



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

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May 4, 2021

SENT VIA WUTC WEB PORTAL

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Re: Request to Initiate Investigation into Prudency of Colstrip Operations,
Docket UE-210241

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General's Office ("Public Counsel") respectfully submits these comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Opportunity to File Comments, issued on April 13, 2021. On February 3, 2021, several non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") jointly submitted a letter requesting the Commission initiate a proceeding to investigate Colstrip's ongoing expenses resulting in a clear order or determination from the Commission that continued funding to maintain and operate Colstrip is not consistent with prudent utility practice.

Colstrip is undoubtedly a complicated issue. Public Counsel views it as one that will continue to pose challenges for our regulated electric companies and the ratepayers they serve. We would support opening a proceeding to look at the issues posed by Colstrip in a holistic manner, and would participate in such a proceeding if the Commission chooses to commence one.

Public Counsel appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Gafken at (206) 464-6595 or via e-mail at Lisa.Gafken@ATG.WA.GOV.

Sincerely,

Lisa W. Gafken

/s/
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