

**Docket Nos. UE-170033 and UG-170034 (Consolidated) -
Vol. II**

**Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v.
Puget Sound Energy**

July 31, 2017



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION)	
)	Docket Nos.
)	
vs.)	UE-170033
)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY)	and
)	
)	UG-170034
)	

PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING
Volume II

Pages 49 - 145

PLACE: Bellevue City Council Chamber - Room 1E-126
450 110th Avenue Northeast
Bellevue, Washington

DATE: July 31, 2017

BEFORE:

DAVE DANNER, COMMISSIONER AND CHAIR

JAY BALASBAS, COMMISSIONER

ANN RENDAHL, COMMISSIONER

Reported by:
Connie Recob, CCR, RMR, CRR, CLR
CCR No. 2631

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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5 COMMISSIONER DANNER: We are here tonight to
6 have a public comment hearing on Puget Sound Energy's
7 2017 general rate case and this is Dockets UE-170033 and
8 UG-170034 with the Utilities and Transportation
9 Commission of the state of Washington. My name is Dave
10 Danner and I am the chair of the Washington Utilities
11 Transportation Commission and I'm joined tonight by my
12 colleagues Commissioner Jay Balasbas and Commissioner
13 Ann Rendahl.

14 Some preliminaries: On January 13th, 2017,
15 Puget Sound Energy filed with the Commission revisions
16 to its current tariff WN U-60, electric service and
17 tariff WN U-2, gas service. The company is requesting a
18 rate increase of 86.7 million or 4.1 percent for
19 electric service and a rate decrease of 22.3 million or
20 2.4 percent for natural gas. If approved, the average
21 residential consumer using 900 kilowatt hours per month
22 would experience a monthly increase of approximately
23 \$2.36 for an average bill of \$99.83.

24 The average residential natural gas customer
25 using 64 therms per month would experience a monthly

1 decrease of approximately \$2.93 for an average bill of
2 \$66.85. If approved, the rate charges -- rate changes
3 will become effective in January 2018.

4 We say "if approved." This is a matter that
5 will be adjudicated before the Commission. We have one
6 more public comment hearing scheduled for August 31st in
7 Olympia, Washington and we will also have several days
8 of hearing in Olympia.

9 And so with that what we would like to do
10 now is we have a short video that we would like to show
11 that kind of goes through the basics of what a rate case
12 does at the Commission and if you'll bear with us for a
13 few minutes and then we will take public comment after
14 that. So Andrew, why don't you go ahead.

15 (Video played.)

16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Okay. And for people
17 who are standing out in the hallway, if you want to come
18 forward there are seats inside if you care to join us.

19 All right. So you heard in the video the
20 ways that you can contact the Commission if you want to
21 file written comments in addition to -- or in lieu of
22 your comments tonight. There is a fact sheet that was
23 handed out outside. You may have seen it on the table.
24 This is provided by the Office of Public Counsel in the
25 State Attorney General's Office. We have Assistant

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1 Attorney General Armikka Bryant here. Will you stand
2 up? So if you have any questions about this case, the
3 Attorney General's Office represents the interests of
4 the ratepayers in the Utility and Transportation
5 Commission rate proceedings.

6 In addition there are other independent
7 parties in this proceeding including environmental
8 groups in the state of Montana, industrial customers and
9 the Commission's own staff that -- we have a regulatory
10 staff that act as independent parties.

11 The Commissioners sit as judges in these
12 proceedings and so tonight we are sitting as judges so
13 we will hear the public comments and we will take it
14 under advisement. This is not an opportunity for an
15 exchange with us. We are simply here to hear what you
16 have to say. And again, if you have comments about the
17 case, you can talk to the Attorney General's Office or
18 if representatives of the company or our own staff are
19 here tonight then you can talk to them as well.

20 So we have more than 60 people signed up to
21 talk tonight. So what I would like to do is first ask
22 you to keep your comments as brief as you think is
23 appropriate. If I feel they're running long, I will cut
24 you off. Also, if you have heard -- if you're making
25 comments that basically repeat others that have been

1 heard, you can reference those and maybe save us a
2 little time tonight, but it will take awhile to get
3 through all the speakers tonight and I just hope that
4 you will be cognizant of the time constraints.

5 With that, I would like everybody who plans
6 on making a public comment tonight. Could I ask you to
7 stand so that we can have you swear in?

8 (All present in the audience were sworn in.)

9 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. So we
10 will -- let us start tonight -- Diane Emerson, would you
11 like to come forward and speak?

12 MS. EMERSON: Good evening. My husband
13 Michael Laurie and I are PSE Green Power customers.
14 Here is our utility bill. I'm asking the Commission to
15 not allow PSE to pass on any costs associated with
16 fossil fuel plants because I'm dedicated to halting and
17 reversing climate change. As an example, I have chosen
18 not to own a car for over 10 years. I go to work by
19 bicycle and public transportation.

20 I'm currently reading the book Drawdown, A
21 Comprehensive Plan to Reverse Global Warming. Here is a
22 quote from it: "The stakes for our planet have never
23 been higher. The world is warming. Sea levels are
24 rising and the impacts of climate change are occurring
25 faster and stronger than originally predicted. It's a

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1 global crisis requiring solutions at every scale and
2 across every sector. Wind and solar, now cheaper than
3 fossil alternatives, are being installed in California
4 at breakneck speed. We must follow California's lead.
5 The way is clear. PSE should get off fossil fuel by
6 2025. It's vital that they start planning now to ensure
7 a smooth transition."

8 In the Drawdown book, there are three key
9 solutions which the Commission and PSE need to consider
10 for this transition. 1: Grid flexibility. Integrating
11 the variable renewable energy sources for constant power
12 supply.

13 2: Energy storage by utilities such as
14 using excess power to pump water to higher elevations
15 for hydroelectric power when needed or sending loaded
16 mining railcars uphill with a regenerative system to
17 provide energy as they come back down or new generation
18 batteries.

19 3: Distributed energy storage, consumers'
20 electric car batteries, for example, and Tesla power
21 walls in schools and businesses.

22 Thank you. I have a copy if someone would
23 like.

24 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Yes, thank you. If
25 you'd like to -- let's see. Actually the best thing to

1 do would probably be to -- if you can hand it to the
2 court reporter and she'll keep those and get those to
3 us. Thank you very much.

4 Linda Baker.

5 MS. BAKER: Hello, good evening.

6 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Good evening.

7 MS. BAKER: I want to say that I'm not here
8 because of rate increase. That's not a problem. The
9 problem is the climate change and I'm a grandmother and
10 I'm concerned about my little grandchildren. And also,
11 I'm from Renton, Washington and in Renton we pride
12 ourselves of being ahead of the curve, and being ahead
13 of the curve in Renton means for us, our family, that we
14 are standing up for climate renewable energy by running
15 our home on solar power. I drive an electric Leaf and
16 so we do all of our energy on solar.

17 And I've just heard that in the great state
18 of Vermont an energy company is now going for renewable
19 energy and it's the energy company that's doing this.
20 And this can be profitable for the energy company. It
21 can create new jobs and good jobs for people and I think
22 it's so important that we get off coal energy because
23 coal is dirty and it's ruining health in the planet.
24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you very much.

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1 Liam Moser. And Dave Asher, you're on deck.

2 MR. MOSER: Hello. So my name is Liam Moser
3 and I am a junior at Western Washington University and
4 I'm here today representing Western Washington
5 University's energy union which is a student group
6 associated with the University's Institute for Energy
7 Studies. And I'm very privileged to have a family who
8 owns a yurt in the Methow Valley in Eastern Washington.

9 The valley and the yurt have been threatened
10 by a growing intensity of wildfires due to hotter and
11 hotter summers every year. Actually, right now the
12 Diamond Creek fire blazed about 18 miles away from the
13 north end of the valley so that's the town of Mazama,
14 Washington.

15 I remember as a kid firefighters drew a fire
16 line around our property and cleared out the bottom
17 branches and trees. I remember being terrified that the
18 fire that burned about five miles away was going to
19 destroy our yurt.

20 The second scare occurred when the Carlton
21 complex, only three years ago now, shut off power for
22 the entire valley for three weeks and scorched the towns
23 of Pateros and Twisp. It was the largest fire in
24 Washington State history and three firefighters lost
25 their lives.

1 As we speak, lives are being put at risk and
2 that's a trend of climate change that's happening now.
3 The saddest part for me is the inevitability of the next
4 big fire due to current climate trends.

5 At the energy union, as students studying
6 different facets of the energy industry and also as
7 Puget Sound energy ratepayers in Whatcom County, we
8 believe that PSE should divest completely from its share
9 in the Colstrip power plant by the year 2025. Colstrip
10 is an economic time bomb for ratepayers and
11 extraordinarily dangerous to the environment and to
12 human health.

13 Through my studies it has become clear to me
14 that in order to protect society as we know it changes
15 need to be made immediately. I'm scared not just for my
16 children and my children's children, but for myself and
17 for my generation. We're simply running out of time.
18 This is an opportunity for you, Chairman Danner, and
19 Commissioners Rendahl and Balasbas to write your names
20 down in the history books and make Washington one of the
21 first states in this country almost entirely free of
22 coal fired electricity. You can act as true climate
23 leaders and leave a legacy for generations to come. We
24 at the energy union encourage you to accelerate
25 Colstrip's death schedule and useful end of life to

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1 2025. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Dave Asher, come
3 forward, and Nancy Shimea, you're on deck.

4 MR. ASHER: Thank you Mr. Chair and members
5 of the Commission. I'm Dave Asher, I'm a member of the
6 Kirkland city council. Thanks for this opportunity to
7 comment concerning the Puget Sound Energy tariff's
8 revision. I'll focus my testimony on Tariff WN U-60,
9 the electric service, Docket UE-170033.

10 It's heartening that the most toxic Colstrip
11 plants are scheduled to close and I'm here to encourage
12 you to provide guidance that will result in the loss of
13 ratepayer support for the other two Colstrip plants by
14 2025. Getting PSE completely vested in renewables and
15 in conservation is the sustainable path forward. Your
16 decisions will significantly affect the pollution stream
17 coming from PSE by disallowing recovery of certain costs
18 after a reasonable time frame to make adjustments in the
19 energy mix.

20 Multiple factors come together to make 2025
21 with an eight-year planning horizon the logical end to
22 Colstrip pollution. I understand that even the source
23 of coal will require significant investment to go beyond
24 2024.

25 The goalposts and milestones for energy

1 sustainability are negotiated political minimums that
2 exist within a physical environment with absolutes as
3 reality. A lack of resolve on the part of decision
4 makers like you and me may run us into some of those
5 physical realities.

6 Kirkland is working hard to do our part to
7 invest in renewables and reduce our contribution to the
8 problem. For our community to meet our goals, we need
9 your support. A key consideration for us is the
10 dramatic downside of externalizing the impacts and
11 remediation, if remediation is even possible.

12 The impacts of what's occurring here won't
13 lie within the corporate bounds of the utility. The
14 utility won't even have the task to clean up what has
15 been lost. The public trust is disconnected in both
16 time and geography from the act or the decisions. I
17 encourage you to act with these upcoming decisions to
18 enable a future that we and our grandchildren can be
19 glad that we had the foresight to act. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, sir.

21 Okay. Marc Krasnowsky, you are on deck. Go
22 ahead.

23 MS. SHIMEA: Hi. Thank you for listening to
24 us and giving us this opportunity. I'm a resident of
25 Redmond and a longtime customer of Puget Sound Energy.

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1 My name is Nancy Shimea. Although I've lived here in
2 the Northwest all my life, it's only been the last
3 couple years that I've been studying the impacts of
4 using fossil fuels and the impacts of the choices that
5 each of us is making every day.

6 As a Puget Sound Energy customer, one choice
7 I've recently made is to go with their 100 percent solar
8 program and in my home we pay an extra \$20 a month to
9 ensure that PSE replaces our energy with solar power. I
10 don't mind paying more if it means that I'm helping the
11 planet, but I don't want to pay for PSE to continue to
12 use coal or LNG, liquid natural gas, as a power source.

13 I ask that you, the UTC, shorten the payment
14 schedule for Units 3 and 4 Colstrip to 2025. Please.
15 It is a -- it is vital that PSE starts planning now for
16 a smooth transition and a just transition. The ending
17 of 2025 is essential. The owner of the Rosebud mine has
18 said that they will run out of coal by then and if
19 Colstrip goes beyond that they'll have to expand the
20 mine and destroy even more habitat and more groundwater.
21 The residents of Colstrip have to buy their drinking
22 water from elsewhere.

23 Colstrip is also the third largest polluter
24 in the nation and we cannot continue to let PSE
25 convert -- to use that for energy. We want them to

1 convert to using wind in Montana and use the same
2 transmission line. It would be feasible and
3 economically better.

