

September 28, 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,

On Sept. 25, 2022, I submitted a comment that PSE should receive a reduction in their rate of profit, rather than an increase. To show that PSE has not been taking meaningful actions to respond to what the legislature and many ratepayers see as an imperative to respond to the climate crisis, I used the example of PSE's lack of using weather data in their IRPs. I recently heard a rumor about a new PSE proposed action, which, if true, would be an extreme example of how PSE continues to take actions that are imprudent and harmful to ratepayers and the climate and that PSE deserves reductions in its rate of profit.

I heard that PSE is proposing to give its voting rights for the Colstrip coal-fired power plant to Talen Energy Supply, which would continue to operate Colstrip for cryptocurrency rather than close it down—the clear intent of the Washington Legislature. PSE would immediately lose its voting rights. Without voting rights, PSE would no longer have any say in the prudence of decisions made regarding the operation and maintenance of Colstrip, but ratepayers would continue to be responsible for potentially imprudent and unnecessary costs for whatever Talen proposes to do through 2025. This is particularly problematic, since it would give Talen enough shares to out-vote all other co-owners, including Avista, so this action could have far-reaching consequences. It could also result in increased clean-up costs in the future for ratepayers. What I heard also suggests that PSE would use this action to take credit for reducing its fossil fuel emissions, even though no emissions reductions would actually occur. What I heard also suggests that PSE is doing this without oversight by the UTC. If any of this is true, then PSE is continuing to ignore least cost solutions for ratepayers and continuing to avoid taking prudent actions to reduce fossil fuel emissions.

I hope what I heard is either not true or that PSE realizes this is an extremely imprudent action and rapidly backs away from it. If the UTC is aware of this proposed action and has the power to consider this in deciding an appropriate level of profit for PSE, such as a substantial reduction in its rate of profit, that you will take it. We are in a climate crisis and PSE needs to be sent a clear message that they need to take prudent and immediate actions that the legislature, ratepayers, and the world need to address this crisis.

Sincerely,

Virginia Lohr  
PSE Ratepayer and IRP Stakeholder  
Vashon, WA