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SUBJECT : My Testimony to the Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission (UTC) re: Puget Sound Energy's proposed 20-year
Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) including Coal-Fired Power Generation

Olympia, Washington ; October 10, 2013

PERSONAL INFORMATION : Dr. Arun Jhaveri, Senior Energy Adviser/Certified Sustainable Development Professional; former First Mayor of the new City of Burien, Washington (1992-1998); former Regional Manager of the U. S. Department of Energy (USDOE) in the Western Regional Office/Seattle (1991-2006); and Co-Author of a new book entitled "Carbon Reduction : Policies, Strategies, and Technologies", published in August 2009.

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TESTIMONY/COMMENTS :

1. As a resident of the City of Burien since 1967 and as its former First Mayor from 1992 to 1998, I can attest to the fact that over 25,000 of Burien citizens are customers of the Puget Sound Energy (PSE), while little over 20,000 are customers of the Seattle City Light (including myself). One of the critical VISIONS of Burien during its 20-year cityhood (1993-2013) has been the “Environmental Sustainability & Stewardship” that includes Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction/Climate Change (including carbon dioxide pollution), Clean/Green Energy Technologies, and Sustainable Community Development. Therefore, the PSE’s proposed 20-year IRP for obtaining future energy resources for its hundreds of thousands of customers – from the OUTDATED, EXTREMELY POLLUTING (Carbon), and very INEFFICIENT Old Coal Plant @ Colstrip generating facility in Eastern Montana, is ABSOLUTELY UN-NECESSARY, UNWISE, and UNSUSTAINABLE, as well as contrary to the anticipated UTILITY LEADERSHIP from the Puget Sound Energy.
2. The electric power industry could/should retire many old/existing coal-fired power plants, without causing RELIABILITY problems with the power grid, according to Ms. Barbara Freese of the Union of Concerned Scientists, in 2011. First, there is a lot of extra generating capacity on the grid now. And second, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy INVESTMENTS are reducing the need for COAL. Therefore, it is a good time to retire Carbon-Polluting Coal Plants, such as the PSE’s Colstrip Generating Facility in Montana.

3. Climate Change/Carbon Pollution is contributing to record Heat Waves, Floods, Droughts, Wild Fires, and Severe Storms. Such extreme weather has caused more than \$ 140 billion in DAMAGES in 2012, exposing our high level of Climate Vulnerability. Much of this unprecedented mitigation expenditure has been paid by the American Taxpayers like you and me. Thus, both the Scientists and the Decision Makers/Politicians in the United States and Globally, have recommended incorporating "SOCIAL COST OF CARBON" at approximately \$ 50/Metric Ton of CO₂ @ 3% average discount rate, in all IRPs, associated with Coal-Fired Power Plants, as part of the true long-term (e.g. 20-year) LIFE CYCLE COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS, which UNFORTUNATELY is totally MISSING in the PSE's IRP, thereby falsely justifying the case for using Coal-Fired Power.