4 Finally, as a student of climate science I
5 recently participated in a climate reality training that
6 was here in Bellevue. I have here over 70 personal
7 letters from people that attended that training as well.
8 They're learners and they have personal stories that
9 they're telling about why they want Puget Sound Energy
10 to stop using coal. Thank you for all that you're
11 doing.

12 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you.
13 If you want to make those part of the record, please
14 give them to the court reporter. Appreciate it.

15 All right. Marc Krasnowsky, and Rachel
16 Brumbaugh, you are on deck.

17 MR. KRASNOWSKY: Hi. Thank you for the
18 opportunity to testify this evening. My name is Marc
19 Krasnowsky. I'm -- I live in North Bend east of here,
20 part of King County. I'm an old electric customer of
21 Puget Sound Energy. I am a volunteer for Puget Sound
22 Advocates for Retirement Action and I speak here tonight
23 on behalf of that organization.

24 COMMISSIONER DANNER: That was Puget Sound
25 Advocates for --

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1 MR. KRASNOWSKY: Retirement Action. PSARA
2 is how we pronounce it. PSARA is a progressive voice
3 for older Americans, their children and their families
4 and that means that in addition to working on things
5 like Social Security and health care, we care about
6 leaving a better world for all and that means dealing
7 effectively with climate change now.

8 We are affiliated with the Washington State
9 Labor Council. Two weeks ago the labor council at its
10 convention passed a resolution noting several things:
11 That the working class, the poor and developing
12 countries will be most adversely affected by climate
13 change; that we can prevent the most catastrophic levels
14 of global warming if we eliminate the burning of fossil
15 fuels worldwide within the next few years which is
16 feasible to do; that millions of good jobs can be
17 created through energy efficiency and renewable energy
18 and by needed rebuilding of our infrastructure; and that
19 mand this is very important to us, that we must take
20 steps towards a just transition for workers and
21 communities directly affected by the transition to a
22 clean energy economy providing income, benefits, wage
23 insurance and retraining support for workers in fossil
24 fuel industries and creating quality jobs and
25 infrastructure energy efficiency and clean energy

1 economy.

2 Bottom line is that Puget Sound Energy needs
3 to get out of the coal business and not by switching to
4 some other polluting fossil fuel to create electricity.
5 Extending Colstrip 3 and 4 beyond 2025 would be a
6 disservice to all those now suffering and sure to suffer
7 even more from global warming and we know who that would
8 be, but also needlessly delaying the just transition to
9 a job creating clean energy economy that working people
10 and communities everywhere so desperately need.

11 Clean energy creates three times more jobs
12 for every dollar that invest in fossil fuels and of
13 course a fair transition as I mentioned requires those
14 jobs be family wage, union or prevailing wage with
15 equitable pathways for global residents, communities of
16 color and lower income communities.

17 Now, you may notice my hat. It says Montana
18 on it. I wear it a lot. I spend some time there. But
19 I wear it in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in
20 Colstrip and their community. It's not their fault that
21 their industry is making it likely that -- is making it
22 impossible -- could make it impossible for all of our
23 children to survive. Those people -- while that
24 industry needs to close, those people deserve better
25 than being simply tossed aside.

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1 Let's not get into a vicious cycle of
2 extending the plant life and the mine life. Workers in
3 communities need certainty, rapid as possible transition
4 and the knowledge that their needs will be fairly
5 addressed in the transition. PSE must commit to
6 retiring Colstrip Units 3 and 4 by 2025, replacing the
7 power completely with energy efficiency and new
8 renewables, and assuring that -- just transitions for
9 everybody in the community.

10 We can do this. PSE can do this. In fact,
11 it's the only reasonable sustainable fiscally
12 responsible and moral path forward. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you
14 very much. Rachel Brumbaugh, and Stephanie Barbee, you
15 are on deck.

16 MS. BRUMBAUGH: Thank you, Commissioners,
17 for the opportunity to speak here tonight at this
18 hearing. My name is Rachel Brumbaugh and I am the
19 energy policy and partnership specialist in the Office
20 of King County Executive Dow Constantine. I work to
21 expand energy efficiency investments and renewable
22 energy use in the county and also work with our partners
23 in the King County/Cities climate collaboration.
24 Kirkland is one of them who we heard from just a few
25 minutes ago.

1 Confronting climate change and accelerating
2 a transition to clean energy economy with family wage
3 jobs is a top priority for King County. Through the
4 Growth Management Planning Council, 39 cities in King
5 County have established shared formal targets to reduce
6 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent by 2030
7 and 80 percent by 2050. The county's strategic climate
8 action plan has specific targets and actions developed
9 in coordination with our city partners to meet our
10 emission reduction goals.

11 To meet these those we have set a target of
12 increasing countywide renewable electricity use to
13 90 percent by 2030 and recommend working with utilities
14 and regulators to phase out coal fired electricity
15 sources by 2025 and to limit the construction of new
16 natural gas based electricity plants.

17 King County wants to continue to work in
18 partnership with Puget Sound Energy to reach these
19 goals. We've had several successes. I would like to
20 highlight and to thank Puget Sound Energy for their
21 work. We have made conservation investments that have
22 helped King County achieve 20 percent and more reduction
23 in energy use for our operations since 2007. We want to
24 thank Puget Sound Energy for development of the
25 innovative green direct tariff that creates an option

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1 for municipal and corporate customers to buy renewable
2 wind generated wind power from a new facility in Western
3 Washington.

4 We at King County have committed to shift
5 98 percent of our electricity purchased for our
6 buildings and facilities in Puget Sound Energy territory
7 to the green direct tariff that starts in 2018. This
8 will reduce our direct greenhouse gas emissions by
9 20 percent for county operations. We would also like to
10 thank PSE for the accelerated schedule for the closure
11 of Colstrip Units 1 and 2 by mid 2022.

12 All of these are steps in the right
13 direction, but we would like to work further with PSE to
14 establish a clear and accelerated timeline for closure
15 and clean up of all units of Colstrip. King County's
16 interests in the current rate case relate to costs for
17 ratepayers and transparency on future plans.
18 Specifically, we would like equitable distribution of
19 costs to retire Units 1 and 2 among all ratepayers with
20 future ratepayers not unduly burdened.

21 We support a structure that fairly allocates
22 costs among users. We would also like a clear and
23 accelerated timeline for closures of Units 3 and 4
24 consistent with King County and King County/Cities'
25 climate collaboration goals. We seek closure by 2025.

1 A clear timeline and cost for closure of 3
2 and 4 would help us to engage in conversations about
3 ratepayer impacts, adjust transition for workers in a
4 transition to clean energy sources. As a local
5 government, we are ready to explore the policy tools we
6 can use and the technical investments that we can make
7 to facilitate the accelerated transition to renewable
8 energy.

9 Local planner action is more important than
10 ever and comprehensive solutions to reduce carbon
11 emissions rely on the cooperation of local governments,
12 regulatory bodies, utilities and residents. King County
13 is ready to work with Puget Sound Energy and other
14 stakeholders like the utilities and transportation
15 commission to identify and remove barriers to the
16 accelerated transition to a clean energy economy.

17 Thank you again for the opportunity to speak
18 tonight.

19 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Stephanie
20 Barbee, and Angela London, you're on deck.

21 MS. BARBEE: Hi. Good evening. Thank you
22 for this opportunity. I appreciate it.

23 My name is Stephanie Barbee and I'm a
24 clinical social worker. I'm affiliated with Washington
25 Physicians for Social Responsibility. As a mental

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1 health worker, I have 20 years of experience witnessing
2 people cope with the effects of trauma and loss, many of
3 them immigrants and refugees.

4 Since time is short let me just share a
5 couple true stories I've heard and ask you to connect
6 the dots between trauma, climate change and local energy
7 policy.

8 Imagine you live on the Atlantic coast of
9 Nicaragua where Hurricane Joan has just ripped away the
10 roof of your home. You gather your children and elderly
11 parents into a corner of your house and the rain and the
12 wind and the howling dark pour in. You pray your family
13 survives the night. Or you live in Seattle and you are
14 homeless with severe and persistent mental illness, many
15 years after being made to fight as a child soldier in an
16 African war. Or you live in Chelan County just three
17 years ago where drought has prepared the pack for a
18 wildfire to roar down your valley. You and the fire
19 department are powerless to save your home, your barn or
20 your animals.

21 There is a strong scientific consensus that
22 humanity will experience more hurricanes, more drought,
23 more fire, more food scarcity, more war as a result of
24 climate change. In fact, the Pentagon declared in 2014
25 that climate change is the threat multiplier. This

1 means there is more suffering in the pipeline unless we
2 choose to prevent it. This will require empathy and
3 courage.

4 Dear utility commissioners, as a ratepayer,
5 I urge you to help us pivot away from coal and fracked
6 gas. These are two undisputed drivers of climate
7 change, and to immediately build capacity for clean
8 renewable energy. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. And Jill
10 Reifschneider, you're on deck.

11 MS. LONDON: Hi, thank you. I'm a small
12 business owner in Ferndale, Washington. Between my work
13 and my home I pay five Puget Sound Energy bills. I have
14 solar on my home and would love to get renewable energy
15 for my work, but it's a condo association and it's not
16 allowed.

17 It's important to me and our future
18 generations that we uphold the Paris climate agreement
19 and close the coal plants by the year 2025. Global
20 warming particularly affects coastal waters and when we
21 start feeling the effects more we will have to take
22 drastic measures to reduce our carbon footprint. As a
23 ratepayer I do not want to be stuck with high bills
24 because we did not plan ahead for carbon taxes, coal and
25 fracking limitations and lack of infrastructure for

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1 renewable energy.

2 Please insist that PSE present carbon-free
3 alternatives in a serious manner. Consumers should be
4 able to compare the status quo with the desired
5 alternatives. These should include the cost of
6 externality, air and water pollution and the cost of
7 dumping more carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. We
8 cannot ignore the impact of pollution and PSE should no
9 longer be able to externalize these costs.

10 Please do not make me as a five-time
11 ratepayer for -- pay for coal past 2025 and please keep
12 PSE in compliance with the Paris climate agreement.
13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Jill Reifschneider,
15 and Richard Johnson, you're on deck.

16 MS. REIFSCHNEIDER: Hi. I'm Jill
17 Reifschneider. I just want to thank you for this
18 opportunity to hear the eloquency of people, very
19 passionate people. And I don't want to take too much
20 time here to just reiterate what the young man from the
21 University of Washington student group said and
22 reiterate what the man from the -- from Kirkland, the
23 City of Kirkland where I work said, and I couldn't do
24 any better than what has been already said here as far
25 as the urgency of what we face here in our

1 decision-making.

2 Please make 2025 the furthest out date
3 possible to make that transition from Colstrip, Montana
4 coal mining to a renewable source of energy and that
5 doesn't include natural gas. Thank you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you.
7 And I believe Mr. Moser was at Western Washington
8 University not the University of Washington, so...

9 So Mr. Johnson come forward, and Linda
10 Baker, you're on deck. Proceed.

11 MR. JOHNSON: I'm a customer of PSE and I'm
12 also in the Green Power program which I'm sure you're
13 aware of. So those of us in the program are paying more
14 every month for our electricity in the assurance that it
15 is not coming from Colstrip in particular. So I would
16 encourage you in your overall rate design to arrange
17 that the people who are the Green Power program are not
18 paying for those shutdown costs.

19 As a practical matter, it's not going to
20 have a huge impact on other ratepayers or the company
21 because they're only approximately 4 percent of the
22 customers in the Green Power plant and that covers about
23 1 percent, when I last checked, of power. However, the
24 message is important and I hope that you can send a
25 clear message that people who are willing to invest in

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1 clean and renewable energy are not going to be
2 responsible for the dirty energy choices that PSE has
3 made.

4 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Linda
5 Baker.

6 MS. BAKER: If I'm the only Linda Baker
7 here, I've already spoke.

8 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Yeah, we have a couple
9 of sign-in sheets so some people have signed up twice.
10 Diane Emerson, did you wish to speak?

11 MS. EMERSON: I did speak first. I'll speak
12 again.

13 COMMISSIONER DANNER: No. All right. Brion
14 Grunkemeyer, and David Perk, you're on deck.

15 MR. GRUNKEMEYER: Hi. My name is Brion
16 Grunkemeyer. I live in Redmond. I am a PSE customer
17 for electric, gas and my transportation fuel.

18 I'm concerned about the danger of a
19 monopsony in the conservation market. A single buyer
20 can work, but only if they are motivated to innovate in
21 their marketplace. I don't think we have the right
22 incentives for conservation and demand response today.
23 Lost revenue from conservation can make a utility under
24 motivated.

25 Utilities have a perverse incentive to not

1 look very hard for conservation. They're legally
2 required to acquire all cost effective conservation
3 measures, but if they don't look for conservation
4 opportunities or they deem it not commercially ready,
5 then they can earn more money and no one would be the
6 wiser. In a decoupled rate environment, you can and
7 should fix this.

