

August 15, 2013

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Docket #120767 and UG-120768

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

I am writing to comment on Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that is currently open for public comment.

My concern regarding the IRP is PSE's proposal to continue to rely on coal for the generation of approximately 30% of its electricity. While there are a number of economic and environmental issues with this proposal, it is perhaps most fundamentally a moral issue. Science leaves no doubt that the burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause for global warming and climate change.

My faith tradition teaches that we are stewards of God's creation and are called to live in a manner that all on earth have the chance to live fruitful and productive lives. Yet global warming is increasing drought in many parts of the world resulting in regional food shortages and increased competition for access to water supplies. For this reason the US Department of Defense sees global warming as a major contributor to future international insecurity. Rising ocean levels and more violent storms are increasing coastal flooding both in the United States and around the world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change notes that climate change will bring about a flood of climate refugees as millions are uprooted by shoreline erosions, coastal flooding and agricultural disruption. Here in the Pacific Northwest, we are already seeing the impact of greater ocean acidification on shell fish farming. As ocean acidification increases it will put our Northwest fisheries at risk and threatening the livelihoods of tens of thousands. Beyond these economic consequences, these changes also threaten the cultural and spiritual life of our Native American neighbors who have fished these waters for thousands of years.

To continue to burn fossil fuels will only increase global warming and place an intolerable economic and environmental burden on our children and our grandchildren and those of the global community. Now that we understand the consequences of burning fossil fuels, we cannot morally continue to do. PSE needs to begin the process of creating a cleaner energy future, so that all of God's people can live their lives as God intended.

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