

To the Utility and Transportation Commission

It is no longer feasible for PSE to depend on coal to produce 1/3 of our energy here in the northwest. Our government has recently agreed with 99% of our scientists that the current climate change is accelerating and that it is being caused by our human activity. It is very clear that the burning of coal is a major contributor to climate change. This Colstrip Plant is the 8th biggest emitter of CO₂ in the country. I do not believe that this fact is included in PSE's IRP.

The PSE has not taken consideration as to how the cost of future legislation will affect the availability of coal generated electricity. Our government and our people are demanding legislation that will serve to decrease and manage carbon pollution and to protect the health of the public and the environment. I do not believe that the IRP assesses the effects of the current and future costs over the next 20 years. Furthermore, the IRP does not discuss the likelihood that its Colstrip Plant will be completely unsatisfactory during the next 20 years in its' ability to produce cleaner and economically feasible energy as our we, increasingly, turn our attention to legislation to save all life as we know it.

Furthermore, I believe that the IRP should include a proposed financial responsibility for the damage caused from the life cycle impacts of coal in the environment including its affects on public health. Already, the PSE has paid settlements of 25 million dollars for ground water pollution. It appears that ground water pollutant spills, air pollution, coal ash pollution and carbon pollution are an ongoing aspect of this industry and the increasing future costs of this should be assessed.

Finally, the PSE has admitted that it is unsure of the future of coal. However the IRP is not only a document but represents PSE's willingness to invest it's time and money for 20 years into these blackened holes. I would like to ask the PSE to assess the costs of putting our current wealth into a technology that is requiring constant remediation and possible decommission. The PSE has been investing in renewable energy projects and could take what wealth exists now to develop energy that waits to be captured: to name a few, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and multi-sized environmentally safe hydroelectric energy technology. Why can we not emulate the progress that Denmark has made with its extensive use of wind and solar to generate 30% of its energy needs. The State of Iowa follows by generating 24% of their energy from wind and solar technology

Our highest officials of Washington State have expressed a willingness to allow flexible regulation that will allow innovative technology. Our population is privately leading the way by installing energy saving construction and neighborhood solar technology.

Could not the PSE become a leader and use its growth and resultant wealth to now develop qualitatively. Our PSE could respond to the pressures that have been created by our rampant and profit driven technological development by becoming a gateway for the generation of energy from wind, solar and other forms of clean non- fossil fuel power generation.

Thank-you, Pamela A Johnson
Silvermoon