From: hendersonrandy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Randall Henderson
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: PSE IRP, Dockets UE-2003044 and UG-200305
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:50:42 PM

External Email

Dear UTC Commissioners,

As an ordained retired United Methodist Christian minister who grew up in western Washington and pastored churches in Washington state for 38 years, I pray for and urge you Commissioners to search your hearts and minds, instead of your and others' short-term profit wallets, bank accounts, investment portfolios and corporate donors, and stop the suicidally dangerous, and I believe ethically and spiritually immoral, construction of the Tacoma LNG plant and any other fossil gas plants, terminals, expansions, or pipelines PERMANENTLY. These projects are truly against your and your family's own best interest, not to mention against future generations and the whole of Creation itself, of which we are all a part, and for which we are all responsible. Their disproportionate destructive impact on First people communities' resources, lands and lives; Black and Brown communities; and the poor and vulnerable is unconscionable! This offense against all God-given life must stop now.
Please read the following statement carefully with your moral compass, conscience, and intelligence fully engaged:

The next 20 years are a critical time — 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.

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.
THANK YOU.

Sincerely,
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