8 I suggest you provide utilities with
9 up-front general guidance on their rate of return for
10 things we want versus things we don't want. We want
11 utilities to be investing in new renewable generation,
12 great conservation programs, energy storage via
13 batteries and electric car charging stations. We need
14 them to run new pilot projects, to bring new
15 technologies to market and to leverage the highly
16 flexible demand managed by the California energy and
17 balance market. We should incentivize these things.

18 The things we don't want are clear:
19 Extending the life of a coal plant, building new natural
20 gas plants, excess transmission lines in residential
21 neighborhoods or neglecting tree trimming. To get the
22 right behavior, you should publish some range of rates
23 for utilities before they spend money, set a utility
24 rate of return to just borrowing costs for things we
25 don't want and set a high rate of return of around

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1 11 percent for the things we do want.

2 For pilot projects that pull new technology
3 into the market and develop new capabilities, perhaps
4 they should get an even higher rate of return, close to
5 20 percent. A high disparity in the rate of return is
6 necessary. It would be too easy for utilities to build
7 a power plant for a 4 percent rate of return in the next
8 year rather than invest in a slower, more drawn out
9 conservation measure that slowly pays a little bit year
10 by year.

11 We don't want utility bean counters to apply
12 a discount rate to future utility profits and then skew
13 their behaviors. Forcing utilities to benefit the
14 community over the long term is more important if
15 utilities are bought and sold such as PSE's. If you set
16 incentives this way, I believe that we will get better
17 results with minimal effort for the Commission. Thanks
18 for your time.

19 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. David
20 Perk? All right. And Sean Stuart, you are on deck.

21 MR. PERK: Hi, thank you for this
22 opportunity to make a statement. I recognize that the
23 Commission has an opportunity to show the rest of the
24 nation what a just transition looks like for the
25 community of Colstrip, Montana and I really hope that

1 you will make the most of that opportunity.

2 PSE should start working on a plan to shut
3 down Colstrip Boilers 3 and 4 by 2025. We need to
4 start -- we need to accelerate the decarbonization of
5 our energy system much faster than we're currently
6 doing. There's some new research out today that was
7 reported in the Washington Post but the lead researcher
8 is here at the University of Washington and was
9 published in Nature Climate Change, indicating that we
10 have a very small chance, a 5 percent chance of limiting
11 global warming to two degrees. Two degrees is pretty
12 much the threshold of dangerous climate change. So
13 we're much more likely to be going to 3.2 degrees
14 according to the study. So that makes me very concerned
15 and makes me feel that we should be acting much more
16 swiftly than we already are.

17 I'm also concerned that PSE's majority
18 stakeholders favor fracked gas infrastructure and will
19 seek to transition coal stripped gas at precisely the
20 time when we should be moving to 100 percent renewable
21 energy system.

22 The Northwest Power and Conservation Council
23 Seventh Conservation and Electric Power Plant clearly
24 indicates that our region can meet its growing energy
25 needs with efficiencies alone until 2023, so investing

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1 in gas infrastructure now would be a grievous mistake.

2 I'm also concerned that by focusing on
3 profits rather than climate stability, PSE will fail to
4 act in a timely manner and when forced to act will pass
5 along a rate shock to ratepayers. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, sir. Sean
7 Stuart.

8 MR. STUART: I actually did not sign up to
9 speak.

10 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Neil Anderson. And
11 Jay Holtz, you're on deck, Jay and Rayna Holtz.

12 MR. ANDERSON: Hi, Neil Anderson, long-time
13 ratepayer in Sammamish, Washington. And like what seems
14 to be everyone else here, I'm here because my most
15 important concern is climate change. Burning coal is
16 the single biggest source of CO2 emissions and it's by
17 far the most polluting way that electricity can be
18 generated. When President Trump pulled us out of the
19 Paris agreement, Governor Inslee stepped in to help
20 found the U.S. Climate Alliance in response as a way to
21 say that we were still staying in and that we still
22 intended to honor these commitments.

23 That was a great move but our actions have
24 to match this. This is a time for us to be an example
25 to other states. We can't do that without a plan to

1 immediately start moving away from coal and to cleaner
2 energy sources. Given the urgency and risks of climate
3 change, continuing to get our power from Colstrip is
4 just not an option anymore. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, sir. Jay
6 and Rayna Holtz.

7 MS. HOLTZ: Thank you. I'm Rayna Holtz, and
8 I brought with me my Puget Sound Energy renewables
9 reward drinking bottle because I too am in the Green
10 Power program and we pay extra every month to move more
11 rapidly towards renewables. Like some of the other
12 speakers, we have made every effort in our personal
13 lives to move towards renewables. We have a south
14 facing roof and we crammed all the solar panels on to it
15 that we could possibly fit. And we take long trips to
16 visit our daughter in Minnesota so we couldn't really
17 get an all electric vehicle at this point, but we have a
18 hybrid Prius.

19 We think in terms of what our children will
20 need and we are really worried about global warming.
21 I'm also very interested in the environment. I feel as
22 though Puget Sound Energy is asking us ratepayers to pay
23 more, but evidently the money is not going towards the
24 renewables that we want, it's going towards too they're
25 building new infrastructure simultaneously for coal and

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1 for liquid natural gas or it's not clear to me what
2 their expenses for the Colville plant involve, but if
3 it's not to decommission it, which they don't appear to
4 be planning to do, then it's not in the right direction.

5 I strongly would advocate with the people
6 who said that Montana does offer possibilities for
7 renewables like wind and solar and I would love to see
8 our PSE utility working to provide leadership in forms
9 of renewable energy.

10 I read this week an article in National
11 Geographic magazine, Page 30, The Crisis on the Ice, by
12 Douglas Fox. I'd like to quote one sentence out of
13 many, many very concerning sentences. Specifically
14 quote: "Antarctica could add 3.5 feet to sea levels by
15 2100. Melting glaciers elsewhere could raise that to
16 seven feet, enough to flood coastal cities."

17 And I think, you know, that's not that far
18 away, 83 years away. I have many friends in their 90s.
19 In other words, it's within the lifetime of people who
20 are young right now. And what this article generally is
21 showing us is that we don't know, it's not like we have
22 timelines, and the climate has agreed that it's only
23 going to warm at this certain rate. It's the reverse.
24 Scientists keep finding that they were wrong and that
25 there's a tipping point that we've passed.

1 I highly recommend the National Geographic
2 article because it's so well illustrated and so well
3 explains what some of these discoveries are that have
4 been made just in this one study, which makes it look
5 like things are moving much more rapidly.

6 I am also concerned about PSE's future
7 planning. I am concerned that they are more interested
8 in squeezing all of the money they can out of coal
9 plants than in moving energy as rapidly as possible into
10 renewables and I feel as though I would pay more than
11 10 percent additional on every one of my monthly bills
12 if I knew that that money was going directly into
13 renewable sources of energy and that by 2025 they were
14 going to have 90 or 100 percent renewables.

15 As a ratepayer, that is what I want to see
16 because I don't worry about my children. I am convinced
17 that my children's children are going to live already in
18 a world that's very much more difficult than the one
19 that we live in now. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER DANNER: And thank you very
21 much. Michael Herbig.

22 MR. HERBIG: Commissioners, thank you for
23 holding this public hearing. My name is Michael Herbig,
24 I am a member of the Kenmore City Council. I just want
25 to clarify that what I'm about to say is my own personal

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1 views, not the views of my council or city. As someone
2 who's usually on the other side of the dais, I'm also
3 going to keep my remarks as short as possible and not
4 repeat what many of my friends here have already said.

5 I ask that you hold the line and not
6 consider any continued use of the Colstrip plant past
7 2025 in the rating process. Washingtonians have been
8 very clear. We want clean energy, we want renewable
9 energy, not continued reliance on the third dirtiest
10 power plant in the United States.

11 I want to thank you. I want to think that
12 you and Puget Sound Energy will do the right thing for
13 Washington and for the world. Thank you very much for
14 your time.

15 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you.
16 Bart Arenson. And Andrea Auni, you're on deck.

17 MR. ARENSEN: Thank you for the opportunity
18 to comment tonight. I speak as a person whose family is
19 part of the renewable energy program. We're starting
20 our seventh year with a 4.6 kilowatt solar system on our
21 roof.

22 In 2009, the Washington UTC approved the
23 merger acquisition of Puget Sound Energy by Puget
24 Holdings, LLC, a division of the Australia based
25 Macquarie Capital Group which controls more than 50

1 billion, and that's U.S. dollars, in infrastructure
2 businesses worldwide.

3 One of the benefits for ratepayers touted by
4 Puget Holdings at the time of approval of the merger
5 was, and I quote from their website, "the expansion of
6 Green Power, customer renewable energy and energy
7 efficient commitments. In January 2015, Macquarie Group
8 acquired a stake in the Baltic 2 offshore wind park from
9 EnBW, a publicly traded German electrical utilities
10 company," and as we all know, Puget Sound Energy is no
11 longer publically traded.

12 That acquisition required investing 720
13 million euros, that's more than 820 million in U.S.
14 dollars, and in April of this year, Macquarie acquired
15 the British Green Investment Bank for well over
16 3 billion US dollars. That takeover means that group
17 will manage or supervise Green Investment Bank's 6
18 billion, and that's U.S. dollars, of green
19 infrastructure assets and projects notably in Europe or
20 other parts of the world.

21 "The Macquarie announcement that accompanied
22 the takeover promised continuation of British Green
23 Investment Bank's purpose of attracting private funds to
24 invest in renewable energy generation." That remains to
25 be seen.

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1 "Macquarie must apply the same promises made
2 in Europe to its holdings here in the U.S. It is
3 incumbent on the UTC to ensure that Macquarie
4 consistently upholds the promises made in 2009 when the
5 UTC approved the takeover of PSE."

6 And one thing I might add is that as a
7 person who has received lots of marketing things for
8 your green program and the \$5, and I look at your own
9 statistics about 2015 and the percentage of renewables
10 generated, you don't even compare to the 13 biggest
11 utilities in the United States.

12 So as others have said, I would conclude by
13 saying that the UTC should act now to shorten the
14 payment schedule for Units 3 and 4 at Colstrip so that
15 these would be paid for by 2025. King County's
16 strategic climate action plan stresses the phase out of
17 coal fired electricity sources by 2025, and 2025 happens
18 to be the date of the first round of compliance with the
19 Paris climate agreement. I hope PSE can take a
20 leadership role in compliance with the strategic climate
21 action plan in advancing clean energy and green energy
22 for the planet we inhabit.

23 MS. AUNI: Hello. Thank you for the chance
24 to speak on these issues about Puget Sound Energy's
25 plans for power generation in our state. The previous

1 speaker was my husband and we kind of wrote our letters
2 together so basically what I have to say is much the
3 same.

4 We live on Vashon Island with solar panels
5 on our house that provide about 50 percent of our
6 electricity through the course of the year. We're PSE
7 ratepayers for the rest of our power which gives us
8 great incentive to ask that Puget Sound Energy start
9 planning now for that transition away from coal and
10 natural gas by 2025. So please shorten the payment
11 schedule for Units 3 and 4 at Colstrip. Please
12 encourage PSE to comply with King County's strategic
13 climate action plan that stresses the phase out of coal
14 fired electricity sources and also natural gas
15 electricity sources by 2025, and please encourage PSE to
16 take a leadership role in advancing clean energy for the
17 planet that we all share. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you very much.
19 Dana Ecelberger. And Mark Vossler, you're on deck.

20 MS. ECELBERGER: I'm on the list but I'm not
21 going to take much time. I just want to say that I'm
22 here as a climate reality leader. I'm also a
23 landscaper. I've been working in nature for 30 years.
24 I do a lot of research on rare plants in Washington and
25 spend a lot of time up in the mountains and I see

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1 unbelievable changes in pollinators missing their mark
2 for fruit trees and reductions in fruit and vegetable
3 harvests. I have a grandson that I'm terribly worried
4 about.

5 And I keep hearing 2025, and I just want to
6 say I don't think we have that much time to make these
7 changes. I know it's unrealistic, but if we cannot have
8 that comfort zone of making changes by 2025, I think we
9 need to change our thinking on that. We don't -- I just
10 don't believe we have that much time. Thank you for
11 everything you do and for giving us a chance to speak to
12 you.

13 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you very much.
14 Sameer Ranade, you're up on deck.

15 MR. VOSSLER: Good evening. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. I'm Mark Vossler from
17 Kirkland. I am a ratepayer. I am also a practicing
18 physician in the community and I chair the Washington
19 Physicians for Social Responsibility Climate Change and
20 Health Task Force.

21 I'm not going to reiterate a lot of the
22 things that I heard tonight that I agree with. I'm
23 going to focus solely on the human health implications
24 of the current proposal.

25 My organization comprises over 800

1 physicians and other health care professionals in
2 Washington State and we are actively concerned about the
3 human health consequences of generating electricity from
4 fossil fuels.

