

From: [LIZ SPOERRI](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#); [LIZ SPOERRI](#)
Subject: Comments on PSE's IRP
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018 10:49:18 AM

2/22/18

Dear Commissioners,

Thanks for extending the opportunity to submit our comments today and for your attention yesterday at the IRP hearing.

At this critical hour, as we fast approach climate tipping points such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet let's remember this summer. Unprecedented hurricanes wrecked havoc in Texas and Puerto, we couldn't stop forest fires in populated areas of California for months and forest fires in WA contaminated the air and obscured the sun in Seattle for days. At this moment, it's tragic that PSE is attempting to revamp our infrastructure from one fossil fuel to another instead of seriously investing in renewable energy.

Investing in another fossil fuel is more than risky, it's a guarantee that we will not meet the agreements of the Paris Climate Accord. LNG is fracked gas. It uses and contaminates drinking water where it's extracted. It leaks methane as it's transported and stored. Effectively, it's as detrimental as coal.

The risk is enhanced because PSE's plans for a new LNG facility in Tacoma ignore the best practice recommendations of the Coast Guard by building the storage tank on a fault line and loading ships with LNG in a busy port. PSE's plans do not specify how much LNG PSE plans to export. We do know that PSE intends to pass on 40% of the cost to ratepayers who will use 7% of the energy. That implies they plan to export a lot. The more ships they fill, the greater the risk of spills and collisions.

In addition to risk, I want to call attention to the fact that PSE did not follow our laws by failing to meaningfully consult the Puyallup Tribe.

It seems clear that PSE's motivation for this facility is to export LNG. It's not necessary for WA. PSE already has the largest LNG storage facility in the PNW. There are other ways Tote Maritime vessels can meet their emission goals.

Lastly, I want to ask the UTC, what have we learned from the explosion at a LNG plant in Plymouth WA in 2014? 14 million cubic feet of gas leaked, 69 million dollars in damage, 5

injured workers and hundreds of people were evacuated. What if this were to happen in Tacoma? PSE's liability is 35 million dollars. Who will pay for the rest? When will the price be too high? And how will this be reported going forward? In the case of Plymouth WA, state and federal oversight committees did not publish their findings for at least two years although the law says they have 30 days. Further, regulations helped mask the incident by not calling it an LNG explosion because leak occurred in gas form, not liquid.

In conclusion, Plymouth WA offers us a dangerous precedent. PSE does not have the necessary permits and did not meaningfully consult the Puyallup Tribe. It commits our region to decades of fossil fuel intending to profit from an undisclosed quantity of exports. The environmental damage, health and financial costs will be ours. PSE's plan increases risk by ignoring safety recommendations.

Please halt construction of the Tacoma LNG facility and bar new gas infrastructure.

Thank you,
Liz Spoerri

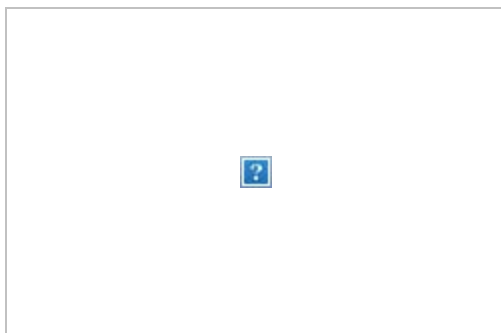
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Sources:

<http://www.sightline.org/2016/02/08/how-industry-and-regulators-kept-public-in-the-dark-after-2014-lng-explosion-in-washington/>

<http://www.sightline.org/2016/06/03/williams-companies-failed-to-protect-employees-in-plymouth-lng-explosion/>

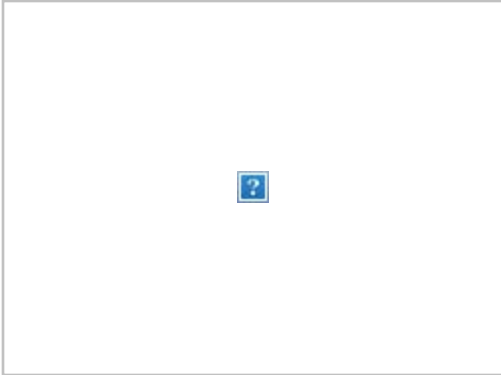
<http://www.sightline.org/2016/05/17/tacomans-proposed-lng-plant-raises-safety-concerns/>



Tacoma's Proposed LNG Plant Raises Safety Concerns ...

www.sightline.org

Editor's note: The graphic "Purpose of Proposed Tacoma LNG Facility" was updated 11/22/2017 to most accurately reflect language of source material. The proposed ...



Williams Companies Failed To Protect Employees in Plymouth

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Williams Companies Failed To Protect Employees in Plymouth LNG Explosion The natural gas company eyeing other Northwest projects has a history of unsafe work ...



How Industry and Regulators Kept Public in the Dark After ...

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Nearly two years ago, an explosion and massive gas leak at a liquid natural gas (LNG) facility in Plymouth, Washington, thirty miles south of the Tri-Cities, injured ...
