

**From:** [Kellen Lynch](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on PSE 2017 IRP from WWU Students  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2018 1:16:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [EU Comment to UTC on PSE 2017 IRP \(1\).pdf](#)

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Attached is a comment from a group of Western Washington University students concerning PSE's 2017 IRP.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Bellingham, Washington | Western Washington University



## Western Washington University's Energy Union Student Club's Public Comment to the UTC on Puget Sound Energy's 2017 IRP

This comment was prepared by the WWU Energy Union student club members Jade Shallcrass, Eric Wilson, Liam Moser, Kellen Lynch, Mitch Sims, Gregory Weiss, and Griffin Boyle of Western Washington University. Each student is a PSE ratepayer in Whatcom County. Contact Kellen Lynch for follow up information at: [lynchk6@wwu.edu](mailto:lynchk6@wwu.edu)

### Battery storage test vs Tacoma LNG storage

Puget Sound Energy plans on incorporating a flow battery case study into their 2017 IRP. Developing battery storage is indeed a crucial development, however if case studies are a concern of PSE we suggest the utility performs a similar case study on the proposed LNG storage facility near Tacoma. LNG is a dangerous, toxic fuel that is primarily composed of methane, a fuel approximately thirty times more destructive than carbon dioxide to our environment. We are asking for a more reasonable and forward thinking approach to energy storage from PSE.

### Closing Colstrip 3 and 4 by 2025

Moving past the [uneconomical](#) and environmentally destructive resource that is coal fired power plants, our research suggests that it is in the best interest of regional ratepayers of PSE to close the Montana Colstrip 3 and 4 facilities by 2025. Other resources such as wind generation and solar generation can, and should be developed to meet the gap in generating capacity in addition to further energy efficiency measures for residential and commercial ratepayers.

### Actual carbon cost (hint: it's not \$14/ton)

Once costs of carbon dioxide pollution are fully taken into account given the many externalized costs, PSE's claim of \$14 per metric ton of pollution is drastically inaccurate. The closer, real life cost is [approximately \\$40 / metric ton](#).

### PSE is a winter peaking utility and Montana's wind generation matches our demand

Given Puget Sound Energy's winter peak load requirements in western Washington, we suggest that the utility explores further the matching wind generation in Montana . The projected peak load requirements for PSE during winter months correlates to the generative capacity of Montana's wind production and therefore is a possible solution to meeting current and future demand loads.