5 As you are aware, the most dangerous way to
6 meet our energy needs is by burning coal. We therefore
7 sincerely applaud PSE for the decision to retire Units 1
8 and 2 from Colstrip. We too urge PSE to accelerate the
9 retirement of Units 3 and 4 by no later than 2025.
10 Furthermore, we call on PSE to replace them not with gas
11 but with 100 percent renewable energy.

12 We are already seeing the adverse affects
13 of -- on human health, climate change, including
14 disruption of water supply, damage to our local
15 shellfish, droughts, forest fires. Furthermore, the
16 immediate effects burning fossil fuels with particulate
17 pollution and nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide release is
18 dangerous right up front. We transition to clean energy
19 faster. It's healthier immediately.

20 There was a paper in the New England Journal
21 of Medicine a couple of weeks ago, lead author is a guy
22 by the name of Dee who showed that PM 2.5 levels far
23 below the, what's thought to be the allowable output for
24 clean air days still has an adverse effect on heart
25 disease and mortality in people over 65 in a study of

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1 hundreds of thousands of people.

2 There is no lower limit. There is no safe
3 amount of air pollution. Therefore, we must transition
4 rapidly off of fossil fuels. The idea of spending our
5 ratepayer money on natural gas infrastructure is
6 ludicrous. When you account for the leaked methane,
7 it's hard to see natural gas as being that much cleaner
8 on a climate front than coal and there still are
9 emissions in the local communities by the generating
10 plants. Now that we see the paper from Dee we know it's
11 not safe to be around any fossil fuel burning at all.

12 Therefore, we're calling -- for 2025, we're
13 calling for 100 percent renewables. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. RANADE: Hi Commissioners. Thank you
16 for holding this hearing. My name is Sameer Ranade. I
17 work for the Washington Environmental Council. We're a
18 statewide nonprofit that since 1967 has been driving
19 positive change to protect, restore and sustain
20 Washington's environment for all.

21 I'm testifying on this docket on behalf of
22 our 62,000 plus members statewide. We would like PSE to
23 become coal free by 2025 and believe that's a reasonable
24 timeline. That means retiring coal strip's Units 3 and
25 4 which currently don't have a set retirement date.

1 Therefore I ask you to adjust the debt schedule
2 accordingly.

3 I believe a number of current and future
4 policy directives and economic reasons compel UTC to
5 accelerate the transition away from coal. Foremost,
6 Governor Inslee issued Executive Order 1404 in which he
7 asked UTC to use the full scope of its authority to
8 actively support the reduction of coal fired
9 electricity. Further, UTC itself just reaffirmed its
10 commitment to the Western Public Utility Commission's
11 Joint Action Framework on climate change in order to, I
12 quote, "ensure that investor-owned utilities operate in
13 a manner that protects human health and safety, the
14 environment and ratepayers from economic risk related to
15 carbon pollution regulations."

16 Thank you for doing that. As you know,
17 Federal Clean Air Act regulations require carbon
18 pollution for power plants to come down. And it's
19 becoming more likely that either through the legislature
20 or by ballot initiative, Washington State will add a
21 carbon charge to the price of coal by next year. And as
22 has been mentioned, King County's climate action plan
23 has called for phasing out coal fired electricity by
24 2025.

25 Coal is uneconomical, renewable energy and

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1 energy storage costs continue dropping dramatically.
2 And the Northwest Power and Conservation Council found
3 that all of our region's increased power demand can most
4 likely be met with conservation through 2030. Puget
5 Sound Energy knows well the benefits of clean energy as
6 it has provided the most energy efficiency savings to
7 customers of any Northwest utility in the last three
8 decades and the second biggest utility producer of wind
9 power in the country.

10 I appreciate PSE's clean energy achievement.
11 I believe adjusting the debt schedule is in the best
12 interests of PSE, its ratepayers and our planet.
13 Moreover, it helps draw an end to the harsh
14 environmental effects of coal on Colstrip residents and
15 Colstrip workers deserve a just transition away from
16 coal-based employment to investment in sustainable
17 economic growth. 2025 is far enough ahead to plan for
18 this transition. Thank you again.

19 COMMISSIONER DANNER: I wanted to check.
20 Some people have signed in. It's not clear to me
21 whether they wish to make comments tonight. Pam Wise,
22 do you wish to comment tonight?

23 MS. WISE: No.

24 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Okay. Carol Kindt, do
25 you wish to comment tonight?

1 MS. KINDT: I wish to make a short
2 statement.

3 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Please. Come forward.

4 MS. KINDT: Hi, my name is Carol Kindt and I
5 am a member of 350 Tacoma. The 350 national
6 organization is named after 350 parts per million, the
7 safe concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
8 I am here today in opposition to Puget Sound Energy's
9 request for any customer subsidized rate increase
10 associated with the Colstrip plant or any other fossil
11 fuel investments. 100 percent clean energy technology
12 is available, abundant and affordable.

13 I would go on but I think you've heard
14 eloquently and emotionally from each and every one of
15 Puget Sound Energy's customers, whether commercial or
16 residential, about the impact that they're feeling
17 regarding fossil fuel investments now and in the future.

18 2025, as has already been said, is long
19 enough, long enough to transition. And I am from Tacoma
20 so we in our own part of the greater Puget Sound are
21 facing again liquid natural gas and the infrastructure
22 that Puget Sound Energy is putting forth in place of
23 affordable renewable energy sources. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Andy James, and then
25 Dan Streiffert, you're on deck.

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1 MR. JAMES: Hi. Thanks for the chance to
2 speak. I came over from Vashon with a busload of us who
3 are from the Vashon Climate Action Group which I
4 founded, and we over the summer have collected nearly
5 1200 signatures working on the island. There's about
6 12,000 of us year round on the island, so this is
7 something we care a lot about as PSE ratepayers.

8 I want to explain the argument that we made
9 in collecting those signatures and make that argument to
10 you. Ratepayers pay for the expansion and maintenance
11 of PSE's infrastructure. We believe it places an
12 unreasonable burden on us, the ratepayers, to subsidize
13 an infrastructure that worsens climate change and
14 pollutes our region. It amounts to asking ratepayers to
15 pay against their own self-interest. It is asking us to
16 buy our own poison. It also commits our power provider
17 to a mode of power production that is rapidly growing
18 outmoded as renewable power grows cheaper and more
19 feasible.

20 And I want to say as a note of intended
21 empathy: If you work on a regulatory board, regulatory
22 boards thrive on precedent. I understand that, and it
23 is your job to adhere to precedent and to existing case
24 law. That's best practice. But precedent does not
25 include the future. The future in this particular case

1 looks very different than what we know about the past
2 and I understand that it will take a leap of faith and a
3 leap of understanding and a leap of courage on your part
4 to establish a new precedent that includes our desire
5 not to pay for our own destruction. So I thank you for
6 your time.

7 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Dan Streiffert, come
8 forward, and Bill Trueit, you're on deck.

9 MR. STREIFFERT: Hi. My name is Dan
10 Streiffert. I'm currently the chair of Rainier Audubon
11 Society located in South King County. We are deeply
12 concerned about the continued use of fossil fuels by PSE
13 and the resulting CO2 emissions. National Audubon's
14 Bird and Climate Change Report published in
15 September 2014 confirmed that climate change is the
16 single greatest threat to North American birds. Warmer
17 temperatures are causing many birds to migrate further
18 north each year. If one projects this trend very far it
19 suggests that many of these birds will be pushed out of
20 their native habitat and into areas where survival may
21 be uncertain.

22 Of the 588 species Audubon studied, 314 are
23 likely to find themselves in dire straits by 2080. This
24 amounts to more than half the known bird species in
25 North America. Many grassland species such as the

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1 Bobolink may find themselves in the boreal forest of
2 Canada. It is unlikely that this habitat will be
3 suitable for grassland species.

4 Audubon asks that PSE retire all four, not
5 just two, of the coal fired boilers at the Colstrip coal
6 plant and replace them with 100 percent renewable energy
7 and energy efficient solutions. Elon Musk recently
8 predicted that within 10 years more than half of the new
9 vehicle production in the United States will be electric
10 vehicles. What a shame if those EVs are fueled by dirty
11 coal. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Bill
13 Trueit, and Rachel Malloy, you are on deck.

14 MR. TRUEIT: Members of the Commission,
15 thank you. My name is Bill Trueit. I appreciate you
16 providing us with this opportunity to speak out too. I
17 do believe that we have a financial and a moral
18 justification to deny the PSE rate request. You've
19 heard a number of things that I wanted to speak about,
20 but I do want to emphasize that there is a cost to
21 things that are happening that we're finding out about
22 in the news: The longer fire season, the acidity
23 increases to the coast, the increased toxic algae which
24 hasn't been mentioned. Streams too shallow or too hot
25 for 40 percent of our traditional salmon runs.

1 Scientists are saying that species of the
2 planet are becoming extinct at a rate that's 100 times
3 more than normal, and scientists are also saying that
4 this is a result of human activity specifically to use
5 fossil fuels.

6 These are economic costs, costs to our
7 economy, costs to local businesses and costs to our
8 health of course. The good news is, as you've somewhat
9 heard, there is a, what I think is a global revolution,
10 not only in clean energy but also energy saving
11 products.

12 In addition, one thing that hasn't been
13 mentioned that I hope you will take into account is the
14 fact that the Washington State legislature recently
15 extended the life of the solar power -- or solar panel
16 enhancement program, and I think if we look at other
17 countries that are finding great success in solar power,
18 this alone might be justification to deny the rate
19 increase for Puget Power. Thank you very much.

20 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Rachel
21 Malloy, and Donna Thompson you're on deck.

22 MS. MALLOY: I'll be abbreviating my
23 comments. For the last seven years my daughters and I
24 have been 100 percent Green Power buy up users. It's
25 fallen from \$20 to \$3 a month. We've since upped to

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1 100 percent solar which is \$15 a month. And I would add
2 to this that my city that I live and work in are also
3 shifting to 100 percent. The agencies we do design work
4 for, Google, Microsoft, Starbucks are all 100 percent
5 and putting in their own solar farms and wind farms. My
6 agency has shifted to 100 percent. We're doing that
7 globally for all offices as well as my friends, my
8 neighbors and our congregation.

9 Climate change isn't going away and I think
10 the demand for carbon-free generation will only increase
11 in the future. We should be preparing for that. I know
12 PSE is required to provide the cheapest form of energy,
13 but that equation doesn't take into account Washington
14 air quality and the asthma of my neighbor's children,
15 the water wells of fracked gas communities or the years
16 in trillions being taken today from my daughters and the
17 sons and daughters of others in accelerating climate
18 change impact costs.

19 I fully support upgrades to our energy
20 infrastructure and planning for future demand and
21 resiliency, but not in ways that are climate blind or
22 short-sighted. We do a great disservice extending
23 today's least efficient and including forms of energy
24 generation. When Green Power costs us \$3 a month, why
25 are we considering investments in fossil fuel for \$3 a

1 month knowing the additional impacts it brings?

2 It is time to invest in our shared climate
3 reality and plan for the 2025 shutdown and I would agree
4 with statements of let's do it even quicker than that if
5 possible with bringing new generation on line with Green
6 Power. It is past time to tip the balance on coal
7 energy to clean energy. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you very much.
9 Donna Thompson.

10 MS. THOMPSON: I waive my time tonight.

11 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you.
12 Kathrynne Daniels, come forward. And Terry Sullivan,
13 you're on deck.

14 MS. DANIELS: Hi. Hello. I am a PSE
15 customer being provided with both electricity and
16 natural gas on Vashon Island. Generally I am both
17 satisfied with the PSE service and their per unit rate
18 charge for both of these utilities. I am concerned,
19 however, about the external costs associated with some
20 of the power generated by PSE and I appreciate this
21 opportunity to discuss my concerns with this board of
22 regulators.

23 I understand that PSE has proposed to
24 continue the coal fired operation of their Colstrip
25 plants Units 3 and 4 up to and perhaps beyond 2025. I

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1 understand that also PSE has considered plans to
2 continue the use of these plants and perhaps even extend
3 their life into the future with natural gas fired
4 boilers. I object to the use of any carbon-based
5 electric power generation beyond the year 2025. I'd
6 like to explain why.

7 As I'm sure this board would admit, there
8 are environmental costs associated with any carbon-based
9 power generation. The most obvious are the air and
10 water pollution, common externalities which power
11 companies make every attempt to mitigate but in the end
12 a cost that is not included in their rate-based
13 accounting. These are -- these costs are picked up by
14 society and thereby borne by all of us.

15 Recently the most obvious externality
16 ignored by industry and consumers alike is the excessive
17 carbon dioxide that results from the burning of fossil
18 fuels and has rapidly accumulated in our atmosphere.
19 Our scientific community predicts dire consequences
20 related with this air pollutant, global warming,
21 increased forest fires that damage marine life and
22 rising sea levels that many of us feel can no longer be
23 ignored. It seems obvious that the full cost and threat
24 of burning of fossil fuels should be internalized and
25 accounted for in the regulation and rate determination

1 process.

