

From: [KIM RICE](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Cc: [MAGGIE TAI TUCKER](#); [JANE REYNOLDS](#); [BRIAN EMANUELS](#); [Dan Grove](#)
Subject: Dockets UE-160918 and UG-160919
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 1:07:42 PM
Attachments: [To the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Board.docx](#)

To the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission:

We are a group of Mercer Island citizens committed to the vision of our city leading the way locally, regionally, and nationally, to 100% renewable energy. We can not meet our goals without the cooperation of PSE. We, along with many other communities throughout King County and the broader PSE territory, demand that PSE incorporate an adequate response to climate change into its Integrated Resource Plan.

We respectfully submit the attached letter to the Commission containing our comments on Dockets UE-160918 and UG-160919.

Sincerely,

Kim Rice MD
Mercer Island Ready for 100 Chair
206 714 5959
kimball@mac.com

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Puget Sound Energy Integrated Resource Plan

Feb 20, 2018

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for accepting our comments on dockets UE-160918 and UG-160919, concerning Puget Sound Energy's integrated resource plan for electric and natural gas service in Washington State.

We represent Mercer Island Ready For 100, a group of citizens advocating for a rapid transition to 100% renewable energy. Since our city has a franchise agreement with Puget Sound Energy (PSE), our first priority is to make it clear to PSE and utility regulators that Mercer Islanders strongly support clean energy. Science tells us that the window of time during which we can avoid climate catastrophe is closing. The current PSE Integrated Resource Plan is not nearly bold enough in addressing a problem of this magnitude and urgency.

We take issue with statements such as this one in the IRP:

"The carbon emission profile ... does not represent PSE's 'preferred' outcome – we would prefer emissions to be lower."

Action on climate change has now been deferred for so many decades that we no longer have the luxury of such wishful thinking. Reducing green house gases is no longer elective; it is imperative, and half measures will no longer suffice.

PSE clearly knows that renewable energy will inevitably replace fossil fuels. Recognizing that the energy landscape is changing rapidly due to innovation and that a carbon tax is imminent, the utility has built flexibility into its plan. But the timeline outlined in this IRP would not allow our city to meet its commitment through the King County – Cities Climate Collaborative (K4C) to 90% renewable energy by 2030. This goal would be unattainable unless PSE retires *all* of its coal plants by 2025 at the latest, and not invest in *any* new fossil fuel infrastructure, including natural gas. We call upon PSE to abandon its "wait-and-see" approach and to make an unambiguous commitment to aggressive action beginning **now**.

We also take issue with the following statement in the IRP:

“The coal-fired Colstrip plant emits a significant amount of greenhouse gasses, but it has historically been a very low cost resource, and PSE is obligated to minimize costs to customers within existing legal frameworks.”

It is precisely because of its fiduciary obligation to customers that PSE must act boldly **now**. Ratepayers will pay dearly for the continued burning of coal and gas because the cost of mitigation climbs higher the longer we delay. Furthermore, the equation has changed in the past few years due to the sharp decline in cost of wind and solar. Jim Robo, CEO of NextEra Energy, the world’s largest electric utility, predicted in a 4th quarter 2017 conference call to investors that by the early 2020s it will be ***cheaper to build new renewables than to continue running existing coal and nuclear plants***. (See article by David Roberts, Vox, January 29, 2018.)

We call upon PSE to align its IRP with what science tells us must be done now and must be done quickly in order to bequeath a hospitable planet to our children. Fortunately, in so doing, the company will be now also be able to meet its obligations to shareholders and ratepayers alike.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Rice". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Kim Rice - Chair
Maggie Tai Tucker – Steering Committee
Brian Emanuels – Steering Committee
Dan Grove – Steering Committee
Jane Reynolds – Steering Committee

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