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Andrew J. O'Connell
Administrative Law Judge
Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Dear Judge O'Connell,

RE: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Puget Sound Energy,
Docket # UE-200115

I am responding to your notice that the Commission is holding public hearings today on the matter of Puget Sound Energy's filing with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission an Application for an Order Authorizing the Sale of All of PSE's Interests in Colstrip Unit 4 and Certain of PSE's Interests in the Colstrip Transmission system (Application).

I am opposed to that sale and will tell you why here.

As you can see from my address, I live in the east side of our state, and I am served by Avista for my electrical needs. I know that Avista Utilities has been and is still a 15% owner of Colstrip Unit 4. I believe that we, Avista customers, as well as all of us who are working to eliminate the damage done to our globe by the burning of coal, are not served by these coal burning power plants continual burning of coal and polluting our environment. We in Washington State have passed legislation requiring that our electrical production be coal free by 2025. But this is not enough if our utility companies continue to benefit from Colstrip's burning of coal. Or worse yet, if Puget Sound Energy sells out their shares to Northwestern, then Northwestern will have majority control of Unit 4 and

then can force Avista to pay for ongoing operations and upkeep that are no longer useful to Washington State Avista customers.

I also am concerned about the tremendous damage the Colstrip Power Plant has done to the ground water in the area surrounding the plant because of disregard for proper care of its coal ash ponds. My understanding is that the people who live in the town of Colstrip are dependent upon drinking water that is shipped in by the Colstrip power plant. I also understand that ranchers who own land surrounding Colstrip have suffered losses because of the pollution of the water they had counted on for their cattle. Their need for restitution grows as the coal burning plants continue to operate.

So my understanding is that if Puget Sound Energy is now allowed to sell its shares of Colstrip Unit 4 to Northwestern, and Northwestern continues to keep burning coal to produce electricity, the price tag for clean up of the site will only grow and increase the risk to Avista customers for clean up costs.

One other issue in this consideration is the fact. that PSE is proposing to sell Northwestern it's very valuable transmission lines. We should hold onto these lines since they can be used to transmit Wind Power from Montana. This would be in Washington's long term interest.

Thank you for holding this hearing, and for taking my email with these comments.

Pauline Druffel