

To: Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Re: Dockets UE 160918 and 160919

Commissioners:

The U.S. Army stopped issuing cigarettes in its daily rations to soldiers in 1975. It seems astonishing to us now that it took so long. I believe it will astonish future generations that in 2018 we were still struggling to decide if energy companies could burn coal and gas for power.

The Army did not wait for tobacco companies to experiment with healthier cigarettes. The Army did not wait for state legislatures to struggle through endless committees and public debates on the issue. The science was, by then, beyond debate. And so it is now. The Army issued a ruling. So should you.

Burning coal and gas is poisonous. It does not matter which portion of the poison is ours. The means of producing power are not all the same, and ruling as if they were is false neutrality. Solar, wind power, and conservation are not deadly. Fossil fuels are.

Power companies change hands. Our part-time legislature struggles just to produce a budget. There is exactly one body that can represent the public's interest in fair, healthy power generation, and that is the UTC. Please do not hide this problem under a cushion and hope that someone else will find it. We need your clear ruling.

We ask you to tell Puget Sound Energy that this Integrated Resource Plan is inadequate. Tell them they need to come back with a concrete plan to get to all-renewable energy within a decade. Right now, PSE is offering to tinker with renewables, with a gas plant as a fallback option. That is not a plan. Please tell them so.

Five years from now, there will be a different set of commissioners, and perhaps different ownership for PSE. The constant should be the agreement you forge with PSE now.

Also: We will be there as well. This is not our last hearing. Thank you.

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