

From: [Steven Hofer](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Comment on PSE's 2017 Integrated Resource Plan, Docket numbers UE-160918 and UG-160919
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2018 11:53:46 PM

January 20, 2018

David Danner, Chairman
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Olympia, WA
Docket: UE160918

Dear Chairman Danner:

In 2022, "Units 1 and 2 of the coal-fired plant in Colstrip will close. The plant's owners agreed to do so to settle a lawsuit with environmental groups" ¹ In Dec of 2017, an agreement was reached on units 3 & 4 that "The Settling Parties agree to a depreciation schedule for Colstrip Units 3 and 4 that assumes a remaining useful life of those units through December 31, 2027". ² I'm not a legal eagle, but it reads to me like the future of the plant is very much up in the air past 2027, given that the largest owner assumes end-of-life by that date.

As a result of the planned closure of Units 1 & 2, and the likely closure of 3 & 4 as well - all within the next ten years - the community of Colstrip is facing an existential crisis. It is likely that many families will be forced to relocate as the local economy absorbs a severe shock. There will be some opportunity in the form of cleanup, habitat restoration, and tourism, but replacing the plant and its economic lifeline will be a Herculean task.

I am reassured that as part of these settlements, "The town of Colstrip could receive a minimum of \$10 million to aid economic impact from the closure [of Units 3 & 4]..." ³ It is important that these closures continue to be handled in a socially responsible manner; that the shareholders honor their commitment to the hard-working women and men who have worked every day for the past 30 years to produce profits and reliable electric power. We as distant ratepayers and environmentalists must do everything we can to help our fellow citizens with this difficult transition. Without adequate resources, American dreams will be shattered and we must fight to ensure that doesn't happen.

References

1. Settlement Calls for Colstrip Units 1 & 2 to close by 2022
<http://mtnpr.org/post/settlement-calls-colstrip-units-1-2-close-2022>
2. DOCKETS UE-170033 & UG-170034 MULTIPARTY SETTLEMENT STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT
<http://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2017-2018/Energy-and-Telecommunications/Meetings/Sept-2017/ColstripSettlment.pdf>
3. Montana says settlement agreement Filed over Colstrip power plant
<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/2017/09/15/montana-says-settlement-agreement-filed-over-colstrip-power-plant/672541001/>

Regards,

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