

Washington Utilities and Transportation Committee Hearing
Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Hello, my name is Nick Bonazza. I have been a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) customer on Vashon Island for nearly 30 years.

I ask that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission reject any plan from PSE that does not include removing the Colstrip coal plant in eastern Montana from the grid by 2025 and specifically exclude fracked gas from its infrastructure, including the liquefied natural gas terminal in Tacoma.

As PSE reduces its commitment to coal, the utility's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) makes huge investment in new gas plants in the coming years, building nearly four times as much gas capacity as wind and solar. Customers will take on all the financial risk of these gas plants – whether through rising prices due to volatile fuel costs or a price on carbon emissions, which seems inevitable in Washington State this year.

PSE's most recent 20-year plan, completed November 2017, is a blueprint for locking 1.1 million western Washington customers into decades of fossil fuel use. This plan makes no commitment to ending its use of the Colstrip coal plant. PSE's own analysis shows that retiring Colstrip by 2025 and replacing it with cheaper power would save PSE \$150 million. King County and the cities of Seattle and Olympia have called on PSE to get off coal by 2025. PSE could have included this as part of their planning process but chose not to.

PSE is stuck in the past at a time when our energy markets are undergoing transformational changes. Washington State is committed to meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Accords, calling for an 80-95% reduction in climate pollution across the state's economy by 2050. This target requires a grid made up of 100% clean energy, impossible to reach if PSE executes its current 20-year plan.

I urge you to ensure that PSE commits to a comprehensive plan that moves us to renewable energy sources. Washington State is already experiencing real impacts of climate change in the extreme wildfires that threaten rural communities and acidifying oceans that threatening our shellfish industry. PSE should not trade one fossil fuel (coal) for another (gas).

Thank you for your time.



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