From: Scott Patterson
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: Docket #'s UE-200304
Date: Friday, February 26, 2021 12:17:39 PM

External Email

To the Utilities and Transportation Commission,

The science is clear, we have a short window to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of global warming that result from carbon emissions. We are already 1 degree C. above pre-industrial levels and given the status quo of fossil fuel burning and other carbon emissions sources we are on a trajectory to reach near 4 degrees C. over pre-industrial levels by 2100, an unsustainable condition for continued human habitation on the planet. We have 10-12 years to reduce harmful greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels before the impacts of global warming become catastrophic and irreversible. Therefore, building new fossil gas plants, gas pipelines, or infrastructure now means locking ourselves into decades of carbon emissions and condemning ourselves to the most fearsome future for humans and all of life on the planet. Additionally, we will end up paying for assets we will not use.

Instead the emphasis should be on building more renewable energy and storage infrastructure sooner rather than later. We need to ensure that as quickly as possible energy needs are met by renewable clean energy sources. PSE's current 20 year plan does not sufficiently provide for that. Building more storage and renewable energy sources now ensures us a more affordable, reliable, and safe grid as we transition off of fossil fuels.

PSE needs to retire the Colstrip coal plant in Montana, which is already costing PSE customers more for power than we could be paying for cleaner alternatives.

2019's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) requires utilities to be 80 percent carbon free by 2030. But PSE worked hard to put an escape hatch into the law that says utilities can avoid compliance if their costs are too high. By avoiding making clean energy investments in energy efficiency, wind, solar and storage now, and postponing them to later years, PSE's own preliminary analysis indicates they will exceed the cost cap before 2030, exempting them from CETA compliance. PSE must not be allowed to delay action until costs exceed the annual cap. They need to show how they plan to meet the 2030 target.

The LNG facility in Tacoma violates indigenous sovereignty, locks in decades of fossil gas use, is unneeded, and would force customers to pay millions of dollars for a facility they won't benefit from. 43 percent of construction costs for the PSE Tacoma LNG facility paid by customers, yet the projected gas service to customers from the facility is 2%. This is not equitable. Future plans should include equity evaluations.

Thank you,

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