From:	Lisa Chambers
To:	UTC DL Records Center
Subject:	Dockets UE-160918 & UG160919
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Dockets UE-160918 and UG-160919□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Dear Commissioners Danner, Rendahl and Balasbas,

Gratefully my utility, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), provides me with relatively reliable electricity for my home and business at reasonable rates. Unfortunately, this power comes with great risk to individual, regional and worldwide freedoms and safety. By clinging to outdated modes of electricity generation, PSE is a carbon-emitter, polluter and a contributor to the devastating problem of global warming. I am disturbed by the fact that by switching on my heat I share in the responsibility for the externalized damages caused by fossil-fuel power generation. Thus, I respectfully request honest consideration of these two specific points regarding PSE's Integrated Rate Plan (IRP) and the role of the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC):

1) Expedient retirement of all Colstrip plants is necessary. Replacement with 100% conservation and renewable energy systems is imperative, and;
2) You, as the WUTC have the charter to factor the externalized risks associated with dangerous greenhouse gas emissions in energy utility operations.

New energy generation must come from clean, renewable sources. Puget Sound Energy has offered an IRP that does not adequately plan for the truth of a new awakening and a rapidly changing world. The cost curve is bending radically in favor of renewable energy and energy storage systems clearly pointing the way to absorb this new paradigm.

Renewable power replacement RFPs were missing from the IRP documents, while gas plant preparation was prominent. The unintended but inevitable damage from enormous greenhouse gases (predominately methane) leaking during extraction and transmission is clearly under-appreciated. For this and many reasons, non-renewable power replacement for Colstrip is untenable. Pursuit of permits for construction of a new gas plant is money wasted and opportunity lost. Fossil-fuel costs to feed power plants are unpredictable in our current local and geopolitical reality. The political certainty is that our citizen passion is massive and broad and it will push law to address the real cost of externalities on both a State level and very likely on a Federal level long before the natural end of a new gas plant. PSE should not stand on its heels to benefit the short-term interests of for-profit investors leaving its ratepayers to fund and pick up the pieces of future stranded assets.

Did we not learn the lessons of nuclear reactors abandoned in the '70s and presently with the conundrum of Colstrip? Future carbon-producing power generation is fiscally irresponsible and backward-focused. Future carbon-producing power generation shamefully broadcasts a darkening world.

The WUTC has the authority to help and guide PSE to sound financial decisions while safeguarding ratepayers from harm. Given that PSE is hesitating in its IRP on rapid advancement to renewable energy solutions (and has private investment pressures to pursue new fossil-fuel infrastructure) the WUTC must engage decisively to mitigate the risks and externalized costs to the environment and human health. The WUTC is empowered under the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-100-238 (2) (b) to, "consider resource cost, market-volatility risks, demand-side resource uncertainties, resource dispatchability, resource effect on system operation, the risks imposed on ratepayers, public policies regarding resource preference adopted by Washington state or the federal government and the **cost of risks associated with environmental effects including emissions of carbon dioxide**."

I am a citizen and a subject of a monopoly utility. The WUTC is my legislatively-sanctioned protective agency. I recognize that you have a profound and complicated responsibility that involves many stakeholders. I urge you to recognize the motivations of these stakeholders and assume the full risk analysis and mitigation as defined in the WAC. In utility planning, fossil-fuel based power generation rightfully deserves its extinction. New gas facilities would pose an environmental risk to the safety of ratepayers and far beyond. Extracting, transporting and burning fossil-fuels permanently draws against the earth's ecological balance. The spirit of caution imbued in the WAC when it describes "risks associated with environmental effects" was forward thinking to this moment in time. It appears clearly to me that the WUTC is fully within its jurisdiction to guide PSE in an expedient transition from a dying traditional model relying on fossil-fuels to one that is renewable and supports life on earth. It is the environmentally responsible as well as the financially wise choice.

Sincerely,

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