From: sharmuse@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sharon Abreu
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: PSE IRP, Dockets UE-2003044 and UG-200305
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:04:41 PM

External Email

Dear UTC Commissioners,

I've been a climate change educator for over 20 years. It has been very frustrating to see the lack of needed action over those 20 years, and I know that the next 20 years are a most critical time if we are to have any hope of getting climate change under control. 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) which requires utilities to be 80% carbon free by 2030. This 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, and creating good new jobs in energy efficiency retrofitting across Washington State.

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. Any corporation or utility bearing the name "Puget Sound" should reflect the values, vision, desires, and needs of the Coast Salish people who are the natives of this region. PSE does not do that, and it's time to change that.

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.

All PSE's customers 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.

Thank you for your attention to my comments here.

Sincerely,
Sharon Abreu
1315 Vusario Ln # 969 Eastsound, WA 98245-7503
sharmuse@gmail.com