

August 15, 2013

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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

2013 AUG 19 AM 10:56

Dear Chairman Danner and Commission Members:

I am a native Washingtonian and have lived in PSE territory since 1970. I am very upset that PSE has coal power in its' 20 year plan. I have familiarized my self with PSE's IRP plan and would like to see:

- Coal phased out (possibly they could start with retiring the oldest two burners at Colstrip)
- All of the costs of coal included in IRP including: CO₂, health, clean up, repairs to Colstrip and lawsuit costs
- Reduced reliance on natural gas and any other fossil fuel
- Investments in clean, renewable energy
- Investments in a smart energy grid

In President Obama's recent Climate Speech he said that coal plants will be paying for their CO₂. PSE needs to plan for this. Here are his exact words:

Six years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that greenhouse gases are pollutants covered by that same Clean Air Act. And they required the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA, to determine whether they're a threat to our health and welfare. In 2009, the EPA determined that they are a threat to both our health and our welfare in many different ways -- from dirtier air to more common heat waves -- and, therefore, subject to regulation. Today, about 40 percent of America's carbon pollution comes from our power plants. But here's the thing: Right now, there are no federal limits to the amount of carbon pollution that those plants can pump into our air. None. Zero. We limit the amount of toxic chemicals like mercury and sulfur and arsenic in our air or our water, but power plants can still dump unlimited amounts of carbon pollution into the air for free. That's not right, that's not safe, and it needs to stop. So today, for the sake of our children, and the health and safety of all Americans, I'm directing the Environmental Protection Agency to put an end to the limitless dumping of carbon pollution from our power plants, and complete new pollution standards for both new and existing power plants.

I want to see a plan for more renewable energy in the IRP. I think PSE just needs better guidance and a good blueprint for a clear path forward. [Reinventing Fire](#) by Amory Lovins is a great model to follow. He shows how renewables are far cheaper in the long run (even without the hidden costs of fossil fuels taken into account). Please move us in this direction.

Amory's TED talk provides a great overview of the book:

http://www.ted.com/talks/amory_lovins_a_50_year_plan_for_energy.html.

About 19 minutes into the talk, he addresses how we can transition from coal to wind and solar with little need for bulk energy storage. As he points out, this is a once in a civilization business opportunity and one of the most profound transitions in the history of humankind.

Main takeaways from the TED talk:

- Our aging, dirty and insecure existing energy system has to be replaced by 2050 and that will cost roughly \$5 trillion (net present value) regardless of what direction we take
- Risks of staying with centralized coal/natural gas generators are high and they are vulnerable to natural events (earth and space weather) and terrorist attacks
- The new approach, which carries about the same cost as business as usual, would: maximize national security, maximize customer choice, entrepreneurial opportunity and innovation
- Little or no bulk energy storage (batteries or other forms) is needed for this new approach
- The existing distribution grid was built to integrate generators together to provide backup
- The new grid and approach: distributed renewables, organized into microgrids that normally connect but can operate independently (disconnect fractally and re-integrate seamlessly). This is being implemented by the Department of Defense.
- Alternative/clean energy generating facilities from a variety of types locations can be integrated to give highly reliable power
- No coal/gas generator is 24/7, all generators break
- In 2010, 4 German states were 43-52% wind powered
- This will all be accomplished without the help of the U.S. Congress

It is a crime to all life on Earth and a waste of ratepayer's money to continue to invest in coal. Please help PSE move towards a clean, safe, healthy, economically viable future by guiding them to investing in renewables.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Newcomb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Newcomb
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