

May 31, 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

To whom it may concern,

As I showed up to my biology class on a rainy spring morning, I took nothing of it; I was dozing off in class as usual until I heard the word "petition" from the peripheries of my left ear. Usually I don't really care to sign stuff like this, but I saw something in my teacher's eyes that showed something worth listening to, something she felt passionate about. My professor mentioned your company, Puget Sound Energy, supporting a coal power plant all the way in Montana; instantly confused, my interests have been piqued at this point. Even though I've taken a class on environmental science a few quarters ago, I still haven't tired from hearing the same devastating consequences that result from carbon emissions; I knew I was passionate about this issue. As a company, I understand that Puget Sound Energy has money in mind (To my knowledge, PSE was acquired by an Australian/Canadian-based company in the spring of 2008, turning it into a highly for-profit company.), but also a way to supply your customers with energy in case of emergencies such as droughts. The issue with the human mind is that we all have trouble zooming out the scope and seeing things on a macro level. There are a plethora of long-term negatives that I'm sure you as an energy company has been bombarded with; for the sake of time, I'll save it all. I would like to talk to you from a personal level.

We owe it to our future generations and the environment that nurtures our very existence to keep the environment clean. Ever since the Industrial Revolution, the curve of carbon emission has synchronously risen in a dangerous spike with the increase in temperature, foreshadowing a dystopian future of a trashed Earth. Moreover, larger than 90% of reputable scientists are in agreement that climate change is reality; there is no denying that it's not happening, and no more mocking it as some kind of conspiracy theory. There are skeletons in the closet that need to be addressed; the things that hide in the shadows. Nobody really likes to acknowledge such a thing but how about our future? How about the ecosystem service-providing animals that face extinction; how about the people living 1,000 miles away in Colstrip, Montana; but most importantly, how about our children? It's called global climate change for a reason; the short-term, local, and seemingly miniscule effects guise the real truth. What on the surface seems like something not even worth a bat of an eye, is actually hiding the ostensibly far-off, yet undeniable reality that will soon come bite us all back with a vicious animosity.

With so many proactive actions taken by PSE in attempts to enter a new age of green power, it seems to me like a huge backwards leap when considering the actions regarding the Colstrip power plant. I will give merit when it's deserved: 70% hydroelectric power (fish-

friendly), rebates on environmentally-friendly home improvement, paperless billing, reinvestment into the community... The list goes on! Why negate the good? By loosening your grip on the coal power plant, as a company, you take one step forward to promoting environmentally friendly practices, leading by example and pioneering the new frontier we all must soon face. In addition, with those state and federal regulation on greenhouse gases that are inevitably coming, PSE must take the most financially stable route by reducing coal power as much as possible, thereby increasing your profits in the long run. It's been a majority consensus as PSE customers, being majority liberal, support the move to go green and are willing to pay more in their bills for a cleaner environment. What's stopping this push forward? The chances of a drought, lack of wind, and disappearance of the sun? To even calculate the chances of all those three happening would be a null action. It seems to me like all other Pacific Northwest utility companies have done fine without coal power ever since their phase-out. Even if those three weather anomalies were to have a high probability of simultaneously occurring, simply lowering your ownership from 32.3% and not proposing in the company's IRP to continue using fossil fuels for the next 20 years would help.

As a student of Bellevue College, customer, and morally sound human being, I have voiced to you my hopes for PSE. It's the choice of your company whether or not to take it; something I have no control over. I can only hope that PSE will take the right course of action to cut back on fossil fuels; the torch has been passed off to you and everything is in the hands of what I believe to be ethical people in my young and naïvely idealistic world. Is it true that all humans are void of compassion and understanding, unable to empathize and understand? Were the older generation telling the truth when they spoke of a realistic world full of cold and selfish people that trample any obstacles between them and their goals to the ground? I don't know... I guess I've never actually wanted find out, and some could say I fear the truthful reality. For now, I can only desperately cling onto faith and believe in PSE to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Steven Yong