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To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Concerning UE-160918 and UG-160919
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Dear Commissioners,

Concerning UE-160918 and UG-160919, as a PSE customer I was surprised to learn recently that the majority of my electricity is still generated using the fuel sources of coal and natural gas. I am writing because of my concern regarding climate change and the pollution caused by burning fossil fuels. I have been inspired to learn more about my utility and our regional energy facilities. I believe that there are conservation and energy opportunities and technologies that PSE should utilize to the greatest degree possible in order to achieve 100% renewable energy as soon as possible. Because PSE's aging fossil-fuel power plants need replacement, our utility appears to face a crossroads. I implore PSE and the WUTC to seize the opportunity to be a regional and national leader in the transition to renewable energy sources as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the danger to health caused by the practice of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" is alarming. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) proposes to transition from coal to natural gas, citing natural gas as a healthier and cleaner alternative, it is not.

Respiratory and cardiovascular symptoms in individuals near fracking sites are common. Carcinogenic benzene, arsenic, hydrocarbons, endocrine disrupting chemicals and heavy metals have been found within hazard mitigation levels in both ground and surface water at fracking sites. In addition to headache, dizziness, disorientation, ear nose and throat symptoms and seizures, these chemicals can effect blood and bone marrow and lead to anemia and immunosuppression. The long term neurologic and neurodevelopmental impact on infants and children is of special concern. Exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals can alter developmental pathways in ways that may not be evident for decades or generations.

Fracking emits massive amounts of methane, a gas that contributes much more significantly to global warming than carbon dioxide and is extremely flammable. It seeps into drinking water.

There is growing disagreement between the scientific community and the natural gas industry about whether natural gas is indeed a "cleaner" alternative to coal in terms of environmental impact. There is certainly disagreement about the impact on the health of those people who live near fracking sites. Unfortunately a federal law exempted the fracking industry from compliance with the Underground Injection Control provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act. An Energy Policy Act of 2005 exempted fluids and chemicals used in fracking from protections under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Act and the CERCLA or Superfund.

Puget Sound Energy's long-term plan lacks the vision for a carbon-free future that Washington residents expect from our state's largest utility. I call on you to use your existing authority to defend the public interest by rejecting any plan that does not address getting coal-fired electricity from Colstrip off the utility's grid by 2025 and explicitly exclude new fossil fuel infrastructure, including liquefied natural gas (LNG).

PSE's stubborn addiction to fossil fuels puts ratepayers at great financial risk. The spectacular drop in the price of renewable energy is already disrupting energy markets worldwide, and costs will only continue to fall. Continued investment in coal and other fossil fuels saddles the utility with debt that will hinder its ability to utilize new technologies that provide more reliable, cleaner power at lower cost. It also puts customers at risk of sudden fuel cost hikes. Fossil fuel prices are inherently volatile, and a carbon price is inevitable.

By continuing to invest in fossil fuels, PSE is also forcing its customers to pay for their own destruction. We cannot mitigate climate change's most disastrous effects if we lock ourselves into another 30 years of fossil fuels by building new gas infrastructure. Methane escapes at every stage in the gas life-cycle, and it is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping the earth's heat over a 20-year span. Fracked gas is not a "bridge" fuel; it is a wall against clean energy.

PSE has responded to overwhelming customer demand for clean energy by offering "boutique" energy programs that allow customers with deep pockets to ensure that their operations run clean. This is not good enough. It is time for Puget Sound Energy to deliver a plan to make clean energy accessible for all and to fully decarbonize its grid: no coal, no fracked gas, and no LNG.

Sincerely,

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