

From: [aislinn_melchior](#)
To: [ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel](#)
Subject: PSE LNG Proposal; DOCKET UG-151663
Date: Thursday, October 20, 2016 3:20:53 PM
Attachments: [LNG.lettertoUTC.docx](#)

Please enter the attached letter into the public comment. I was at the Public Comment Hearing last night and chose not to speak but to collect my thoughts and send them along to the Utilities and Transportation Commission today in written form instead.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

Aislinn Melchior

Public Counsel Assistant Attorney General
900 4th Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, Washington 98164
utility@atg.wa.gov

SUBJECT: PSE LNG Proposal; DOCKET UG-151663

Dear Public Counsel Assistant Attorney General and UTC Commissioners:

I write to you as a concerned citizen of Tacoma. Unlike many who are contacting you, I am not a customer of PSE. Our house runs entirely on electric. This means that the proposed benefits from the plant – peak shaving – will affect my household in no way, but all of the risks associated with the plant – if it is built – will. Our house is in the blast zone, we will get to enjoy reduced air quality, and the noise pollution of the equipment needed to keep the liquefied gas cool and non-explosive. What will happen when those generators are destroyed by an earthquake? It is not a matter of if but when.

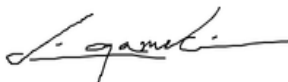
I urge you to reject the settlement agreement that would release Puget Sound Energy (PSE) from the current restrictions prohibiting PSE from forming or acquiring another business entity and using funds from its consumer utility business to do so. These restrictions were entered into in 2008 when the Macquarie Group purchased the utility. If they are unhappy with these restrictions, they should sell the business rather than trying to manipulate our governmental and regulatory systems to break the agreement. This agreement was put in place to protect the citizenry from speculation and profiteering of the sort that has occurred in California.

In the mission statement, the Utilities and Transportation Commission is “to protect consumers ensuring that utility and transportation services are fairly priced, available, reliable and safe.” The dangers of an LNG plant in a densely populated area are real. Even minor events at smaller facilities can cause the evacuation of a 2 mile radius around the plant. Further, we should not be spending ratepayer money on a speculative venture that simply has no long-term value. This proposal has all the hallmarks of an investment bank engaging in carpet bagging.

Extractive industries around the world have a habit of coming into areas, using them while they are profitable, and abandoning them when they no longer are. Are we going to be left holding the bag for a leaking tank on the tide flat?

And finally, I am in agreement with the tribal nations in Washington State that this amendment (and indeed this whole project) should be rejected. It is only legal if you make it so. I hope that you will reject PSE’s petition which seeks private profits from taxpayers’ risks.

Thank you for thoughtful consideration,



Aislinn Melchior