From: mvietz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Megan Slade
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: PSE IRP, Dockets UE-2003044 and UG-200305
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:06:26 PM

External Email

Dear UTC Commissioners,

A recent study revealed that fossil fuel pollution is responsible for 1 in 5 deaths globally. Continuing to advance fossil fuel production when we have non-lethal energy alternatives is short sighted and deadly. As a resident living in a zip code experiencing higher levels of fossil fuel pollution exposure, with an average shortened lifespan by 13 years, PSE's continued embrace of fossil fuel expansion feels like a betrayal. This is unacceptable for my family, and I hope it is unacceptable for you and your family too. PSE needs to be a responsible leader, begin a genuine transition away from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy sources. We have the technology, public support, and ability to do so. Please stop placing families in harms way.

The next 20 years are a critical time — to deny this is to deny science, moral responsibility, 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.

As Washington's largest, and most expensive, energy utility, Puget Sound Energy will be instrumental to determining if our state can achieve its climate goals. To see PSE's initial draft of this critical 20-year plan include building and expanding fossil fuel infrastructure while exploiting the cost cap loophole in the Energy Transformation Act is frustrating and worrisome; it should not be allowed to stand.

Planning for future investments should involve an equity evaluation that analyzes 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 through land and resource theft; man camps that have been linked to the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and the disruption of small communities; destruction of habitat and the ability to subsist off the land; and processes that leave behind communities rocked by cancer, birth defects, and other serious health concerns. It's time to leave these practices in the past and invest in less harmful energy.

As customers, we have a stake in the harm PSE's energy plans cause to communities, climate, and future generations: by using and paying for the energy we are complicit, and we are demanding better. We are also demanding more transparency in how PSE forecasts future energy demand, inquiry into the validity of construction costs passed onto customers, and a public engagement process that facilitates customers and stakeholders having an actual say in where our money goes and the implications of what powers our homes.

Sincerely,
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