

Chiles, Pam (UTC)

From: Sharon Burke (sburkewashington@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<automail@knowwho.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 11:14 AM
To: Records Management (UTC)
Subject: Protect Our Climate Future (Docket #200304 and #200305)
Categories: PC

External Email

Dear Washington UTC,

The amount of carbon currently in the atmosphere is more than double what the highest points were in the past 500 million years when there was no ice anywhere on the planet. We are headed for rising seas, ocean acidification, less arable land, extreme weather and all at a time of exploding human population. We have already waited too long to act. You must not approve new gas projects and must end all fossil fuels. Please ban any new oil and gas projects and begin phasing out existing operations.

I am writing to ask the Utilities and Transportation Commission to not allow Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to build new gas power plants for their long-range electricity plan and to reduce their use of gas for the long-range gas plan.

According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), natural gas is far more damaging to the climate than previously thought. Gas may be as bad as coal for the climate. And natural gas certainly is not "natural" when the impacts of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" to extract gas is poisoning groundwater in communities across the country.

Our new 100% clean electricity law -- the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) -- requires all utilities to be 80% fossil fuel free by 2030 and 100% by 2045. The last thing we need to do is build new gas power plants that would be around for decades. The intent of CETA is to wind down on gas power in our electricity, not ramp it up.

Our new state law that establishes science-based fossil fuel reductions that come from the IPCC, call for 95% reductions by 2050 and 70% reductions by 2040. Yet PSE's long-range plan for its gas utility shows virtually no reductions for the next 20 years. PSE fails to follow recommendations in Washington's new State Energy Strategy that identifies moving buildings from gas to electricity as a key strategy for climate protection.

Enough is enough. PSE must take climate change seriously before it is too late. Please reject PSE's electricity and gas plans.

Sincerely,

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This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.