

7445 86th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

October 1, 2020

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98505

RECEIVED
RECORDS MANAGEMENT

OCT 07 2020

STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. & TRANSP. COMMISSION

RE: Docket UE-200115

Dear Commissioners:

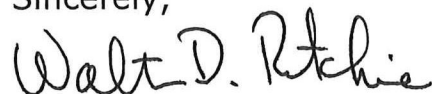
On September 28, 2020, I received a "Notice of Requested Sale PSE Coal-Fired Power Plant" along with my monthly Puget Sound Energy bill. This Notice advises customers that a virtual public comment hearing on the proposed sale of Colstrip assets will be held on October 8, 2020. It further states that PSE has requested that the UTC approve its proposed accounting treatment for the transaction including how decommissioning and remedial costs and unrecovered plant will be included in customer rates. A copy of this Notice is attached.

On the afternoon of September 28, I went to the PSE website to see if I could locate background information on this issue. I found none. I then called PSE at the number included in this Notice with the expectation that they could provide this information. The person responding to this call (Matt) knew nothing about this issue. He checked with his supervisor and all she could provide was a web link to the electronic version of this Notice.

As it is impossible to comment on the substance of this issue without information on this proposal, I request that the public comment hearing be postponed until such time as PSE has furnished complete information on this transaction to their customers.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Walter D. Ritchie



Notice of Requested Sale PSE Coal-Fired Power Plant

Puget Sound Energy (PSE), on February 19, 2020, filed a request with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to sell all of its interests in the Colstrip Unit 4 coal-fired steam plant and some of its interests in the Colstrip Transmission System to NorthWestern Energy of Helena, Montana. PSE, along with four other utilities, jointly own the Colstrip Unit 4 and the Colstrip Transmission System which are both located in southern Montana. A purchase and sale agreement was signed in December, 2019 between PSE and NorthWestern. On May 28, 2020, PSE filed a notice that it will supplement its filing because Talen Montana has exercised its first right of refusal to purchase a share of PSE's interest. While the transaction is anticipated to close by the end of 2020, the UTC has suspended the procedural schedule until the supplemental filing is made.

PSE also requested that the UTC approve its proposed accounting treatment for the transaction. This addresses how decommissioning and remediation costs as well as unrecovered plant, will be included in customer rates. Additionally, PSE has agreed to purchase power from Colstrip Unit 4 from NorthWestern Energy through December 31, 2025, to replace some of the power supply that would be lost in the sale.

PSE requests approval of this sale in preparation for January 1, 2026, when the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act will no longer allow PSE to supply its customers with power from coal-fired generation.

Public Comment Hearing: The UTC will hold two audio-only virtual public comment hearing sessions on October 8, 2020, to gather input from customers on the proposed sale of Colstrip assets. The first session begins at 1:30 p.m., and the second session begins at 6 p.m.

The UTC prefers individuals to participate in the hearing using the computer conferencing application, but there is a phone-in option for those who are unable to participate with a computer. Please call 888-333-9882 to obtain instructions on how to participate.

If you plan to speak at the hearing, you must register prior to the hearing by calling 888-333-9882. Once you have registered, you will receive more information on how to participate. If you are only planning to listen to the hearing and not provide oral comments, it is still beneficial to register so that the UTC is aware of your attendance.

The virtual meeting technology has a limit of 200 participants. Please consider disconnecting from the meeting after you have given your comment, as this will allow other participants the opportunity to join the call and speak. If you are not able to connect immediately please try again later in the session. You have the opportunity to join either the 1:30 p.m. or the 6 p.m. session.

Written Comment: If you would like to submit your comments to the UTC in writing, you may do so by using the online form at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment>; emailing comments@utc.wa.gov; or writing to P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA, 98504. You may also provide comments over the phone by calling 888-333-9882. Please include your name, mailing address, the name of the company (PSE), and a description of this filing. In your comments, please reference Docket UE-200115. The UTC provides reasonable accommodations to participants with disabilities; for accommodation, please email human_resources@utc.wa.gov or call 360-664-1132.

Public Counsel: Residential and small business customers are represented in this proceeding by the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Office of the Attorney General. You may reach them by emailing utility@atg.wa.gov. In your comments, please reference Docket UE-200115.

To Contact PSE: Email customercare@pse.com, call 888-225-5773 (TTY: 800-962-9498); or write to Puget Sound Energy, ATTN: Customer Care, P.O. Box 97034, Bellevue, WA 98009-9734.