

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,**

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

DOCKET UE-190882

**EXHIBIT TO
TESTIMONY OF**

David C. Gomez

**STAFF OF
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Staff email, dated January 17, 2019, Annual Power Cost Reviews

January 10, 2020

From: [Gomez, David \(UTC\)](#)
To: [Teimouri, Daniel \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: FW: Colstrip 3 & 4 outage; McGuire email to PSE, Avista and Pacific
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:32:00 PM

From: McGuire, Chris (UTC)
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Gomez, David (UTC)
Subject: FW: Colstrip 3 & 4 outage

From: McGuire, Chris (UTC)
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 9:47 AM
To: Ariel.Son@PacifiCorp.com; Piliaris, Jon <Jon.Piliaris@pse.com>; Barnard, Kathie <Kathie.Barnard@pse.com>; ron.roberts@pse.com; pat.ehrbar@avistacorp.com; Brandon, Annette <Annette.Brandon@avistacorp.com>; Kinney, Scott J (Scott.Kinney@avistacorp.com) <Scott.Kinney@avistacorp.com>

Subject: Colstrip 3 & 4 outage

Company representatives,

The annual power cost deferral reviews are coming up for each of you in the next handful of months. As you know, the central purpose of these filings is for the commission to review the prudence of power costs included in the deferral calculation, and ultimately approve a specific deferral balance. The power costs included in the forthcoming filings will include the effect of last summer's outage at Colstrip units 3 and 4.

This email is to let you know commission staff will be expected to provide the commission with an analysis of the outage, including the cause of the outage and the cost of replacement power, and a recommendation regarding the prudence of incremental costs associated with the outage. I would like to ask that you address this issue in a proactive manner in your filings. As we will be expected to investigate this issue, it would be more efficient if you all could file testimony (or at a minimum a comprehensive narrative) and any additional pertinent evidence on the issue. I'm worried that if this issue is not addressed proactively, and staff has to conduct its review through discovery, the probability that these filings will need to be suspended and set for hearing rises substantially. Please do not interpret this email to mean that staff intends to challenge the prudence of costs associated with the outage. Rather, I just want to make you all aware staff will need to investigate this issue, and that producing the pertinent information up front will help us complete our review in the limited time we will have.

Thank you all for your consideration. Please feel free to call or email with questions or concerns.

Chris

Chris McGuire

Assistant Director, Energy Regulation
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
(360) 664-1310