2 With the potential of these negative
3 consequences in mind, many of us are requesting the
4 following: 1, that the use of carbon based fuels in
5 PSE's generation of electricity be eliminated as soon as
6 possible and absolutely no later than 2025; 2, that PSE
7 redirects their planning towards a future of power
8 generation without the use of carbon based fuels; and 3,
9 that PSE open up their planning process so that their
10 customers are apprised of the unit cost rate of a carbon
11 free power generation system.

12 On this last point PSE and the board of
13 regulators should be transparent about the full costs of
14 an electric utility that operated in a sustainable
15 manner which no longer ignores the cost of carbon
16 dioxide loading our atmosphere to the detriment of our
17 progeny.

18 In summary, there are many of us who want to
19 avoid the well known detrimental effects of PSE's fossil
20 fuel based power generation and please help us obtain
21 these goals. Thank you very much.

22 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you very much.
23 Terry Sullivan, come forward. James Adcock, you are on
24 deck.

25 MR. SULLIVAN: Hi. Thanks for letting me

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1 speak. I've been a ratepayer on Vashon Island for
2 45 years now before Puget Sound Energy even provided
3 power out there. I'm not going to repeat all that you
4 have heard already. I fully support everything that's
5 been expressed and no need it be said again.

6 I would like to say, though, that as a low
7 income fixed income person, I pay well more than the
8 rate increase if they're asking for Green Power because
9 I believe this is really important, I think we all have
10 to do our part. And I would like to say also that I
11 would be happy to pay the rate increase if I'm
12 absolutely sure that that money is going to decommission
13 these two coal power plants and eliminate coal power
14 entirely from our system. And I would also be happy to
15 pay a rate increase if Puget Sound Energy could provide
16 a clear and time specific plan exactly when and how
17 they're going to transition to a fossil fuel free
18 sustainable power system. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Jim
20 Adcock, please come forward, and Jeff Thiel, you're on
21 deck.

22 MR. ADCOCK: James Adcock, president of
23 Bellevue Electrical Engineer MIT. I'm a long time
24 participant in Puget Sound Energy's integrated resource
25 planning. I see a commissioner smiling at me. A couple

1 quick things I want to request which would be to
2 minimize the monthly fixed cost on the customer bill
3 also known as the meter cost. This -- these costs have
4 the practical effect of charging the small customer more
5 per kilowatt hour than the large customer who wastes a
6 lot of energy.

7 The second thing I would -- let's go
8 back to -- let's just move on. My big focus for the
9 last 10 years has been the issue of how Puget Sound
10 Energy models its peak capacity needs. Puget is using
11 weather data that is 80 years old to do that. I do not
12 believe it is prudent to use 80-year-old data to model
13 their weather. They should be using at most the last
14 20 years of weather data. NOAA, for example, in
15 calculating national climate norms, only used the last
16 10 years of weather data. There's a reason for that.
17 That's because the weather is changing, okay?

18 Over the 80 years' period that Puget is
19 using, the coldest winter days in the greater Seattle
20 area have become 15 degrees warmer, representing a
21 20 percent reduction in the peak capacity that Puget
22 needs. Puget of course is ignoring this. Because of
23 this, I believe that Puget is greatly overestimating
24 their requirements for peak capacity in terms of new
25 natural gas peakers and new transmission lines.

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1 You don't have to accept Puget's models.
2 You can look at external data or internal data of Puget.
3 You can look at -- I can't get access to that, but you
4 can look at their data and find out what their actual
5 peak customer load day is, whether it's actually
6 happening in the winter or the summer. Are those peak
7 customer loads actually growing or not? I don't believe
8 they are. Okay?

9 I've shown you in previous integrative
10 resource planning submissions that the probability of
11 Puget's modeling effort being correct is only 6 percent.
12 They have a 94 percent chance of being incorrect in
13 their modeling of weather data as being stationary.
14 They're still assuming effectively that climate change
15 is not happening.

16 Another thing I would like you to consider
17 is please don't allow recovery for illegal actions, even
18 if those illegal actions have been settled, okay? Case
19 in point would be the -- would be Montana water
20 pollution.

21 Finally, I would like you to think about is
22 it really prudent if we avoid paying \$20 per ton right
23 now to avoid carbon emissions now, what our children are
24 going to have to pay, the next generation of ratepayers
25 are going to have to pay \$200 a ton to avoid those

1 carbon emissions or to recover those carbon emissions,
2 okay? Is it really prudent that Puget take actions
3 today that result in the death of one of our children or
4 one of our grandchildren, or as Puget's Mr. Popoff has
5 argued, that it is prudent if the child or grandchild
6 that dies is not a ratepayer's child but is the child of
7 another state or the child of another country? Do we
8 really think that if Puget takes actions that result in
9 the death of a child or grandchild in some other
10 location, that those other locations, those other
11 countries are going to care about our children and our
12 grandchildren?

13 This is the issue of externality. When
14 Puget says, We don't have to include externalities in
15 our design of our systems, they are saying it is okay if
16 we kill other people's children, if we kill other
17 people's grandchildren.

18 I would claim it should be obvious to
19 Commissioners that if we don't care about their
20 children, they won't care about ours and it will be our
21 children and our grandchildren who will suffer the
22 consequences. Thank you very much.

23 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Jeff
24 Thiel, please come forward, and Randal Samstag, if I get
25 that right, you're on deck.

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1 MR. OLSON: My name is not Jeff Thiel. He's
2 a friend of mine. He's left. He was 35 on the list
3 that we formed when no one was here to make a list and I
4 was 23. I think somehow I got skipped. My name is
5 Court, Court Olson.

6 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. I see your
7 name here. You did not get skipped.

8 MR. OLSON: May I speak?

9 COMMISSIONER DANNER: You may speak. So
10 Mr. Thiel has left the building.

11 MR. OLSON: Thank you. First of all, I
12 don't need to repeat many of the things that have gone
13 before us. I am a resident here in Bellevue and a
14 ratepayer for more than 20 years. I take my hats off,
15 my hat off to the UTC. I can tell from the way you
16 conduct this meeting, previous meetings and the way your
17 staff respond in Puget Sound IRP meetings that you folks
18 are paying attention and you're trying your darnedest
19 and I appreciate that.

20 About 40 years ago I was an engineering
21 student and I learned a lot of things about how you
22 figure what least cost is and present value, but
23 unfortunately those rules don't really apply anymore
24 when we see that those engineering principles have taken
25 us down a road to catastrophe, and you're all I'm sure

1 well aware of the problems that climate change are
2 presenting to us.

3 So the reality is today we have to think
4 outside of those boxes that we've been in for so long,
5 for decades, and to the extent that you're able, I
6 really appreciate you trying to do that and I've seen
7 some evidence in attending IRP meetings with Puget Sound
8 Energy and other places to suggest you're trying to do
9 that so I really appreciate it.

10 I want to offer up just a couple more
11 things. First of all, because I'm in the building
12 industry for the last 40 years and following energy
13 consumption there and the Department of Energy
14 nationally says about 80 percent of the power on our
15 grid system is going into those buildings, I'm fairly
16 attentive to how we're spending the energy there. And
17 the reality is from research that's been done, most of
18 our buildings, existing buildings especially, can save
19 about 50 percent still from where they're at. The
20 trouble is it's not easy to do that. There's
21 significant renovation typically needed.

22 So to the extent you're able to realize that
23 and encourage Puget Sound Energy to be more aggressive
24 and go down that road, and it's not their fault that
25 that road is a bumpy road, but I along with others are

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1 working to hopefully find some better laws and
2 regulations that will allow that to be easier to occur.
3 But if we can save 50 percent of 80 percent of the
4 energy that's on the grid, that's a whopping 40 percent
5 and that would go a long ways towards retiring Colstrip
6 and getting us off of fossil fuels faster than we are so
7 far.

8 One other thing I wanted to leave with you.
9 Would you look more carefully than we're able to at the
10 investments that Puget Sound Energy says they're needing
11 to make and wanting to make to renovate or get up to
12 speed on their infrastructure? Because I'm on the
13 Eastside I'm well aware of this Energize Eastside
14 proposal that's on deck and I've done some calculations
15 to suggest that it's not needed on the east side and a
16 lot of what they're suggesting that is needed on their
17 whole system is probably not accurate. They say, well,
18 they're modeling requires things that I can't seem to
19 justify by some simple engineering economics, and that
20 is taking the population rate increase that's forecast
21 by our county and by the Puget Sound region and assuming
22 that our electrical consumption goes up at that same
23 rate and then subtracting from that higher potential
24 demand that Puget Sound Energy prediction for what
25 they're going to save on conservation, and I get a flat

1 curve for demand in the future when I do those two
2 simple arithmetic steps. And yet they tell us, well,
3 their modeling is requiring more and more transmission,
4 more and more infrastructure.

5 I think there might be something wrong with
6 that modeling because they have not been able to explain
7 why those simple calculations that I just expressed
8 don't hold true, particularly when they admit that the
9 per capita average electrical consumption has been
10 declining for more than a decade and is projected to
11 continue to decline.

12 So I think maybe they're stuck in some of
13 our old boxes too. We're all probably stuck on old
14 boxes and we got to get out of those boxes and start
15 thinking about that future that we're all worried about.
16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Let's
18 thank Mr. Thiel for coming tonight.

19 MR. OLSON: Pardon me?

20 COMMISSIONER DANNER: I'm sorry. Thank
21 Mr. Thiel for coming tonight. I'm sorry we did not get
22 to him.

23 MR. OLSON: You bet. He's going to write in
24 a comment. Here's all my contact information.

25 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Sir, did I --

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1 MR. SAMSTAG: My name is Randal Samstag. I
2 was on deck. I thank you for extending your time to
3 allow me to make some comments. I want to speak to
4 something that has not been addressed really this
5 evening except briefly by a previous speaker, that's the
6 allocation of cost for cleanup of the ash ponds at
7 Colstrip between shareholders and ratepayers.

8 I'm a registered civil sanitary engineer in
9 the state of Washington. I've designed infiltration
10 basins to infiltrate treated water into the ground and
11 I've designed facilities to keep water from being --
12 contaminated water from going into the ground.

13 I've been a PSE customer in Kitsap County
14 since 1977. I reviewed a couple of reports describing
15 the processed water system at the Colstrip power
16 station, including a 1986 report prepared by Montana
17 Power Company on alternatives for ash management, a 2012
18 plant site report prepared for PPL Montana as required
19 by Montana DEQ.

20 What these reports make clear is that most
21 of this extensive pond system was originally constructed
22 with a clay line that permitted significant leakage of
23 liquid material into the groundwater. While the PPLM
24 report makes continuous mention of the closed loop
25 nature of this pond system, it seems that from 1975 to

1 2004 to 2006 much of this extensive pond system had only
2 a clay liner and no leachate recovery. So it wasn't a
3 closed loop.

4 This means that approximately for 30 years
5 pollution from these ponds was going into the adjacent
6 groundwater with total dissolved -- solid concentrations
7 as high as 30,000 milligrams per liter, sulfite
8 concentration as high as 21,000 milligrams per liter.

9 It's clear from the 1986 report that at
10 least since then the owners of the facility had the
11 option of an alternative because it was discussed in
12 this report the option of using a system for liquid
13 residuals management that did not involve ponds that
14 leak into the groundwater. That's a dry system that
15 uses dewatering and treatment of the supernate. The
16 owners of the system rejected that alternative. They
17 did not pursue it. They instead went forward with these
18 leachate ponds that have been leaking into the
19 groundwater since at least up until 2005.

20 As a PSE and Puget Power ratepayer for
21 40 years, I welcome paying for measures to eliminate
22 pollution from generation of the power that I use. My
23 family pays an extra cent of kilowatt hour tariff for
24 Green Power, but I think it's inappropriate for
25 ratepayers to bear any of the burden for cleaning up

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1 pollution from these plants. The estimate of the cost
2 here could be \$100 million or more to PSE. I think it's
3 inappropriate for ratepayers to bear any burden for the
4 management cleanup of the pollution caused by these ash
5 ponds.

6 The company didn't ask me whether to use a
7 less expensive or more uncertain method to handle these
8 liquid wastes. Now that their ash ponds have polluted
9 groundwater for at least 30 years, it should be the sole
10 responsibility of shareholders to pay for the
11 remediation of the damage that these ponds have caused.
12 Thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you.
14 I can't make out this name. Steve Klapitts (phonetic)?

15 MR. RUBICZ: Steve Rubicz.

16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Come forward. How do
17 you spell the last name, please?

18 MR. RUBICZ: R-U-B-I-C-Z, is that right?

19 COMMISSIONER DANNER: R-U-B-I-C-Z, yes, I
20 think that's quite right. Thank you very much. Go
21 ahead.

22 MR. RUBICZ: My wife and I are Puget Sound
23 Energy customers on Vashon Island and we want to state
24 our opposition to PSE providing electrical energy from
25 coal after 2025 like many others here. We oppose

1 converting the electrical energy of the coal fired
2 plants that they have to natural gas sourcing for
3 electrical power. We feel that solar energy, wind and
4 other renewable forms should be used instead and that
5 they should be implemented into the rate structure by
6 2025.

