

**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**

*Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Office of the President, Letter to Talen,  
dated July 25, 2018*

**January 10, 2020**



**NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

Post Office 128, LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043  
PHONE (406) 477- 4871 FAX (406) 477- 6210



**July 25, 2018**

James M. Parker  
Talen Montana, LLC  
580 Willow Avenue  
P.O Box 38  
Colstrip, MT 59323

Mr. James M. Parker:

On behalf of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, I write to express my extreme concern that the Colstrip Power Plant has been emitting hazardous air pollutants at levels that violate applicable standards. The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation is located less than 15 miles south of the Colstrip facility, and thus Tribal members and other Reservation residents may have been exposed to hazardous air pollutants emitted from the Colstrip facility at levels that could cause health problems.

In order to assess potential exposure risk, immediately provide my office with the following information:

1. Identification of the specific air pollutants that may have been emitted from the Colstrip facility in violation of applicable state or federal standards or permit requirements, the daily and total quantities of each pollutant emitted, and the dates on which such emissions may have occurred.
2. The date on which Talen first learned that operations at the Colstrip facility may be causing emissions of hazardous air pollutants or any other pollutants in violation of applicable standards and permit requirements.
3. A description of the precise issues that caused the elevated emissions, Talen's plans and steps taken to remedy these issues, and Talen's plans to ensure that future violations of applicable air toxics standards do not occur.
4. Data on meteorological conditions at the Colstrip facility, including wind direction and speed, during the time periods when air pollutants may have been emitted from the Colstrip facility in violation of applicable standards or permit requirements.
5. Any other information in Talen's possession that may assist the Tribe in assessing exposure risk to residents of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

**LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR – Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.**

Please note that the Tribe only recently learned of this problem after seeing media coverage of the issue. I am dismayed that Talen did not directly inform the Tribe of the problem when it was first identified. The Tribe has a long history of working cooperatively with Talen Energy, but the relationship between the Tribe and Talen is severely damaged by Talen's failure to promptly and directly communicate with the Tribe upon initial discovery air quality issues that could affect the health and wellbeing of the Tribe's members.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 406-477-4871. Thank you.



L. JACE KILLSBACK  
President, Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Cc: Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council  
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