

From: [Mara Orenstein](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Public Comment on UE-160918 and UG-160919
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 8:26:11 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Puget Sound Energy's long-term plan lacks the vision for a carbon-free future that Washington residents expect from our state's largest utility. I call on you to use your existing authority to defend the public interest by rejecting any plan that does not address getting coal-fired electricity from Colstrip off the utility's grid by 2025 and explicitly exclude new fossil fuel infrastructure, including liquefied natural gas (LNG).

PSE's stubborn addiction to fossil fuels puts ratepayers at great financial and health risks. The spectacular drop in the price of renewable energy is already disrupting energy markets worldwide, and costs will only continue to fall. Continued investment in coal and other fossil fuels saddles the utility with debt that will hinder its ability to utilize new technologies that provide more reliable, cleaner power at lower cost. It also puts customers at risk of sudden fuel cost hikes. Fossil fuel prices are inherently volatile, and a carbon price is inevitable.

By continuing to invest in fossil fuels, PSE is also forcing its customers to pay for their own destruction. We cannot mitigate climate change's most disastrous effects if we lock ourselves into another 30 years of fossil fuels by building new gas infrastructure. Methane escapes at every stage in the gas life-cycle, and it is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping the earth's heat over a 20-year span. Fracked gas is not a "bridge" fuel; it is a wall against clean energy. PSE has responded to overwhelming customer demand for clean energy by offering "boutique" energy programs that allow customers with deep pockets to ensure that their operations run clean...

This is not good enough. It is time for Puget Sound Energy to deliver a plan to **make clean energy accessible for all** and to **fully decarbonize its grid**: no coal, no fracked gas, and no LNG.

Sincerely,

Mara Orenstein 509-475-2300

1215 E. Spring st. Seattle, WA 98122