

From: [Keith Ervin](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: UE-160918 and UG-160919: Puget Sound Energy Integrated Resource Plans
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 8:13:00 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important long-range plan that will have a profound impact on Washington's energy future and the global climate challenge.

I am a Seattle resident and a Puget Sound Energy natural gas customer. I am a member of two faith-based climate action teams. My faith teaches that we must be responsible stewards of the earth, and that we have an obligation to protect future generations. The unabated use of fossil fuels puts my children's and grandchildren's welfare -- in fact their very existence -- at risk. Business as usual is not morally acceptable.

You have received comments about the plan's failure to commit to a prompt, complete closure of the Colstrip coal plants. I share those concerns. You have received comments about Puget Sound Energy's failure in this plan to commit to accelerating the mix of renewable energy beyond the bare minimum required by law. I share those concerns.

I want to address one additional shortcoming of this plan. This is the assumption that natural gas sales will continue to increase -- increase! -- between now and 2038.

Constant or increasing sales of natural gas are not consistent with meeting the state's emissions reduction goals. They are not consistent with the Paris climate agreement.

The Department of Ecology reported in 2014 that natural gas was second only to gasoline as a source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state. Natural gas is responsible for more carbon pollution than coal. Natural gas is not a clean fuel source.

To ignore the enormous carbon footprint of natural gas heating and industrial uses would be a profound mistake. Puget Sound Energy must begin the process of replacing natural gas with clean energy sources such as electric fuel pumps. There is money to be made and jobs to be had in this transition. The Utilities and Transportation Commission should require no less.

My children's and my grandchildren's future depends on a rapid and full transition to renewable energy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keith Ervin