

Comment on PSE's 20-year plan (UE-160918 and UG-160919), Renton, WA

My name is Deejah Sherman-Peterson. I am speaking today as a mother, a grandmother, and a member of the Unitarian faith community. One of our principles is respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Earth is our home and we are all connected. We believe that we humans have a special duty to the rest of Earth's species because we possess intelligence and power. Yet we continue to extract fossil fuels and build new fossil fuel infrastructure to export, refine, transport, and use those fuels, thereby causing radical damage to Earth's global ecosystems. We are leaving our descendants a world fundamentally different from the one in which we evolved and developed agriculture and civilization. My children and grandchildren—and your children and grandchildren—will inhabit a world bereft of much of the planet's diversity of life—about 10% species extinction per 1 degree Celsius of warming.

Our church's Climate Action Team presented a nine-month climate lecture series by scientists talking about fossil fuels and climate change and their effects on food security, health, world crises, Northwest forests, the Salish Sea, and more. Puget Sound Energy and other fossil fuel companies cannot be allowed to continue business as usual, using coal and fracked gas. Energy companies have known for decades that their fossil fuel business is causing global warming and climate change. They hid the truth and lied to us when that truth began to be revealed. We cannot continue on this trajectory and expect that our children will live with the same atmosphere, the same climate, the same plants (including food plants), the same animals (including pollinators necessary for the existence of our food plants), even the same level of civilization. Plants, animals, and human civilizations evolved within a specific range of temperature, precipitation, and other climate conditions. When the climate moves out of this range, the plant, animal, or civilization must move, adapt, or die. We are already seeing these disruptions.

I'll end with a couple of quotes from Peter Kalmus, an atmospheric scientist with a Ph.D. in physics from Columbia University, and author of *Being the Change*. "We each have the power to make the world better or worse. Each of us can choose to push the world toward a warmer temperature or pull back." "The longer we take to change direction, the more suffering we'll experience and the longer this suffering will last. ... We must do everything we can to change direction."

Deejah Sherman-Peterson  
10818 27th Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98125  
sherpeterd@comcast.net

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