

From: [David Scheer \(scheerdc@outlook.com\) Sent You a Personal Message](mailto:scheerdc@outlook.com)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Stop Puget Sound Energy's Sale of Colstrip
Date: Sunday, December 22, 2019 12:24:05 PM

Dear Washington UTC,

I am GREATLY OPPOSED to the sale of Colstrip Unit 4 to Northwestern Energy because I want the usage of 'coal' for energy or electricity here in Washington State to "STOP" ...as soon as possible! If sold, Northwestern would 'continue' using coal into the 2040's...and that means CO2 emissions would 'continue' to be emitted into the air I breathe---ie., climate change---until that time period as well. All of which VIOLATES Washington's clean energy legislation, which says the state must be coal-free by 2025---which I greatly want, if not even SOONER!!

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you not to approve the sale of Colstrip Unit 4 to NorthWestern Energy.

When our State passed 100% clean electricity legislation, lawmakers clearly expressed their intent to ensure the swift and orderly retirement of Colstrip, one of the region's largest polluters. That's why they specifically wrote that the State's utilities must be coal-free by 2025.

Montana-based NorthWestern Energy, on the other hand, has announced on multiple occasions that it intends to keep the plant open and running at least into the 2040s. PSE's proposed sale of Unit 4 could therefore significantly extend the life of the plant, which was on track to an orderly retirement when the Washington owners stopped buying coal in 2025. This transfer of ownership and continued pollution from coal is definitely not what lawmakers intended.

There are financial risks to ratepayers. The sale could lead to increased future costs to PSE customers by introducing uncertainty over which utility is responsible for the costs of cleaning up after groundwater contamination from coal ash ponds that have been leaking for decades. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is in the process of producing a clean up plan, which is expected to cost the six owners of the plant up to \$700 million but in reality will likely be more. Determining legal liability for groundwater pollution becomes much more complicated if one owner is allowed to continue polluting longer than other owners. This potentially invites years of costly lawsuits, could put ratepayers at risk, and delays implementing a clean up plan.

Please do not approve the sale of Colstrip Unit 4.

Sincerely,

David Scheer
2715 Cody Cir Apt 102
Bellingham, WA 98225
scheerdc@outlook.com
(360) 933-4913

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. Please contact Lillian Miller at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500 for more information.