From: drake4worldpeace@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Barb Drake
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: PSE IRP, Dockets UE-2003044 and UG-200305
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 5:10:37 PM

External Email

Dear UTC Commissioners,

The fossil fuel industry, worldwide, corrupts democracies, establishes oil and gas partnerships with rogue and dictator-led countries like Russia and Saudi Arabia, and is still the richest, most destructive industry on Earth. Read the real story about this industry by reading "Blowout" by Rachel Maddow. PSE is one of the many tentacles of the fossil fuel industry. They will never stop selling this lethal product until the fossil fuel industry ceases to exist. And they will never reduce their emissions until the fossil fuel industry ceases to exist.

The International Paris Agreement, which America is now a leader of once again, has come up with a worldwide greenhouse gas reduction plan that all countries are supposed to abide to every year, year after year. PSE is, once again, breaking its commitment to reduce the amount of emissions year after year and is therefore complicit in driving the climate crisis to the brink of unimaginable destruction and suffering if they continue to ignore their own commitments.

Remember, PSE is the fossil fuel industry.

The next 20 years are a critical time — to deny this is to deny science and common sense. Puget Sound Energy's draft 2021 Integrated Resource Plan fails to align with 2019's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) requiring utilities to be 80 percent carbon free by 2030, which must be achieved by building more renewable energy and storage infrastructure sooner, retiring the Colstrip coal plant before 2025, and cancelling the Tacoma LNG and any other planned fossil gas plants, expansions or pipelines.

As Washington's largest, and most expensive, energy utility, Puget Sound Energy will be instrumental to determining if our state can achieve its climate goals. To see PSE's initial draft of this critical 20-year plan include building and expanding fossil fuel infrastructure while exploiting the cost cap loophole in the Energy Transformation Act is frustrating and worrisome; it should not be allowed to stand.

Planning for future investments should involve an equity evaluation that analyzes potential impacts on Treaty rights, communities already experiencing health disparities and high levels of pollution, and communities that have been historically marginalized. This evaluation should span the project's life cycle impacts. Fossil fuel extraction and refining, including fossil gas, has a long and ugly history of harm through land and resource theft; man camps that have been linked to the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and the disruption of small communities; destruction of habitat and the ability to subsist off the land; and processes that leave behind communities rocked by cancer, birth defects, and other serious health concerns. It's time to leave these practices in the past and invest in less harmful energy.

As customers, we have a stake in the harm PSE's energy plans cause to communities, climate, and future generations: by using and paying for the energy we are complicit, and we are demanding better. We are also demanding more transparency in how PSE forecasts future energy demand, inquiry into the validity of construction costs passed onto customers, and a public engagement process that facilitates customers and stakeholders having an actual say in where our money goes and the implications of what powers our homes.

Sincerely,
Barb Drake
10748 Evanston Ave N Seattle, WA 98133-8838
drake4worldpeace@gmail.com