

August 22, 2013

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
Olympia, WA 9850-7250
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 you as a customer of Puget Sound Energy, a parent of three young children and as someone deeply concerned about the future of our region and our environment. I'm also writing as a city councilperson representing a community known for our commitment to environmental protection and sustainable living.

I am aware that PSE recently submitted an IRP which outlines their proposed sources of energy for the next 20 years. Surprisingly, this document clearly shows that PSE intends to continue to use coal as a primary fuel source. Given the known health, environmental and safety issues inherent in both the mining and burning of coal it seems irresponsible to continue with this outmoded and dangerous method for generating electricity.

Furthermore, in light of current and proposed EPA standards for coal plants, and recent and anticipated lawsuits citing the need for costly upgrades for the Colstrip plant, coal will be an increasingly expensive source of power for PSE, with ratepayers ultimately bearing the burden of those costs. The potential for a carbon tax only adds to the argument for planning for a cleaner and likely cheaper source of energy going forward. Advancement in wind and solar power and the fact that these renewable energy technologies have experienced dramatic price drops in the last few years and seem poised to drop even further, would strongly suggest that PSE should focus on expanding their share of PSE's overall energy mix.

The future that our children face if we continue to rely on fossil fuels, especially coal, and ignore the science of climate change, should alarm and sadden all of us. I am hopeful that the UTC will carefully review PSE's IRP with real consideration given both to the dangers inherent in continuing to burn coal and the cost to ratepayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsten Hytopoulos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirsten Hytopoulos
Member, Bainbridge Island City Council