

February 28, 2022

UE-210795

Amanda Maxwell
Executive Director
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Anne Newcomb Comments on Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) (Docket UE-210795)

Dear WUTC Commissioners Danner, Rendahl, Balasbas, and Executive Director Maxwell:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on PSE's first CEIP. I greatly appreciate your understanding of the enormity of the climate change crisis and the need to move quickly to a clean, efficient energy grid which both reduces GHG emissions and creates greater resilience.

I am part of the Washington Clean Energy Coalition and have attended most of PSE's IRP and CEIP Stakeholder meetings over the past two years. I was involved in PSE's IRP in 2013 and 2014 and am grateful to see the change as CETA influences PSE. I serve on the City of Issaquah Environmental Board and helped with the creation and will be a part of the implementation of Issaquah's Climate Action Plan. Issaquah is depending on PSE to have a robust and expedient CEIP!

Please require Puget Sound Energy to revise its CEIP to reflect the following outcomes:

- To reduce peak demand, require PSE to expedite and expand their Demand Response and Time Varying Rates programs. PSE is proposing taking way too long with small pilot projects. Cities like Issaquah are ready to help promote programs like this now! These programs will also help customers save money by using appliances and charging cars during off peak times with reduced rates which is especially important as PSE raises rates.
- To reduce price volatility and GHG emissions, require PSE to accelerate acquisition of new renewable clean energy resources and storage. As Colstrip closes we will want its dirty power to be replaced with clean energy.
- To increase the resiliency of the electric system, require PSE to offer programs that facilitate local solar and battery installations. As heat domes and storms intensify and become more regular, we need reliable power sources in place to protect citizens from heat and cold as well as to keep hospitals up and running. Local solar generation and battery capacity could also reduce stress on distribution lines during a heat dome event and thereby strengthen the resilience of the electric grid.
- To be better aligned with future capacity needs, require PSE to revise temperature modeling to reflect the changing climate. The data used in modeling that influences this CEIP goes back 90 years. While PSE is finally working on procuring more up to date weather data, climate change is not well represented in this CEIP.

As you know the effects of our changing climate are being felt all around the world. An alarming example of the adverse impacts of climate change is the potential collapse of large portions of the Antarctic ice sheet. UK and US researchers involved in a five-year Thwaites Glacier study have discovered that the Thwaites glacier tongue that is holding back an ice cliff and massive amounts of

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ice is now predicted to break up in 5-10 years which is much sooner than originally thought. This will likely lead to a significant increase in sea-level rise as well as further climate disruption. In a recorded interview the scientists in the study call on us to use this new information to take faster and more robust action to reduce GHG emissions and sequester CO2.¹

Thanks again for your consideration and please know your efforts are important and appreciated!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Newcomb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Newcomb
Issaquah, WA

¹<https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2021/12/17/crucial-antarctic-glacier-likely-to-collapse-much-earlier-than-expected/>