

## Chiles, Pam (UTC)

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**From:** Richard Leeds (leedsrichard@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:23 PM  
**To:** Records Management (UTC)  
**Subject:** Protect Our Climate Future (Docket #200304 and #200305)

**Categories:** PC

External Email

Dear Washington UTC,

Puget Sound Energy has abused its position as the gas utility for multiple regions of Washington created the most polluting and least reliable power network in our state, counter to Washington interests and stated direction for countering climate change. Instead of retiring fossil fuel facilities, PSE has increased its facilities for unregulated businesses and increased both its emissions and footprint with new shoreline development, pipeline expansions and fracking. PSE should be banned from any increases in emissions and infrastructure, and its emissions need to be decreased on a firm schedule with financial penalties. Further, PSE should be replaced with a Public Utility that represents Washington State's interests, priorities and values - not that of foreign investors working their fossil fuel investments to maximize profits and minimize services, without sustainability or care for people and wildlife.

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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