

February 7, 2024

Puget Sound Energy
P.O. Box 97034
Bellevue, Washington 98009

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504

Subj: Public Comment Hearing for PSE's Petition to Amend Final Order
Docket UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918 (Consolidated)

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to Puget Sound Energy's invitation to comment on its Petition to Amend Final Order, which was included in my last billing statement. The provided text and the materials accessed through internet links did not explain clearly PSE's credit and collection processes currently in effect or what PSE is petitioning to change. After much frustration at trying to cut through the obfuscation of the writings I am left unable to speak specifically to the credit and collection processes. This effort, however, revealed larger issues that need to be expressed.

The insert inviting public comment starts with the following sentence. "...PSE is committed to delivering the clean energy future our customers want and need, while also maintaining the reliability and affordability our customers expect." If PSE infers that customers want more wind turbines and solar panel to supply our energy, that does not reflect my want or need. So far, reliability of power has been good and I am glad about that. I am not glad about the 16 percent increase in cost of a kilowatt-hour as compared to last year.

As PSE bills become less affordable you can expect the arrearages to increase. PSE states as a reason to file its Petition the unprecedented arrearages. I note in document titled "UE-220066 et al – Order 25-11 Staying Effectiveness of Compliance Filing – Puget Sound Energy GRC.pdf" the statement on page 2: "Both PSE and Staff attribute significant increases in power costs to the impacts of the Climate Commitment Act on the Company's dispatch modeling."

PSE stated that total arrearages increased 127 percent from May of 2020 to May of 2023, despite significant energy assistance provided by PSE to customers. I assume that energy assistance is power bills of some paid for by others, either rate payers or bond holders. Another PSE mailing stated that according to the Energy Independence Act of Washington State, PSE has a required goal of 15 percent

renewable energy. The costs associated with the generated renewable energy and renewable energy credits were \$43.35 million per year at the time of acquisition. The goal of a percentage renewable energy is essentially imposing a carbon tax on us and conditioning us to accept an outright carbon tax. As a result of PSE's compliance with the green energy agenda I personally am burning more firewood to try to control my energy costs.

It is no secret that the dominant political class is steering our society towards a zero-emission energy future, which means elimination of carbon-based fuels and 100 percent green energy. Simultaneously, policy makers are intent on breaching the four Snake River dams, ostensibly to allow tribal people to commune with their sacred land. Some tribal people have promoted that same reasoning already as justification for removing the Columbia River dams, although public discussion of it has not gained traction yet.

In pursuing the goal of renewable energy, the administration transformed us from exporter of oil and gas to importer, placed a hold on leases, and terminated exploration on federal lands. Rare earth metals are integral to the magnets that are key to electric vehicle motors and wind turbines. China is responsible for production of about 90 percent of the world's rare earth elements and at least 80 percent of all the stages of making solar panels and 60 percent of wind turbines and electric car batteries. America is 90 percent net import reliant on such materials. By such policy China has economic leverage over us as we purposefully increase energy costs to businesses, consumers, and the military by transitioning to ephemeral and intermittent green energy. All the while, the country that is at war with us builds coal-fired energy plants at six times the rate of the rest of world combined.

The scenario is clear to see. No one pushes back against the green agenda, power becomes prohibitively expensive and unreliable because it is dependent wholly on renewables, and we return to the standard of living of two hundred years ago. People making serious inquiries into the climate change hysteria realize the green agenda is a scam. By accepting the elites' narrative about "CO2 is a pollutant" we are being marched toward a wholesale societal transformation via mass hysteria. Some elites have even proposed the adoption of an individual carbon footprint tracker. The green agenda is a politically planned overthrow of the global economic and social system.

Here are facts copied from just casual reading that you should consider, to gain a wider perspective of the harm in which Olympia is forcing you to participate.

- Global temperatures may be gradually increasing but no credible analysis has shown how much of the increase is due to human activity. Some societal adjustment will likely be necessary over the long-term, just as has always been the case, but by and large humans cannot control the climate.
- No evidence exists to show confidently that the frequency or intensity of hurricanes, storms, droughts, rainfall, or other weather events are caused by a warming planet, which is a "justification" for the green agenda. Corrupted scientists and many politicians, public officials and media platforms are feeding the public a one-sided, apocalyptic account of the climate and humans' effect on it that stokes fear, politicizes science, misuses climate modeling, and shuts down debate.
- CO2 and temperature have been out of sync more often than they've been in sync, which negates the narrative that humans are causing global warming. Currently the fraction of our

atmosphere that is CO2 is 0.00042 (420 parts per million), which is historically low. Generally, plants would prefer between 1,500 and 2,000 ppm for optimum growth.

- Almost all spent solar panels in the US end up in landfills. The cost is one to two dollars each. The cost to recycle the same panel is \$20 to \$30. An estimated 10.8 million tons of dead panels will be disposed between 2030 and 2060. The number of retired wind turbine blades is expected to reach 9,000 per year over the next five years. The length of a single wind turbine blade can be more than 200 feet, or longer than the wingspan of a Boeing 747.
- Since decarbonization efforts commenced in 2008 in Great Britain, its economy has grown at half the rate it did from 1990–2008. Britons paid an average of \$228 per megawatt-hour (MWh) for electricity generated from coal in 2022, whereas Americans paid an average of \$27 per MWh. For natural gas, 2022 saw Britons paying \$251 per MWh, versus American consumers averaging \$61 per MWh for their power. Intermittent production from wind and solar—coupled with a lack of utility-grade energy storage—caused electricity generated per gigawatt of capacity to fall by 28 percent since 2009. It is unrealistic to force us to rely on intermittent energy from wind and solar or wager the future on technologies that are still in experimental stages and for which the grid is not properly developed.
- PSE is participating in the same scam that has crippled Britain’s economy. Wind energy projects in Nebraska, Colorado, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey were scrapped last year, even after untold millions of taxpayer dollars went to their developers. More than 100 solar companies went bankrupt, and solar projects from California to Florida were shuttered in the middle of their development. Battery storage—a key component to offsetting the intermittency of wind and solar—also saw projects stalled, along with at least one lawsuit filed against a storage company when its solution failed.

The answer to the alarming size of PSE’s arrearages is to start an information campaign to show how Olympia politicians and bureaucrats are impoverishing the people and making us vulnerable to domination by our enemy. Stop this self-destructive quest for energy dependence. The answer is not found in spreading the increasing costs around to the diminishing number of customers who can still pay. PSE’s priorities should be to produce power as cheaply as possible while adhering to reasonable environmental controls and ensuring power reliability.

Sincerely,



David Simpson
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