

**From:** [Maureen Traxler](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on PSE Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 9:46:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [PSE integrated resource plan 2018.docx](#)

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My comments on the Puget Sound Energy Integrated Resource Plan are attached.

Maureen Traxler

To: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
From: Maureen Traxler  
Date: February 20, 2018  
RE: Docket numbers UE-160918 and UG-160919  
Puget Sound Energy Integrated Resource Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Puget Sound Energy's draft Integrated Resource Plan. I ask that you reject this plan and encourage PSE to plan for the effects of climate change that will certainly occur. PSE's proposed plan commits us to decades of fossil fuels which will exacerbate the negative effects of the changing climate. We are facing a crisis that is going to have more drastic effects in the next few years. We can't afford to only do what is convenient or what gives a short-term financial benefit. It is time for us to do the difficult things that will help us survive.

These are the things I believe PSE must do.

- 1. PSE must account for the public health and environmental effects of its actions.** It must also account for the financial costs of degrading our environment. The current draft plan looks only at the short-term financial benefits.
- 2. PSE must unequivocally commit to ending its involvement in the Colstrip coal plant soon.** We need a firm deadline for ending the use of coal in the very near future. PSE intends to run the plant through 2035, which is far too long. The Colstrip plant is the single largest source of carbon pollution in the western US! Other sources of power are available that are not only cleaner but also cheaper.
- 3. PSE should not build or expand natural gas infrastructure.** It must not use natural gas as a replacement for coal. The environmental effects of gas are at least as serious as coal. Both are fossil fuels that make enormous contributions to climate change. Much of our current supply of natural gas comes from fracking which is having serious irreversible consequences to the environment.

As PSE ends its commitments to coal, it must invest in renewable energy sources and in conservation. The gas facilities proposed by PSE present financial risks to customers, including the risk of rising prices caused by volatile fuel costs or a price on carbon emissions. Regulators in Oregon and California are halting plans for new gas projects in their states.

Washington has committed to reduce climate pollution by 80-95% by 2050. The only way to meet this important goal is for our economy to use 100 percent clean energy. We can't continue to rely on fossil fuels.

4. I agree with the demand that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission reject any plan from PSE that does not remove Colstrip from the grid by 2025 and explicitly exclude all new fracked gas infrastructure, including the liquefied natural gas terminal in Tacoma.