

## Higgins, Joni (UTC)

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**From:** Kouchi, Roger (UTC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2013 8:51 AM  
**To:** Higgins, Joni (UTC)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments from - Sharon Dienstbier Conser - UE-120767 Puget Sound Energy DIRECT to website

Joni – This one just came in yesterday. I will send you the other ones that we received regarding PSE's IRP.  
Roger

**From:** Sharon D. Conser [mailto:sharon.conser@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2013 11:42 AM  
**To:** Public Involvement (UTC)  
**Subject:** Comments from - Sharon Dienstbier Conser - UE-120767 Puget Sound Energy DIRECT to website

**Sharon Dienstbier Conser**

**2112 SE 99th Court**

**Vancouver, Washington 98664-3737**

**August 12, 2013**

2013 AUG 13 PM 4:12  
MELANIE  
COOPER

**Dear Commissioners Danner, Goltz, and Jones,**

*My name is Sharon Conser, I am a 64 year old well-educated, community volunteer, mother, grandmother, living on disability with several debilitating health conditions including COPD, living in Vancouver, Washington.*

I want you to know, I have many concerns about Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission considering their endorsement of Puget Sound Energy's [PSE] plan to extend their financing of the Colstrip facility in eastern Montana known for it's environment sabotaging, unhealthy, dirty and dangerous coal plant for TWENTY MORE years?

PSE's investment is abysmally wrong and harmful to those like myself who have COPD but there are other significant issues being brought forward for you to consider. **My hope is you will use your influence to regulate Puget Sound Energy's investment from coal to clean energy resources.**

- The historical \$25 million settlement PSE already paid for **CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER...and PSE is currently facing two Washington state-based legal challenges on coal ash and contamination** must be a major consideration for you to project onto your decision against PSE's proposal. Their litany of negative impact is also criteria you must consider.

- **Washington does not have a carbon cap (or even a tax) to juxtapose as criteria to utilize for PSE proposal for them to benefit from no price regulation AND no carbon emissions regulation for 20 more years.** This is outrageous not to have guidelines in place. Yes, federal or state action is anticipated in the near future, and is probably will occur with the next two decades.
- **PSE's planning process lacks transparency.** PSE has refused to fully disclose its modeling data or analyses, making it impossible for the public to verify or refute PSE's methodology. **PSE has not justified why its costs assumptions for Colstrip are different from costs documented by the plant's other owners.** What is wrong with this distorted scenario?

There are better ways to use PSE's investment opportunities. PSE's conclusion that Colstrip is "economic" is self-serving, manipulative and misleading.

As you know, President Obama emphasized in his speech regarding climate disruption and carbon pollution: "We limit toxic chemicals in our air and water, but power plants can dump unlimited amounts of carbon pollution into the air for free. That's not right, that's not safe, and it needs to stop." This is not where our next energy dollars spent.

- **The future segue into clean generation alternatives includes PSE investment of due-diligence to support research and venture capital to develop new more effective energy resources.**
  - **Financial firms are calling coal export terminals a bad investment; and, on July 24, 2013, the European Investment Bank (EIB) issued they will introduce an Emissions Performance Standard (EPS) for new energy projects, setting an emissions limit of 550 grams of carbon dioxide per kwh, effectively ruling out support for dirty Coal and Lignite power plants as a declining industry.**

Here in my community of Vancouver, the issue of the both the Cherry Point and Longview proposed coal export terminals to China have substantial opposition to being transported through the Columbia River Gorge.

I am sure you are aware of the Lummi Nation's official veto to build the coal export terminal near Bellingham invoking their treaty rights demanding an end to the air and water pollution from the coal industry. Their native American value is:

1. "Everything is connected." As our elders conveyed through our Xwlemi' chosen (Lummi language) that cultural and spiritual significance expressed by our ancestors for the land, water and the environment are all connected.
2. "We must manage our resources for the seventh generation of our people." Our unique heritage requires us to honor our past, present and future generations. Since time immemorial we have managed resources that we are borrowing from our children and grandchildren.

The signs of the times urge you as the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission to critically evaluate PSE's long range plant and say "PSE's petition to continue to invest in the Colstrip facility is not going to happen on my watch by saying NO.

***Please do not allow your commission to make the unconscionable authorization empowering Puget Sound Energy investment into the Colstrip facility to thrive with their money without regulation until 2033.***

***Thank you for evaluating my hope to influence your thinking regarding Puget Sound Energy investment into the Colstrip Facility in Eastern Montana to endanger the people and land of Montana; as the Lummi Nation says "We are all connected."***

***Sincerely,  
Sharon Dienstbier Conser***

***2112 SE 99th Court  
Vancouver, WA 98664  
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