7 Creating demand for natural gas locks us
8 into the need and dangers of promoting fracking with its
9 intendant threats to drinking water and methane leaks.
10 Methane is a far more dangerous climate change agent
11 than carbon dioxide, somewhere between 120 times more
12 powerful before its final dissipation in 100 years.
13 There is now indisputable proof that the Arctic is
14 warming at the fastest rate of increase anywhere on the
15 planet. This poses a serious threat from the release of
16 carbon dioxide and methane from melting tundra and from
17 warming shallows in the Arctic Sea where there are
18 gigatons of methane stored in the form of ice,
19 clathrates.

20 Climate change -- climate scientists writing
21 in Arctic News have warned that we are fairly close to a
22 runaway global warming should we not reduce very soon
23 the amount of greenhouse gases being released. Puget
24 Sound Energy must do its part in converting directly
25 from coal to sustainable electric energy sources to

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1 avoid the risky alternatives of promoting the release of
2 more dangerous greenhouse gases. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, sir. Gary
4 Smith and Warren Halverson. Gary Smith? All right.
5 Warren Halverson?

6 MR. HALVERSON: Good evening, Commissioners.
7 Thank you so much for taking your time to come here and
8 have this kind of extended type of a hearing amongst all
9 of us, and I know you're going to have another one but I
10 certainly appreciate it. I certainly appreciate you
11 getting out to see us and visit with us.

12 My name is Warren Halverson. I live in
13 Bridle Trails. I'm the president of the Cantor Green
14 Homeowners Association. I'm involved in the Bridle
15 Trails Association and an organization called CENSE.
16 I'm a business person and so my focus probably will be a
17 little bit on business and I hope you appreciate that.

18 The question before the WTC is approval of
19 another rate increase on behalf of PSE. PSE says they
20 need to increase rates again, a way to increase profits
21 for an investor owned utility when that foreign investor
22 owned utility, the Macquarie Company, is currently
23 looking for a buyer. They are up for sale. They're
24 42 percent stake in PSE.

25 You're probably very familiar with that.

1 Anecdotally Macquarie is headquartered in Australia and
2 Elon Musk is proposing batteries to help their
3 transmission issues and their peak load demand and will
4 guarantee it, not transmission lines in other facilities
5 but new technologies in Australia where Macquarie is
6 headquartered.

7 Let me relate two other developments and try
8 to bring it together a little bit in terms of a
9 quantitative study. I've looked at 10K reports, and you
10 probably don't look at them but I look at them
11 frequently, and if you look at PSE's 10K report and you
12 look at overall energy usage 2014 over '13, it's about
13 1.7 percent decrease. '15 over '14 is about a
14 2.3 percent decrease. '16 over '15, 2016 over 2015, is
15 about a 3 percent decrease.

16 PSE is existing and we know in other parts
17 of the country in a declining growth industry, yet we
18 find the Canadian pension fund wants to buy Avista in
19 Spokane. Isn't that interesting? Well, when you're
20 earning 9.8 percent, that's great cash flow for a
21 business, you know what's really important and you know
22 where other places would be so hard to even come by that
23 kind of money, so hard. So you have a really important
24 role in regulating an industry that has such a huge
25 guaranteed rate of return.

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1 Obviously everybody here has said they're
2 concerned about the motives, the motives of the
3 Macquarie Company and their interest in what the
4 customers want here in the Pacific Northwest and I think
5 that really is inherent. Don't get me wrong, I'm not
6 talking about PSE employees. But one must question
7 their strategy, their business model, their cost
8 structure in today's changing energy.

9 In Washington, a region that touts world
10 class technology and entrepreneurship as well as
11 profound love of the environment, we should and must
12 lead the nation in promoting safer, more reliable,
13 environmental friendly sustainable energy resources that
14 are priced fairly. That's a huge obligation for you,
15 huge, and I appreciate you doing it.

16 We ask you then to provide meaningful
17 oversight, require transparency, fact-based analysis and
18 thorough answers to questions in all of your
19 deliberations, including this one tonight, and in the
20 deliberation on Energize Eastside. I've attended all of
21 the IRP meetings. I'm very familiar what goes on.
22 Still many, many, many unanswered questions.

23 Please, in your deliberations, do not focus
24 on revenues. Do not focus on rates at the top. Please
25 spend some time focusing on that business model. Please

1 spend some time looking at cost structure, expenses and
2 please take a look at the new technologies that have
3 been suggested by a lot of people here. As a
4 businessman, I do not consider this managing their
5 corporation. I consider this great oversight and we
6 appreciate your taking the time to do it and look to the
7 future. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, sir.
9 Loretta Lopez. Loretta Lopez, please come forward.
10 Then Andrea Lister, please come forward. Ana Jamborcic?

11 MS. LISTER: Hi, I'm Andrea Lister and I
12 represent a friend of mine. I'm coming here regarding
13 billing issues. If they can't get the billing straight
14 I don't think they deserve to have rate hikes. We have
15 a bill in front of me, \$32,000. The late fees on this
16 bill from compounded mistakes for eight years on a
17 commercial account is more than twice of the cost of the
18 usage of electricity. We don't use the -- actually
19 natural gas at all.

20 I've helped my friend who owns a business
21 try to decipher this and solve it for over seven years
22 with PSE. Again, we're trying to do this and on just
23 one page, I'd like to bring it and show you, you can see
24 that just one error --

25 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. So this --

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1 MS. LISTER: -- it goes from \$9,000 to \$900.

2 Now, I have 45 pages of --

3 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Hang on. I'm talking.

4 All right. So if your point is that they can't --

5 because of their billing --

6 MS. LISTER: Accountability.

7 COMMISSIONER DANNER: -- we shouldn't be
8 giving them rate increases. With regards to the
9 specific billing problem, I would ask you to talk with
10 UTC staff and they will work with you to address this
11 problem and do what's appropriate, but I'm not going to
12 discuss an individual billing issue here tonight.

13 MS. LISTER: I'm not -- I'm just bringing it
14 up for the fact of accountability and I'd like to go on
15 to the rest of what I was saying, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: That's fine. But I
17 want to make sure we're not discussing --

18 MS. LISTER: Right. But accountability with
19 government, accountability with regulation,
20 accountability with people. Do we need to protest PSE
21 next? Do we? Do we need to protest your office? We're
22 here for you to listen. This is an issue. It's one
23 part of the issue of sustainability, of reliability, of
24 recycled energy, all these things. We have Siemens in
25 our backyard. We could have more wind turbines, more

1 jobs, clean energy.

2 I represent Green Party 350 Seattle. Other
3 people, low income veterans like myself, people who are
4 disabled, seniors, all these people who these rate hikes
5 makes a difference. They're living on limited incomes.
6 They can't even afford the rate that they have. Mind
7 you, and there's utility commissions whether in Seattle,
8 PSE, you know, all of them, Seattle City Light, they're
9 going into people's yards attaching things to their
10 homes without permission to try these new programs.
11 There's not an accountability factor.

12 Now, when we don't have accountability in
13 our government, we have a problem. We have a Twitter
14 storm in DC. Let's not have one here. Let's focus on
15 all these things that these intelligent people with
16 degrees and more degrees than I could even name off, to
17 listen to them to change this.

18 We don't want coal trains. If you've ever
19 spent the night down in International District at a
20 friend's house, maybe you know somebody there, go stand
21 by the trains when they go by. It's just filth that
22 you're breathing into your body. People are sick.
23 People are not well from these things that are going on
24 and until we address this and make a change of this to
25 get it done, then you're not going to see a reason to

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1 give them a rate hike.

2 I say that the UTC, that they're saying that
3 they're going to lower it and that's what they've said,
4 I think you should follow with that, and I think until
5 they get 100 percent billing correct, instead of
6 inflating their numbers with 45 pages of late fees, that
7 they're not accountable to have one more dollar from any
8 of us. Not you, not me or not any of these people as
9 well.

10 Thank you. As far as the pictures and
11 analysis that we know, this is the algae bloom. Climate
12 change is real. That's Alki this morning.

13 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you
14 very much. Ana Jamborcic, come forward.

15 MS. JAMBORCIC: Hi. I'm Ana Jamborcic.
16 Thank you for having us here today. I'm a Seattle
17 resident. I'm a ratepayer and a concerned citizen. I
18 also have an environmental science degree and I worked
19 for a number of years as a subject matter expert for
20 carbon demand response and energy efficiency software.

21 Coal is by far the most polluting energy
22 source. There are many air pollutants, including
23 greenhouse gases. The effects of greenhouse gases on
24 oceans, changing climate and other air pollution that
25 are really detrimental to our environment and our health

1 are huge serious problems for our society. Additional
2 funding for this energy source is highly dangerous and
3 should not be allowed.

4 In addition, for the continued economic
5 competitiveness and prosperity of Washington and beyond,
6 we need to do everything possible to support renewable
7 energy including not approving this rate hike. Having
8 an aggressive investment in renewables and divestment
9 from coal will enable us to benefit from future carbon
10 toxin, other regulations from pollution instead of
11 getting into trouble in the future because we know
12 they're coming.

13 It will also put us in a better position to
14 benefit from the continued technological advances and
15 infrastructure that is continuously -- the costs of
16 renewable energy and the infrastructure of those
17 technologies is continuously going down so we need to be
18 in a position to take advantage of that instead of
19 investing into the past.

20 By being proactive and strategic in our
21 investments we'll be able to be more competitive and
22 keep up with other global economies including Germany
23 and even China who are already investing heavily into
24 these technologies.

25 It's simply smarter business sense not to

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1 approve this hike. We can't afford as a civil society
2 to continue to support coal based power generation and
3 we must invest in the future and not subsidize dying
4 technologies. Please don't approve this hike. Thank
5 you.

6 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you
7 very much. We have the Raging Grannies. Do you wish to
8 come up as a group? Are you still here?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: They headed out.

10 COMMISSIONER DANNER: They left, all right.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Their bus leaves at 8:05.

12 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Okay. Well, gosh --
13 all right. Jennifer Liebsher, are you here? Lyle
14 Conway? All right. Susan Rizer?

15 MS. RIZER: Are you sure it's not Sarah
16 Rizer?

17 COMMISSIONER DANNER: I'm sorry. Sarah
18 Rizer, it is. Please come forward. And Nancy Corr, if
19 you're still here, you're on deck.

20 MS. CORR: My concerns have been stated
21 well.

22 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Okay. Thank you.

23 MS. RIZER: Hello, my name is Sarah Rizer
24 and a lot of my concerns have already been addressed as
25 well. I just kind of want to come up here and pull on

1 your heartstrings if you will let me.

2 I am currently a resident of Washington
3 State and I am very familiar with falling through the
4 cracks of Washington State's shifty checks and balances.
5 I was given up for adoption at a very young age and
6 actually smuggled out of this country and raised in
7 Saudi Arabia, which is as I'm sure everybody knows, a
8 very fossil fuel driven country.

9 You know, I never viewed getting smuggled
10 out of here as a permanent placement because I was old
11 enough to know my family, know my culture, know where I
12 came from when I was taken, and in my head always
13 remained basically the scenery. I was always going to
14 make it back here. I was always going to make it back
15 to my family, always. The rivers, the trees, the
16 mountain, that was my goal, get back here. And I did
17 and it wasn't as an adult. I made my way home by the
18 age of 11 years old, okay. I had never imagined that
19 over 20 years later I would be sitting here fighting for
20 not only the longevity of my life but also my children's
21 life, my entire community, my entire tribe and
22 surrounding areas.

23 I am of the Puyallup Nation in Tacoma where
24 I have to express my deepest sympathies to everybody
25 here who are being told that they are paying to

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1 basically increase renewable resources. Because we're
2 not even being given that choice where we are being rate
3 increased basically to pay for over 40 percent of an L
4 and G plan that none of us want. And not only do we not
5 want it, but we were not properly informed. We were not
6 properly brought to the table for discussion until
7 construction and plans were already underway as a tribe.

8 And when you guys pulled down that screen
9 and addressed everybody in here, you forgot to address
10 our indigenous original residents. And that concerns me
11 because another thing that I remember is from a young
12 age my grandmother, who worked with the Puyallup tribe
13 protecting our fishing rights and our salmon run, always
14 told me that the tribal treaties are the supreme law of
15 the land. What I don't understand is why you guys don't
16 see us. Why don't you see us? That's all I want to
17 know.

18 In that little drop down there you did not
19 address our treaties, you did not address our people,
20 but you will know us because we are banding together
21 now. Every step that is not taken towards renewable
22 energy is 12 steps back. We are walking back in time
23 but the alarms are still going off and we are waking up
24 and we are uniting. So get ready.

