From: polly_freeman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Polly Freeman
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: PSE IRP, Dockets UE-2003044 and UG-200305: next 20 years will determine our future
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:31:48 PM

External Email

Dear UTC Commissioners,

The next 20 years are critical in the fight to save our planet from catastrophic climate change — to deny this is to deny science and common sense. Puget Sound Energy's draft 2021 Integrated Resource Plan fails to align with 2019's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) requiring utilities to be 80 percent carbon free by 2030, which must be achieved by building more renewable energy and storage infrastructure sooner, retiring the Colstrip coal plant before 2025, and cancelling the Tacoma LNG and any other planned fossil gas plants, expansions or pipelines. This draft plan flies in the face of the law.

As Washington's largest and most expensive energy utility, Puget Sound Energy is instrumental in helping our state achieve its climate goals. To see PSE's initial draft of this critical plan include building and expanding fossil fuel infrastructure while exploiting the cost cap loophole in the Energy Transformation Act is frustrating and, truly, terrifying; it denies the reality of how burning fossil fuels will imperil our environment. It should not be allowed to stand.

Planning for future investments should address potential impacts on Treaty rights, communities already experiencing health disparities and high levels of pollution, and communities that have been historically marginalized. This evaluation should span the project's life cycle impacts. Fossil fuel extraction and refining, including fossil gas, has a long and ugly history of harm. It's time to leave these practices in the past and invest in less harmful energy. We can see the climate changing -- we MUST change course.

Thank you for your work

Sincerely,
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