

**COMMENT Re: PUGET SOUND ENERGY Integrated Resource Plan, Feb. 21, 2018
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Dockets UE-160918 & UE-160919**

As a Vashon resident, I am a Puget Sound Energy rate-payer, because PSE operates as a monopoly here on the Island. During the past year I have become concerned that although PSE has for years advertised an interest in renewable sources of energy to all of us Vashon rate-payers, it nonetheless utilizes renewables for only 41% of its energy sources and does not plan to increase that percentage significantly. In fact, rather than recognizing that the costs of renewables are dropping, it seems to me that this IRP has not only failed to embrace the increasingly competitive renewable sources, it also shows a bias against them despite local and statewide commitments to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. PSE is even part of a lawsuit challenging the validity of the Clean Air Rule! Why?

It is troubling that PSE has not been paying attention to the declining prices of solar photovoltaics and wind resources, even though their IRP focuses on them to satisfy its future renewable obligations. For example, although it has access to considerable wind on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, PSE does not demonstrate a commitment to pursuing wind energy. And though it was surprised that solar prices have dropped faster than wind resources, PSE has not committed to increase its use of solar either. Why not?

The Puget Sound Energy IRP does not adequately model environmental costs and benefits, which is required. WAC 480-100-238(2)(b) requires them to include the cost of risk of carbon dioxide emissions, among other environmental effects. PSE did not model the monetized cost of health impacts from fossil-fuel emissions. These include small particulate emissions (referred to as PM 2.5) and emissions of oxides of sulfur and nitrogen. These health impacts on humans, as well as animals both domestic and wild, are as insidious as the dangers of global warming and resulting sea level rise. PSE needs to look at RCW 70.235.020(1)(a) + revise its planning to meet policy goals of greenhouse gas emissions reduced 25% below 1990 levels by 2035 (50% by 2050!) of its planned sources

In view of the fact that many ratepayers, including me, are highly motivated by the environmental and health impacts of fossil fuels and have made our concerns known at many levels all around the PNW, it behooves PSE to match its planning more closely to the perceived needs and commitments of its ratepayers. King County (which is half of PSE's service territory) has a Strategic Climate Action Plan calling for phasing out coal-fired electricity sources by 2025, passed by Council and signed by 14 K.C. mayors. Additionally, Olympia, Bellingham and Bainbridge officials have called for the end of coal, and Governor Inslee's Executive Order 14-04 asks both the WUTC and the NW Power and Conservation Council to reduce the use of coal by "the steepest glide path possible." At Bonn, Governor Inslee joined an international coalitions calling for the end of coal by 2025.

I want to see the end of all four Colstrip plants by 2025, the replacement of that energy source by solar and wind energy sources, and the phasing out of gas as well, commencing simultaneously with the closing of the Colstrip plants.

Sincerely,
Rayna Holtz
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This IRP looks at costs to ratepayers + to PSE owners, but not at environmental + health costs to people + places where fossil fuels are extracted + burned
Nor does it respond to stated user policies + energy planning

DEAR FUTURE
GENERATIONS:
PLEASE ACCEPT
OUR APOLOGIES.

●
WE WERE
ROARING DRUNK
ON ~~PETROLEUM.~~

FOSSIL FUELS
LOVE, 2006 A.D.

Vashon Climate
Action Group / Rayna Holtz

- by Kurt Vonnegut