

**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 vs. PUGET SOUND ENERGY) Docket Nos. UE-170033) 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

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

PROCEEDINGS

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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 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

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>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.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>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</p>

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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

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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

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

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 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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?

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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

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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>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</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>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</p>

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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

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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, sulfate
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

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 avoid the risky alternatives of promoting the release of 2 more dangerous greenhouse gases. Thank you.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you, sir. Gary 4 Smith and Warren Halverson. Gary Smith? All right. 5 Warren Halverson?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>25 You're probably very familiar with that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

16 (Pages 109 to 112)

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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

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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

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>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</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>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</p>

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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.

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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

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you. 24 Peter Marshall. And Paula Waters, you're on deck. 25 MR. MARSHALL: Good evening, Commissioners.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 127</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: All right. Thank you 17 very much. Paula Waters, please come forward. And Don 18 Marsh, you are on deck.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 126</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 128</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Thank you very much. 17 Don Marsh, come forward. And Earl Gibson, you're on 18 deck.</p> <p>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</p>

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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

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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,

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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

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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

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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

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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

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p> <p>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</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p> <p>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?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p> <p>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.) 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>

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

I, CONNIE A. RECOB, Certified Court

4 Reporter in and for the State of Washington do hereby
5 certify;

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

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

17
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19
20
21 CONNIE A. RECOB, CCR 2631, RMR, CRR
22 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
23 IN AND FOR THE STATE OF
WASHINGTON, RESIDING AT
24 STANWOOD. LICENSE EXPIRES
25 APRIL 8, 2018.

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