25 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Dakota

1 Case?

2 MS. RIZER: You can yield his time. He's
3 already gone.

4 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Rich
5 Voget? Are you here, sir? All right. And Fran Brooks,
6 if you're still here, you're on deck. And Benjamin
7 Sibelman after that.

8 MR. VOGET: My name is Richard Voget. I'm a
9 Puget Sound Energy customer and I'm speaking on behalf
10 of the children of the world for their children's
11 children's children. For their sake, the Colstrip coal
12 plant, the third largest climate polluter in the United
13 States in 2015, needs to be closed as soon as possible.
14 Therefore, I am asking that you shorten the payment
15 schedule for Units 3 and 4 at Colstrip to 2025. Making
16 sure the units are paid by 2025 is critical in
17 facilitating their retirement by that date.

18 This 2025 date reflects both economic and
19 climate reality, 100 percent clean energy. Wind solar
20 and energy efficiency is not only affordable, it's also
21 the only long-term solution for fighting climate change.

22 The video you showed tonight addressed the
23 costs and profits of utilities. Puget Sound Energy is
24 not a local utility but owned by a global Australian
25 corporation interested in maximizing profit. With the

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1 way the cost of renewable energy continues to rapidly
2 drop in 2025 is a price drop in years away, it will only
3 be to Puget Sound Energy's benefit to stop burning coal
4 and convert to renewable energy. So you can actually
5 help Puget Sound Energy's bottom line by not allowing
6 them to pass expenses associated with the Colstrip coal
7 plant on to customers past 2025.

8 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Is Fran
9 Brooks still here? Benjamin Sibelman. And Haley Horr,
10 if you're still here you're on deck.

11 MR. SIBELMAN: Thank you, Commissioners, for
12 coming here to the middle of the densest part of PSE's
13 territory in an evening of a weekday to help us all have
14 a chance to speak. My name is Ben Sibelman and I was a
15 PSE customer until last year when I moved across the
16 lake to Seattle, but the fate of the Colstrip power
17 plant concerns everyone due to its massive carbon
18 emissions, which as has been noted, it's almost
19 certainly still one of the top five point sources of any
20 kind in the United States.

21 Civilization has run out of time. We can't
22 afford any more delays in making the transition to clean
23 energy if we want to prevent catastrophic runaway
24 climate disruption. PSE says they want to keep Colstrip
25 running for 18 more years, that's simply unacceptable.

1 Governor Inslee, as has been noted, joining many local
2 and state leaders across America has committed to
3 Washington State to meeting our 2025 goals and other
4 goals under the Paris climate agreement in defiance of
5 the climate deniers in the federal government.

6 I am asking you to help realize that state
7 goal by requiring PSE to stop forcing its customers to
8 pay for its giant coal fired power plant beyond the year
9 2025.

10 As a 32-year-old I'm acutely aware that if
11 the world failed to take stronger action to solve the
12 strong climate crisis, civilization may well collapse
13 within my lifetime due to drought, famine and war, quite
14 possibly nuclear. Please do your part to prevent that
15 from happening by pushing PSE to start planning out a
16 shutdown Colstrip by 2025 to ensure a successful orderly
17 transition that provides pathways to a new clean energy
18 economy for the town of Colstrip. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Haley
20 Horr, if you're still here. All right. Cherry
21 Champagne. Bob Dilg?

22 MR. DILG: Dilg, yes.

23 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Dilg. Come forward.

24 MR. DILG: Good evening.

25 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Good evening.

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1 MR. DILG: My name is Bob Dilg, I'm here
2 this evening to urge you to support the provision of
3 whatever funds are necessary to make the transition to
4 clean energy. My wife and I moved to Bellevue some
5 seven years ago. We did so, we chose this area in large
6 part because it embraces progressive values, it accepts
7 the finding of scientists without creating an
8 alternative universe. It understands the need for
9 change. It promotes technological advances and it looks
10 to the future, not to the past.

11 We get our energy from Puget Sound Energy.
12 We appreciate the service that it provides and the
13 efficiency with which it provides it, but we do not want
14 to see our funds being used to continue the dependence
15 on fossil fuels which now despoil our lands, often
16 irreparably, which blacken our air and which undermine
17 our very health.

18 The harm being inflicted upon our planet by
19 the continuing use of fossil fuels is no longer subject
20 to debate. The science has spoken. Each one of you
21 here tonight knows this to be the case. The fossil fuel
22 industry itself now it appears even knew this to be the
23 case as far back as the 1960s. There is no longer a
24 debate. Today the fossil fuel industry reels forward
25 like some kind of an addict demanding one more fix, one

1 more fix, one more hole to drill which it can fill with
2 caustic chemicals of which we don't even know the
3 nature. One more rig to put out in the ocean which
4 threatens our estuaries, our beaches. One more -- one
5 more fix, one more time to belch noxious fumes into the
6 air we breathe.

7 You alone cannot stop the self-destructive,
8 self-enriching behavior of the fossil fuel industry but
9 you can cease to be enablers. You can do everything in
10 your power to see that moneys are now diverted to
11 increase the ability of the PSE through you to shift to
12 coal -- to clean energy. This is something that you owe
13 to your community. Use your powers to see that the
14 moneys are put aside so that we don't have to wait until
15 2024 or 2025, that we do it as quickly as possible. The
16 money is there -- you've heard the people here tonight.
17 They're willing to spend more as long as that money is
18 used to preserve our world.

19 We need -- we live in a planet that's now in
20 peril. You know that. You need to exercise your
21 authority to see that the very life that we depend upon
22 is sustained. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you.
24 Peter Marshall. And Paula Waters, you're on deck.

25 MR. MARSHALL: Good evening, Commissioners.

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1 My name is Peter Marshall, I'm speaking this evening on
2 behalf of the Eastside Audubon organization and we're
3 writing and asking you as the UTC to consider the
4 potential that the rate increase requested by Puget
5 Sound Energy might diminish that utility's commitment to
6 getting out of the coal fired part of their power
7 production by 2025. In particular, we're concerned that
8 some part of the proposed revenue that would come from
9 that would allow PSE to continue taking energy from the
10 Colstrip coal mines beyond that year.

11 Why would a bird-oriented organization like
12 Audubon be concerned about energy rates in particular?
13 We -- it's partly because of the study that was referred
14 to earlier by Dan Streiffert of another Audubon chapter
15 showing that the effect of climate change on bird
16 species is pretty staggering, you know, reducing a
17 majority of the birds that they studied to less than
18 50 percent of the habitat they now occupy. And that has
19 pretty grave implications we know for human habitation
20 on the same planet.

21 So we are concerned because of the role that
22 fossil fuels play in that climate change type of
23 scenario. So we understand that one result of Puget
24 Sound Energy's proposed rate increase could be the
25 prolonged use of power from the coal that would come

1 from an enlargement of the Rose -- I think it's the
2 Rosebud coal mine, that physically enlarging that mine
3 could enable it to continue operating beyond the
4 previously understood termination date of 2025.

5 We believe this would be a mistake. King
6 County's strategic climate action plan endorsed by 14
7 King County mayors calls on the county to phase out coal
8 fired plants by 2025. Everybody seems to be assuming
9 and focusing on that year as the best target we have at
10 this time and we hope to stick to that.

11 We believe that Puget Sound Energy should
12 commit to cutting back its coal fired power by that year
13 2025 and we trust that any rate adjustment that comes
14 out of this process will support that 2025 schedule.
15 Thank you for the opportunity to come out.

16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you
17 very much. Paula Waters, please come forward. And Don
18 Marsh, you are on deck.

19 MS. WATERS: I'm Paula Waters. I'm a
20 council member in Woodinville and I should say I don't
21 represent my council necessarily tonight but I do feel I
22 represent the interests of my constituents at my home.

23 Last year I spearheaded a rooftop solar
24 campaign in Woodinville and a number of us in
25 Woodinville, including myself, stepped up to the plate

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1 and made a very ethically satisfying investment that
2 will allow us to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to
3 fight climate change. I feel really good about that but
4 I know that our contribution to that cause sadly will
5 not amount to much as long as PSE continues to operate
6 Colstrip in Montana.

7 I and my neighbors stepped up with a
8 considerable financial investment to reduce carbon
9 emissions as PSE should do also. I join a great many
10 others in calling for PSE to commit itself to get
11 completely off coal no later than 2025. So whatever
12 your decision is on the rates, I think it should be one
13 that prioritizes an end to coal and lays out an orderly
14 path towards a coal-free future. Thank you so much for
15 being here.

16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you very much.
17 Don Marsh, come forward. And Earl Gibson, you're on
18 deck.

19 MR. MARSH: My name is Don Marsh and in
20 theory, I am still a consumer of PSE's coal fired
21 electricity. Actually in practice, a couple years ago I
22 put a second round of solar panels on my roof and as a
23 result my family has become a net energy exporter, clean
24 energy exporter to PSE. We have enough electricity
25 coming off our roof to power our entire house, our

1 electric car, and we've been selling back about
2 20 percent of our production to PSE.

3 I also serve as the president of CENSE, the
4 Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods For Sensible Energy.
5 We are an organization of hundreds of Eastside residents
6 who want the best possible energy solutions for our
7 communities. For the past three and half years, PSE has
8 been trying to sell us a dangerous and destructive
9 transmission line that will place 230,000 volts in close
10 proximity to two half-century-old petroleum pipelines
11 and to dozens of residential neighborhoods, parks and
12 schools.

13 According to records filed with the Federal
14 Energy Regulatory Commission, PSE has already spent
15 \$26 million on this project and we expect to see that
16 expenditure brought forward in future rate case hearings
17 after detrimental impacts have already occurred.

18 CENSE believes there is a better way.
19 Energy storage technology has become cost effective,
20 safe and better for the environment than PSE's plans to
21 build additional gas plants and oversized transmission
22 lines. Batteries improve the effectiveness of solar and
23 wind-generated electricity, reducing carbon emissions.
24 In many circumstances batteries can also provide better
25 reliability than fossil fuel and wired alternatives.

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1 PSE has a financial incentive to disqualify
2 batteries and other modern solutions as you heard from
3 Brion Grunkemeyer earlier tonight. The company has done
4 this by using old data and questionable assumptions.
5 PSE must not be allowed to raise our rates to fund
6 dirty, outdated infrastructure projects. CENSE and a
7 growing coalition of environmental organizations want
8 good data and a fair analysis of a need for these
9 projects and viable alternatives.

10 The Macquarie group recently announced its
11 intention to sell its interest in PSE. We want any
12 potential buyer to know that there will be strenuous
13 objections from ratepayers who will not sit idly by
14 while our utility bills fund the degradation of our
15 communities and the environment. Thank you so much.

16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you,
17 sir. Earl Gibson. And Debbie Jackson, you're on deck
18 if you're still here.

19 MR. GIBSON: Good evening, Commissioners.
20 My name is Earl Gibson. I'm just a guy, not a real
21 joiner, I'm not with any group. I don't see the
22 justification for the rate increase. Income is up.
23 Revenue is up, you know, and who's going to pay this
24 wonderful increase? It's going to be the person. It's
25 going to be a larger percent of a low income person's

1 income.

2 The people who can afford solar panels, all
3 power to you, but, you know, I have reduced my energy
4 bills by two-thirds in the last 20 years. I'm out of
5 stuff to do. So every time you raise your rate, my
6 recurring costs go up and all I see is the PSE trying to
7 increase a recurring revenue on my back. No thank you.
8 I think this rate increase should be rejected for all
9 the other reasons too, but that's my reason. I ain't
10 got the money. Thanks.

11 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, sir. Is
12 Debbie Jackson here? All right. Susan Thomas, please
13 come forward.

14 MS. THOMAS: Hello. I'm a customer from Des
15 Moines, and yeah, what they all said. Simply renewable
16 is good. Fossil fuel is bad. Pretty simple, especially
17 if CO2 eventually becomes a cost, a monetary charge, PSE
18 will be charged for that as well. I'm not the
19 business-minded person but if we could take the decrease
20 that you're intending for the fracked gas and use it
21 towards building a wind power generator over in the
22 Colstrip area, that will help provide them for jobs away
23 from the coals once hopefully before 2025 that will be
24 eliminated. Because if we can do that even sooner, I
25 can return to being a proud PSE customer that I used to

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1 be when before I realized that you guys or they are
2 getting their energy from the third greatest contributor
3 to CO2 emissions. So thank you, and thank you for all
4 your work for helping the customers.

5 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you
6 very much. Linda Seltzer, come forward.

7 MS. SELTZER: Good evening. And thank you
8 for hearing our comments. I appreciate all of the
9 highly learned comments on the environment and I hope
10 that you will indulge me in speaking about -- briefly
11 about a different topic.

12 I oppose the unnecessary rate increase and a
13 rough hardball, ruthless collection tactics aimed at
14 senior citizens, the disabled and low income workers.
15 40 percent of the households in King County, households
16 not persons, are renting, so we can talk about the
17 issues facing renters as well as homeowners.

