EMERGENCY

We called a State of Emergency for a reason....

The City has complete confidence that the Tolt Dam is safe.

BUT

The proper measures need to be in place in case there is a catastrophic event.

Our number one priority is ensuring that ALL warning systems are in place and operational

- The siren system
- Warning signs in the City and surrounding at roundabouts
- Internal sirens in our schools, library, and other facilities that need additional warning





OUR VALLEY PARTNERS

We have a responsibility to our Valley partners:

- Unincorporated King County just outside our City limits
- Riverview School District
- Snoqualmie Tribe



OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SNOQUALMIE TRIBE

1. The Safety of your members

- Your members live in our City
- Your members live just outside our City
- Your members travel through our City

2. Land Resources

The dam affects land.

The Tolt river is a critical fish habitat. SPU is responsible for making sure that the river continues to be that habitat. There is also a responsibility to improve that habitat

The Snoqualmie Valley would forever change if a event ever happened with the dam.



MODELS FOR INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

U.S. Department of Energy

- At DOE, Community Responsibility Plans are based on a set of four core policy priorities: investing in America's workforce; engaging communities and labor; advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and implementing Justice 40.

City and County of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

- At SFPUC, the agency builds on its “first” legacy. SFPUC was the first utility in the nation to pass Environmental Justice and Community Benefits policies that provide diverse communities with opportunities in workforce and economic development, the arts, urban agriculture and education. Community Responsibility Plans are based on a set of four core policy priorities: Environmental Justice, Equity and Inclusion and Stakeholder Institutional Engagement.

DESIRED RESPONSIBILITY

Seattle devotes sufficient resources and authority to SPU staff to achieve the following outcomes:

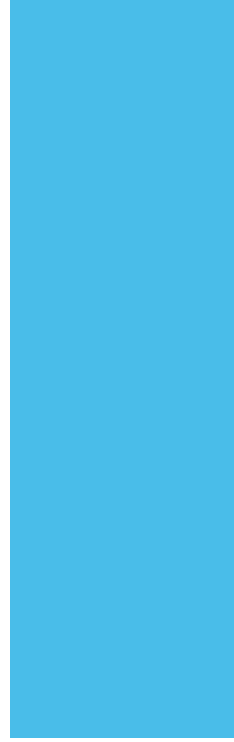
Stakeholder and community involvement in the design, implementation and evaluation of SPU programs and policies

- Carnation: Carnation's main interest is to help design (not simply sign off) public safety policies, plans and approaches.
- Snoqualmie Tribe:

Workforce development, including coordination of internal and external workforce programs and strategic recruitment, training, placement, and succession planning for current and future city of Seattle staff to ensure a skilled and diverse workforce

- Carnation: Seattle to provide internships, apprenticeships and job employment preference for City of Seattle jobs for Carnation residents.
- Riverview School District: Seattle to provide internships, apprenticeships and job employment preference for City of Seattle jobs for RSD graduates.
- Snoqualmie Tribe:





DESIRED RESPONSIBILITY

Environmental programs and policies which protect fish and wildlife, preserve and expand clean, renewable water and energy resources, decrease pollution, reduce environmental impacts, and support innovative and creative new environmental programs.

- Carnation: Seattle to provide funds to support sustainability priorities outlined in the City's Comprehensive Plan
- Snoqualmie Tribe:

Economic development resulting from collaborative partnerships which promote contracting with local companies, and providing financial mitigation along with improved infrastructure

- Carnation: Seattle to promote use of local vendors, farms and professional services.
- Carnation: Seattle to develop and fund a capital improvement plan specific to evacuation needs required solely by the presence of Seattle's Dam. This CIP will be comprehensive of all infrastructure needed for safe evacuation of Carnation's population.
- Snoqualmie Tribe:

Educational programs

- Carnation: Seattle to support Riverview School District's efforts to train its staff and students on how to safely evacuate.
- RSD: Seattle to support RSD educational efforts to create awareness for the residents of Seattle of the impact of the Tolt Dam on Carnation.
- Snoqualmie Tribe:



DESIRED RESPONSIBILITY

Diversity and inclusion programs and initiatives

- Carnation: Seattle to adopt inclusionary policies that will bring Community based resources to Carnation including but not limited to Spanish language services, senior focused health services and teen mental health services.
- Snoqualmie Tribe:

Improvement in community health through SPU contributions

- Carnation: Seattle to fund mental health services and other support activities that enhance community mental health.
- Snoqualmie Tribe: