

**From:** [Eric Carlson](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** Docket Numbers UE-141170 and UG-141169 - Retire the Colstrip Plant  
**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 9:39:23 AM

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Dear Chairman Danner and Commissioners Jones and Rendahl,

I write to oppose Puget Sound Energy's proposal to continue operating the Coalstrip power plant in Montana. (Ref Dockets UE-14170 and UG-141169)

In its 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), Puget Sound Energy (PSE) indicates that it intends to continue operating Colstrip for the next 20 years. The decision that Colstrip is "economic" is overly simplistic. PSE fails to take into account the full range of costs and liabilities associated with Colstrip while simultaneously undervaluing renewable energy. In no way has PSE justified additional capital investment in Colstrip, particularly Units 1 and 2—the two dirtier and older of Colstrip's four units.

State regulators have repeatedly asked PSE to address Colstrip's myriad costs and impacts. PSE has refused. Enough procrastinating—it is time for a clear path to retirement. There are safer, cheaper, and cleaner alternatives for meeting our state's electricity needs. Continuing to operate Colstrip generates a substantial risk for Washington customers, not to mention serious environmental and public health risks. There are much better, energy efficiency, demand response and renewable alternatives available to PSE to meet its customers' needs.

Sincerely,  
Eric E. Carlson  
Kirkland