

**From:** [Barry Malone](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** PSE resource planning: comments on UE-160918 and UG-160919  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2018 11:02:40 AM

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Commissioners,

I am a Bainbridge Island, WA resident, and PSE ratepayer. Please consider the following comments in your deliberations about PSE's resource plan proposals.

Puget Sound Energy - responsible for more CO2 pollution than any other utility in WA - continue to fail to address the need for a carbon-free future in our State.

The recently released IRP continues to stall on a withdrawal from coal power for almost another two decades. That's unacceptable.

The climate science is in, and incontrovertible. We are seeing climate-change driven weather patterns in our State that will negatively affect living conditions, agriculture and fisheries, and have broad and serious impact on public health. There is a real economic danger here in Washington State from a failure to recognize the negative impacts of CO2 emissions on climate.

Please use your statutory authority to refuse approval of any resource proposals from PSE that do not include an end to the use of coal power from the Colstrip plants by 2025, and that further do not explicitly exclude new fossil fuel infrastructure, including fracked gas (LNG).

Both PSE and their primary shareholder Macquarie Group have shown an arrogant disdain for the views of their customers on the issue of a swift transition to renewable energy sources. We are placed at great financial risk by their continuing adherence to coal, especially as recent research has shown that considering the climate impacts of fuel sources makes coal and fracked gas more expensive than renewable energy sources like wind, solar and hydro.

PSE's wrongheaded wish to increase investment in coal and other fossil fuels burdens them and us, their customers, with debt that will actually make it harder for PSE to transition to new renewable power sources - technologies that could provide more reliable, cleaner power at lower cost.

As the state legislature considers a carbon tax - and, in parallel, citizens work at local level to get another state initiative on carbon pricing onto the state ballot - please acknowledge the inevitability of carbon pricing in the very near future. Almost immediately, that would make coal and fracked gas uneconomic.

Here in Kitsap County and on Bainbridge Island, in particular, we are seeing a trifecta of failure from PSE: the least reliable power of any WA county served by PSE, drawn from the dirtiest sources, and sold at close to the highest pricing of any utility in the state.

PSE has responded to customer concerns expressed by Bainbridge Island residents with many tens of thousands of dollars of PR, marketing and advertising glitz, including advertising page takeovers on the editorial pages of a local newspaper, with shallow claims of their "greening". Unfortunately, as you are aware, wind and solar make up barely 6% of PSE's fuel mix, and instead they would have us believe that fracked gas is somehow a "green" "bridge fuel". A fuel mix that includes almost 60% coal and gas is by no measure "green".

Please don't let them get away with that empty PR. Fracked gas is not a "bridge" fuel; it is a barrier preventing us from moving more rapidly towards a renewable energy future.

Please reject any plan from PSE that does not acknowledge the reality of environmental damage caused by carbon emissions from dirty energy sources. Tell them to present a resource plan with no coal and no fracked gas.

Thanks for your attention.

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