18 PSE advertises an assistance program. The
19 public should understand this only applies to incomes
20 below 1450 per month. PSE advertises an equal payment
21 budget plan but when people get behind in the winter,
22 they don't offer it. They only offer it to the people
23 whose accounts are up to date; that is, the people who
24 don't need it.

25 People who are late three times get no help,

1 and in fact what they get is the opposite, a threat of a
2 \$300 deposit and a threatened shutdown, sometimes with
3 only a few days notice. The notices are backdated maybe
4 more than a week, even two weeks or more before they
5 actually arrive. This is how PSE is treating the low
6 income population here in King County. The company --
7 let's see. Their hardball and harassment tactics need
8 to stop and I would like to ask the Attorney General's
9 representative here to investigate what rights the
10 consumer actually has and how the Attorney General's
11 Office can actually defend the consumers and not say
12 this is only for the Commissioners, and how the
13 Commissioners can defend the consumers against this
14 ruthless machine that's being operated against the low
15 income people in this community.

16 Thank you very much. And again, I oppose
17 this rate increase. It's unnecessary. They're making
18 enough profits. They don't need to gouge senior
19 citizens anymore.

20 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you.
21 Ms. Seltzer, if you would like to talk to the Assistant
22 Attorney General or to Commission staff, maybe they can
23 take your contact information and follow up with you if
24 there's particular issues.

25 All right. Frank Souliere, are you here?

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1 Vicki Grayland? Aaron Tam?

2 MR. TAM: I will pass.

3 COMMISSIONER DANNER: You will pass, thank
4 you, sir.

5 Ron Snell, are you here?

6 MR. SNELL: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Come forward. And
8 Nancy Berry, if you're still here, please come forward.
9 Mr. Snell, thank you. Go ahead.

10 MR. SNELL: Thank you for this opportunity
11 to speak. I do want to thank the Commission for holding
12 this hearing in Bellevue. It gives many of us a much
13 easier time to get a chance to speak to you. I'm
14 speaking today as a grandfather and a ratepayer. My
15 granddaughter lives here in Bellevue. She attends
16 Sacred Heart Elementary School and in the winter she
17 snowboards and the other times of the year she plays
18 soccer. She's a fairly typical Northwest kid. But I
19 worry about the world we're leaving her, all of her
20 classmates at Sacred Heart and all of the other kids of
21 her generation. They will -- will they have a world in
22 which they can thrive or will they be forced to cope as
23 best they can with a world that is degraded because of
24 climate change?

25 The single most important thing we can do

1 for them today is to demand that PSE shut down its coal
2 plant at Colstrip as soon as possible. A number of
3 people have spoken well around 2025 should be the latest
4 possible date to shut down that plant, but in addition
5 to these issues around climate change, there are also
6 economic issues in shutting down Colstrip. As long as
7 PSE continues to operate the plant, it will continue to
8 accumulate toxic wastes in its ash ponds, wastes that
9 will have to be cleaned up.

10 If PSE insists on continuing to operate
11 Colstrip past 2025, ratepayers such as myself should not
12 be responsible for the cleanup. PSE shareholders
13 instead should pay the bill.

14 I urge the UTC to build incentives into the
15 rate structure that will incent PSE to shut down
16 Colstrip no later than 2025. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, sir. Nancy
18 Berry, come forward. And Margo Rolf, if you're still
19 here, you're on deck.

20 MS. BERRY: Good evening. I am Nancy Berry
21 and I am a resident of Renton. I'm here representing
22 the Board of Earth Ministry. We are an ecumenical
23 environmental advocacy group. With the soulness we
24 believe that the earth and all that is within it belong
25 to God. We also believe along with the gospel,

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1 teachings of the gospel and really of all major
2 religions that we have a responsibility to care for one
3 another, especially those who are vulnerable, and we've
4 heard from some of them tonight.

5 Our faith teaches us that we have a
6 responsibility to protect the earth and to use its
7 resources wisely, as well as considering how our actions
8 may affect other people including their right to have
9 clean and healthy air, soil and water, not just in our
10 own immediate neighborhood but in the larger global
11 community.

12 Because of these core values Earth Ministry
13 is concerned about the effects on the environment of
14 burning fossil fuels and especially coal, the dirtiest
15 of energy resources.

16 I am a PSE customer. I'm not eager to have
17 my rates increase, but I'm even more displeased about
18 spending on coal generated power from the Colstrip
19 facility in Montana. Coal represents the technology of
20 yesteryear while clean renewable energy sources such as
21 solar and wind are rapidly becoming available and cost
22 effective.

23 So I urge the UTC to require PSE to phase
24 out coal production no later than 2025. Sooner would be
25 better. And that any permission to adjust rates would

1 be contingent on their doing so, on decommissioning the
2 plants, and I also urge you to provide strong
3 enforcement and monitoring of this process. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Ms. Rolf.

5 MS. ROLF: Thank you for this opportunity.

6 My name is Margo Rolf. I am from Federal Way,
7 Washington. I'm a retired public school teacher, member
8 of Saltwater Climate Action Now team and a ratepayer
9 using energy provided by Puget Sound Energy. I pay PSE
10 and the stockholders of an Australian corporation part
11 of my retirement for heat and light for my home. Each
12 time we light and heat Saltwater Church, part of my
13 pledge goes to PSE. Each time Federal Way lights up our
14 streets, lights up and heats city hall and other public
15 facilities, I pay taxes to Federal Way to pay PSE.

16 So I am an interested party in the direction
17 and decisions they make about my future and that of my
18 family, my city, my state, and though I do not hold a
19 public office, I hope that I can speak for many ordinary
20 families.

21 If you were to ask the general public, Do
22 you want dirty fracked gas for your energy source? I am
23 sure anyone who knows anything about it would say,
24 Heavens no. I truly am thankful for some decisions in
25 the past. I'm thankful for the closure of the coal

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1 powered Plants 1 and 2 in Colstrip and I'm asking for
2 the closure of Plants 3 and 4 and to have it done
3 hopefully by 2025.

4 Please don't let them use ratepayers' money
5 and then replace the electrical power plants with
6 so-called clean gas. Skip the bridge fuel and head
7 directly to clean sustainable energy. Fracked gas is
8 dirty at the extraction point. Dirty as it leaks
9 methane from pipelines and dirty when burned as it emits
10 carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. There's
11 nothing clean about that.

12 You know, PSE provides clean energy in their
13 Green plan. They ask us, however, to pay a little extra
14 if we're concerned about the environment. They send us
15 a brochure or a flyer in our bill and they show on the
16 website that anyone who's concerned about the
17 environment or our carbon footprint, we can do something
18 about it. We can pay them extra. So I pay \$10 extra
19 every month. I pay it for my grandson.

20 They are very intelligent, smart people over
21 at PSE. I've talked to some at open houses. They have
22 technology and they have resources but they must have
23 the will to do what's right. I know that that
24 Australian corporation has to make money. I know that
25 they have to make a profit, but Washington should have

1 the final say about our lives.

2 I don't want my rates to go up for dirty
3 energy. They have been selling us dirty energy far too
4 long. Please help them see the light. Thank you so
5 much.

6 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you.
7 So that is the end of the sign-up sheet. Unless there's
8 an additional sign-up sheet, I don't have anyone else
9 that is signed up to speak this evening. Is there
10 anyone who did not sign up who wishes to come forward
11 and say something at this time? Come forward, sir, and
12 identify yourself.

13 MR. HANSEN: My name is Norm Hansen. I live
14 in Bellevue and I've been following the IRP process for
15 some time now and I'm a little bit frustrated because of
16 Energize Eastside, Washington State law does require
17 that the IRP include transmission line planning and so
18 you could look at other options. And I'd like to
19 encourage the Commission to encourage -- well, actually
20 to require PSE to include that planning with options in
21 their 2017 IRP. They've tried -- to me they've tried to
22 put it on a back shelf and I think that's inappropriate.
23 As Don Marsh already spoke, they have spent \$26 million
24 on this project, and if there is a better option, I
25 think that it would certainly benefit the ratepayers and

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1 we would like to ask your help including that. Thank
2 you very much.

3 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, Mr. Hansen.
4 I did receive another sign-in sheet but it looks like
5 nobody who signed up wishes to speak so I note your
6 presence and thank you for being here.

7 Is there someone else? Yes, please come
8 forward.

9 MS. VON TOBEL: Well, Commissioner, I'm not
10 sure if it would be appropriate for me to speak at this
11 time or not. I am a PSE ratepayer. I don't really have
12 a huge concern about the rate case right now. I worked
13 for the director of rates from '97 to '92, personal
14 assistant, and then the officer in charge of all that.
15 In '92 --

16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Before you proceed can
17 you identify yourself?

18 MS. VON TOBEL: My name is Elizabeth Von
19 Tobel.

20 COMMISSIONER DANNER: And how do you spell
21 that?

22 MS. VON TOBEL: It's V as Victor, O-N,
23 space, capital T-O, B as in brother, E-L.

24 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you. Proceed.

25 MS. VON TOBEL: Thank you. The reason I'd

1 like to address the Commission tonight is because I've
2 got some kind of a leak in my house and smoke to the
3 extent that I've been told I have advanced COPD,
4 however, when I'm out of the house I don't, my breathing
5 is not problematical. And I've had the power company
6 out any number of times, most recently last Wednesday,
7 two gentlemen came out, very kindly they worked on the
8 weather head, you know, the masthead where it comes in
9 above the house? Do you know what I'm talking about?

10 Following that I don't have my stove
11 anymore. Prior to that when I called up and asked for
12 help, they cut my gas, not for non-pay. It's on auto
13 pay. They just cut my gas. So I haven't had hot water
14 for over a month. And the power company also, I called,
15 and they were to come out last Thursday, never showed
16 up.

17 COMMISSIONER DANNER: We're talking about
18 Puget Sound Energy?

19 MS. VON TOBEL: Yes, we are, and I love the
20 company. I'd love to be working there still. I'll tell
21 you that for free. So I really don't know what to do
22 about the situation.

23 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Okay. So this is one
24 that I would ask you to speak to Commission staff,
25 they'll get your contact information and we will follow

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1 up.

2 MS. VON TOBEL: I do have the information
3 with the representative from the district attorney's
4 office.

5 COMMISSIONER DANNER: That's fine.
6 Mr. Roberts in the back there, he'll raise his hand.
7 Also, he'll take your contact information and we'll
8 follow up with you then.

9 MS. VON TOBEL: Okay, yeah. I mean a month
10 without hot water, now no stove, and I believe it's a
11 grounding problem but nobody has really -- you know,
12 I've had electricians in and I am afraid to go home to
13 this house tonight. We've owned it since '95. This has
14 been going on since about 2010, 2011 and I'm afraid to
15 go home to that house tonight.

16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Again,
17 talk to Mr. Roberts in the back there and we'll follow
18 up --

19 MS. VON TOBEL: Thank you. Thank you for
20 your attention. I appreciate it. Thank you,
21 Commissioners.

22 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you for coming
23 out tonight. Is there anything else in the room tonight
24 who wishes to address the Commission on this docket?
25 Anything here?

1 All right. If not, I want to again invite
2 folks or if you have friends or neighbors who were not
3 able to make it tonight who wanted to be here, they can
4 submit written comments, again it's at our website which
5 is www.utc.wa.gov.comment. You can also send an e-mail
6 to Comments@utc.wa.gov or you can call us at
7 1-888-333-WUTC.

8 You can also send a letter by mail. I know
9 that seems old-fashioned but it still works, and that
10 would be at the Washington State Utilities and
11 Transportation Commission, and that's PO Box 47250,
12 Olympia, Washington 98504-7250.

13 And again, these addresses are on the
14 information sheet that the Attorney General's Office
15 handed out that the Office of Public Counsel made
16 available on the table outside.

17 So I think that brings us to the end
18 tonight. There will be another public comment meeting
19 on August 31st in Olympia, Washington. We'll be taking
20 written comments until August 31st. So thank you all
21 for coming out on a warm summer night to share your
22 views with us. We really do appreciate it, and even
23 though we sat here and did not seem responsive or
24 engaging, that's the way this system works and in fact,
25 we did take in your comments and we will be processing

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1 them as we go forward with this proceeding.

2 So thank you all for coming and we'll be

3 adjourned. Thanks.

4 (Hearing concluded at 8:38 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
2) SS: C E R T I F I C A T E
3 COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH)

4 I, CONNIE A. RECOB, Certified Court
5 Reporter in and for the State of Washington do hereby
6 certify;

7 That the foregoing is a true and correct
8 transcription of my shorthand notes as taken upon the
9 above named case on the date and at the time and place
10 as shown on page one hereto;

11 That I am not related to any of the
12 parties to this litigation and have no interest in the
13 outcome of said litigation;

14
15 Witness my hand and seal this 8th day of
16 August, 2017.

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