

## Chiles, Pam (UTC)

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**From:** Elly Claus-Mcgahan (drelly@sound-decisions.org) Sent You a Personal Message  
<automail@knowwho.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 11:02 AM  
**To:** Records Management (UTC)  
**Subject:** Protect Our Climate Future (Docket #200304 and #200305)  
**Categories:** PC

External Email

Dear Washington UTC,

Climate change effects are becoming stronger and more wide spread, just think of the Texas freeze, and the fire and smoke events on this side of the Cascade this past September. At my school we struggled with needing air circulation but unable to open windows. Constructing plants for continued use of natural gas and added GHG emissions is backwards thinking as it causes a spiral of worsening problems and consequent increased demand on power. The spiral needs to go the other way. We can and must meet our power needs with clean energy with no prolonging access to fossil fuel energy. It makes sense for our health, our economy, our environment.

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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