

From: Matt Krogh [mailto:mattk@re-sources.org]

Sent: Friday, August 16, 2013 3:05 PM

To: Public Involvement (UTC)

Subject: Comments on Puget Sound Energy's Integrated Resource Plan (Docket #UE-120767 (and UG-120768))

Dear Chairman Danner and Commission Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that is currently open for public comment as part of the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission's (UTC) review process. The IRP details PSE's plans for obtaining future energy resources for its customers.

RE Sources has a long history of supporting and participating in sustainable transportation, energy efficiency, habitat protections, and waste reduction programs. As part of this work, we divert millions of pounds of waste from the construction industry every year, support idling reduction and lowered home energy use, work to protect aquatic habitats from contaminants, and for three years now have also actively opposed the transshipment of coal through Washington's ports.

As a customer of PSE energy, we are concerned that "Preferred Portfolio" IRP fails to include the social costs of burning coal, including concerns associated with public health and climate change, and the regulatory costs from the probable regulatory imposition of a carbon tax. We are concerned that these will lead to both higher prices for PSE customers such as ourselves and further contribute to climate change impacts that we work on a daily basis to alleviate. We currently work to address climate change impacts such as water quantity for salmon and farming, sea level rise impacts on downtown waterfront properties, and changing seasonal availability in water supply. Further concerns include the ongoing contamination of water, air and soil from Colstrip power plant emissions.

RE Sources supports the conversion of PSE's portfolio to reduce reliance on Colstrip as quickly as possible. The hundreds of millions of dollars of investment that may soon be required by regulators in order to keep Colstrip running represent an unacceptable risk to PSE ratepayers. Additionally, coal ash regulation and associated litigation may well expose ratepayers to even higher levels of financial risk, despite beginning to alleviate many of the unacceptable impacts represented by current power plant operations.

Investment in renewable energy sources brings jobs closer to home, provides more regulatory and fiscal certainty, and reduces unacceptable environmental impacts from the continued operation of Colstrip. With pending lawsuits, imminent implementation of known regulatory requirements, and potential for new regulatory requirements, we believe retiring Colstrip much sooner than the 20 year horizon reflected in the "Preferred Portfolio" is the right choice for PSE customers.

Sincerely,

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Matt Krogh, North Sound Baykeeper

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities

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