From: julia.buck@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Julia Buck
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: PSE IRP, Dockets UE-2003044 and UG-200305
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:46:06 PM

External Email

Dear UTC Commissioners,

The next 10 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 embarrassing and points out why for-profit energy companies favored the bill. The public is once again sold out in the pursuit of profits for a few, paying more for energy and bearing the externalized costs of climate change and unreliable service from aging infrastructure. The first New Deal had electrification and heat as a part of its scope because these public goods can either be universally available or profitable. The recent disaster in Texas shows that trusting human lives to market forces kills the poor. Whether by climate change-induced storms and droughts or by infrastructure outage-- I started a new job in Redmond last month and have seen three multi-hour outages already-- the state of Washington bears ultimate responsibility for costs privatized infrastructure externalizes onto its residents.

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 is of a piece with the genocide and extraction that has been intertwined with our country's foundation, and it needs to be pulled up by the root.

The state of Washington should exercise its power to bring our electricity under public ownership and allow people to have a say in power generation sourcing and building and maintaining a utility system. This plan is the epitome of playing our faces; it is an insult to the State and its population. Tell PSE to get back to the drawing board and try again; maybe they can ask the Public Power districts how they did it.

Sincerely,
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