

August 16, 2013

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
Docket #UE-120767 (and UG-120768)

RE: Comments on Puget Sound Energy's Integrated Resource Plan

Dear Chairman Danner and Commission Members:

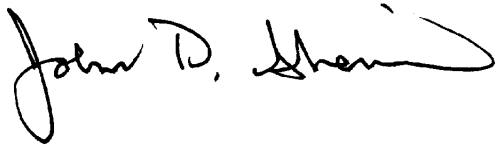
I am writing to comment on Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that is currently open for public comment as part of the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission's (UTC) review process.

In 2011, approximately 32% of PSE's electricity came from burning coal, with a majority coming from the Colstrip Generating Facility in Eastern Montana. I would like to see PSE's IRP more thoroughly and accurately address the environmental, health and financial costs of mining, transporting and burning coal. Washington Administrative Code (480-100-238 (2)(b)) directs the UTC to consider that the lowest reasonable cost scenarios in the IRP include the cost of risks associated with environmental effects including carbon dioxide. In June, President Obama directed the EPA to develop carbon emission standards for coal plants and final standards and regulations are due in June 2015. Unfortunately PSE's preferred portfolio assumes no cost or price on carbon for the next 20 years.

If the full costs, uncertainties, and risks of Colstrip's continued operation are considered, it is likely that the combined costs of complying with environmental impacts (including impacts related to air pollution, coal ash, and groundwater), upgrading plant technology and infrastructure, and likely regulation of carbon pollution would be greater than cleaner alternatives such as expanded energy efficiency, renewable energy and developing a smarter, more resilient and less centralized power grid. Amory Lovins and the Rocky Mountain Institute have created a blueprint to reinvent the way we generate and distribute energy without the use of fossil fuels, especially dirty dangerous forms like coal. We need to recognize and seize this amazing opportunity.

I urge the UTC to instruct PSE to include the true costs and risks for PSE's plan for future energy sources. Given the uncertainty associated with pending lawsuits and likelihood that that Colstrip will be burdened with stricter pollution standards (including carbon dioxide), it is imperative that PSE has a plan for reducing reliance on Colstrip and shifting to cleaner energy sources that will provide greater rate certainty for customers.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Sherwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Sherwin  
Issaquah, WA