

From: [Anne Kroeker](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Cc: [Richard Leeds](#); "[Anne Kroeker](#)"
Subject: Comment on Puget Sound Energy (PSE)'s Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)/ UTC Dockets UE-160918 and UG-160919
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018 3:35:18 PM
Attachments: [UTC PSE IRP Hearing Statement.docx](#)

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To the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Please accept our comments on the Puget Sound Energy's 2017 Integrated Resource Plans for Electricity and Natural Gas to the Washington Utilities and Transmission Commission.

Thank you for your time and attention to our concerns,

Anne Kroeker and Richard Leeds

Feb 21, 2018

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Re: Puget Sound Energy's 2017 Integrated Resource Plans for Electricity and Natural Gas
- Dockets UE-160918 (electric) and UG-160919 (natural gas)

Dear Commissioners,

"There is no way for Washington to meet its climate commitments without getting dirty fossil fuels out of our power mix. As our state's largest utility, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has a particular responsibility to lead the way."

In support of this statement, we submit that PSE does not adequately serve the State of Washington, nor its customers. It is a corporation, run solely for the largest short term monetary benefit for its investors, who are neither residents nor rate payers, and who are in fact, damaged by PSE's export business. While PSE could invest in renewables and be on the way to a full portfolio of non-fossil fuel energy, which has been proven to be financially viable here and worldwide, they are not doing so. They make such claims through their Green Power Program, which is, however, only funded with dollars put in by individual rate payers. In fact, Microsoft is looking for another service provider who will use energy from renewable sources.

Our State's populace is possibly the "greenest" set of constituents in the nation and we have amongst the best renewable resources in our region available. We share strong long-term values for the preservation of natural habitat. However, PSE does not share this vision, and as a profit-minded utility, is a big impediment towards reaching those goals. They do not answer to the people, no matter how much their marketing and public relations say that they do, and the corporation's goals do not align with the goals of our State. Goals of getting all our energy from renewable sources, such as solar and wind, goals for helping all individuals and entities get to that choice and actuality, goals of not adding to our carbon debt which our future residents will have to live with, even more intentionally than we do now.

Our personal revelation of how PSE does not care about helping their customers get to renewable energy sustainability, is how they refused to honor a utility easement running with the property we bought, so that we could not get our completed solar panels on the grid for 2 years. And to get any power at all to our new house required tens of thousands of dollars paid to their privately run engineering company. That experience comes after being 35+ year residents in Washington, first in Bellevue, and then in Des Moines. When we first moved to Washington, PSE, under a different name, was publically owned and not only cared for their customers, but also for their community. After it turned private and then was sold in 2009 to outside investors, that care disappeared. Indeed, Jefferson County PUD has removed PSE as a utility provider for their customers, deeming them to not serve the public interest.

Allowing a public serving utility to be run under private concerns should never be allowed by the UTC.

Much more dire than our problems with PSE, is the overall arching need to reduce/eliminate our carbon output now, which effects are flooding our coasts and killing us as a species. The

demise of biodiversity, which according to the scientific community, is in either the 6th or 7th largest extinction ever recorded in world history, is escalating. Since 1950, the increase of parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere has been going up past all historical findings, and is not stopping. We are in a crisis, which is being noticed and detrimentally experienced all over the world. We do not have the luxury to wait. If we could ask you to regulate the stopping of all fossil fuel energy production and use for our State today, we would, because the momentum of carbon output already out there, will continue to increase. We know that is not possible even though the health and welfare of our residents are in an untenable position now, due to the increasing effects of climate change. However, even given this picture of immediacy, several people commented yesterday, including all the WWU students, that missing in PSE's IRP is a sense of urgency and desire to do least harm.

Thomas Lovejoy, the conservation biologist who coined the word "**biodiversity**", gives example after example as to how discoveries in nature have led to answers for humankind's ills. If we are to save our species, we must save our planet's biodiversity and to save biodiversity; we must reduce our carbon emissions. Carbon dioxide is pollution, a toxic industrial output, the increase of which is generated overwhelmingly from human development, mostly coming from the extraction and use of fossil fuels. Lovejoy states that human "infrastructure should respect natural infrastructure". PSE is destroying our natural infrastructure to export fossil fuels, thus releasing the poisons of species destruction.

We as individuals, can only do so much to reduce our carbon output, as we rely on our being part of a larger system and are at the mercy of what is available for us to do and choose. Putting a carbon accountability on the entities and agencies who serve us, gives us that choice.

Of the comments I heard presented yesterday afternoon, only a fraction of the number yet to be heard, it was clear that PSE should not be allowed their current version of their IRP. From the Montanans who outlined the very real pollution emitted by the coal plants there used to service PSE's energy (Colstrip burns a train car of coal every 5 minutes), to the medical providers who enumerated the health risks and exposures of each step of the fracking gas process and the presence of known and yet to be discovered carcinogenic heavy metals next to the sites, to the clarity of the issues of the LNG plant being built in Tacoma, a fossil fuel production to serve private industry, on unstable land, in illegal conditions with unethical treaty violations, with all risk to be absorbed by their rate payers who are NOT their investors, comes a picture of a company who at both the individual and community levels, should not be allowed to continue business as usual in our State.

Thank you for your kind and considerate attention throughout this hearing proceeding and comment period, listening to our pleas for setting up our State to lead the way to a healthier and more sustainable future for all.

Sincerely,

Anne Kroeker and Richard Leeds

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