

September 25, 2022

Amanda Maxwell, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Dockets UE-220066 and UG-220067

Dear Executive Director Maxwell,

PSE does not deserve an increase in their rate of profit. Given their lack of meaningful actions to reduce pollution from fossil fuels, which legislators and many ratepayers have requested, they deserve a decrease. I want to be proud of my utility. I want them to deserve an increase, but they must earn that by taking appropriate actions first.

For more than a century, scientists have known that burning fossil fuels will contribute to climate change. For decades, the devastating effects of actual climate change have been evident. PSE appears to have been intentionally avoiding confronting these facts for years, while they have continued to pollute the world. While PSE's pollution from using and promoting fossil fuels is tiny in terms of the total pollution from fossil fuels contributed over time by people and companies around the world, it still has contributed to climate change.

When planning for the future in Integrated Resource Plans (IRP), PSE has routinely used predictions for future gas prices, for example, but has refused to predict future temperatures until this year. I am aware of PSE being asked to use future weather predictions in their IRPs as early as the 2017 IRP, when I first became involved with reviewing them. In response to UTC staff comments on the 2017 IRP, PSE Vice President Ken Johnson implied they would do it in the 2019 IRP. Did this happen? No. Did they do it in the 2021 IRP? No. They stalled and did not actually do it until the current planning for the 2023 IRP, after being severely reprimanded by the UTC in response to the lack of action in 2021 IRP. That type of foot dragging is just one example of why PSE deserves a decrease in profits.

The adverse consequences to humanity and the globe from global warming are increasing rapidly. The worldwide devastation from heat waves, storms, and flooding this year alone are staggering. PSE needs to move quickly to stop the use of natural gas. The 2023 IRP currently shows that PSE will examine the impact of "mid" gas demand in nearly every scenario except one that assumes no gas growth after 2026, but PSE appears to be doing little or nothing to examine the possibility of even modest reductions in gas usage anytime soon, in spite of changes in building codes.

From my prospective, PSE has been dragging their feet for years, while climate change has resulted in the deaths of millions of people around the world every year¹. PSE deserves to have their rate of profit decreased as a consequence of these past actions. PSE does not deserve an increase in profits until they actually clean up their act.

Thank you for attention to these issues.

Virginia Lohr
PSE Ratepayer and IRP Stakeholder
Vashon, WA

1 <https://www.monash.edu/medicine/news/latest/2021-articles/worlds-largest-study-of-global-climate-related-mortality-links-5-million-deaths-a-year-to-abnormal-temperatures>