

February 21, 2018

Dear UTC regulators:

The state of the worldwide battle to solve the climate crisis is that we're winning, but not fast enough. Renewable energy installations are accelerating, thanks to steady price declines that have already made wind and solar cheaper than fossil-fuel-based electric generation in many places, which are likely to continue for years to come, despite obstacles like Trump's tariff on solar panels.\* And yet, we're not seeing significant reductions in global fossil-fuel use; the International Energy Agency actually says worldwide greenhouse emissions will probably be a bit higher in 2040 than they are today.\*\* That's a lot better than past projections of unchecked growth in fossil-fuel burning, but we need to do enormously better still. In this game, if you don't win fast enough, you lose—and the stakes of the game are our entire civilization and millions of our fellow species.

Washington State has a great opportunity to lead the way in accelerating the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. But Puget Sound Energy's IRP is denying the wins we expect to continue on wind and solar energy costs, and using that as an excuse to take us backwards by building 700 megawatts of new gas-fired power plants that will keep heating the planet for decades to come. Piling perversity on perversity, they also want to complete their giant LNG plant in Tacoma, which will increase gas demand even further. If we want to win the climate fight, now is the time to start shutting down fossil-fuel infrastructure, not to build even more and dig ourselves deeper into the hole we're in.

Acting in the public interest would mean demanding those shutdowns and more wind and solar even if it costs more. Saving money now is worthless if it means killing our children's future. But as it turns out, if we fully retire Colstrip and replace it with renewable energy as its price continues to drop, the net result over 20 years will probably be lower electric rates than if we keep relying on dirty coal and gas. Please tell PSE to do their research and learn how to take advantage of what we're already winning, so we can win faster and stand a chance of saving the world as we know it.

Sincerely,  
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\* <https://www.rmi.org/news/bull-loose-energy-shop-tariffs-weak-lasso/>

\*\* <http://www.iea.org/weo2017/>