

From: [David Schwartz](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Cc: [Balasbas, Jay \(UTC\)](#); [Rendahl, Ann \(UTC\)](#); [Danner, Dave \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Docket UE-160918, PSE's IRP
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 3:34:41 PM

This letter pertains to PSEs proposed IRP recently submitted to the WUTC, with particular focus on their proposed Energize Eastside project.

Simply put, PSE has been pushing Energize Eastside (EE) on its ratepayers for several years now in a most opaque manner. Eastside residents have requested detailed answers to questions pertaining to the need for the project, its multiple, profound safety issues, and whether upgraded transmission lines are the best solution for our regional energy requirements in the near- and mid-term.

At each turn, PSE has been slow to respond. When they do, it tends to be in the most perfunctory manner when not outright rejecting requests such as for the data required to validate their otherwise unsubstantiated threats that the project is needed to avoid the 'rolling blackouts'.

PSE routinely promotes falsehoods. For example, they claim that the energy "backbone" has not been upgraded since the 1960s. In fact, three additional 115 kV transmission lines have been added since that time.

PSE also claims that they need to ensure an ability to transfer a ridiculous amount of electricity to Canada (1500 MW) but then calls the project 'regional' to avoid FERC involvement. To be clear, British Columbia is prohibited by their own laws from depending on American energy. Further, review of the energy flowing across our border during December 2017 illustrates that we take their energy much more frequently than the reverse.

The other assumptions they make in the scenario used to justify EE are absolutely ludicrous and far exceed those required by the Federal government.

1. How can a company be allowed to do this in 2018!?
2. Why would a company want to do this in 2018?

I'll need your help to answer question #1. I can however answer #2. PSE revenues have declined along with per capita consumption of energy on the Eastside. Their Australian corporate owners want to maximize their profits at the expense of Eastside ratepayers. After all, what do they care? They're happy to leverage the State's guaranteed rate of return on infrastructure projects regardless of whether the project is warranted and will benefit State residents. This is the surest way of ensuring PSE's profitability.

This entire situation is shameful and corrupt. My hope is that the Utility and Transportation Commission can protect Washington residents from the corporate carpetbaggers at PSE by making it clear that, without sufficient transparency and justification of EE, they cannot rely on recovering their investment through future rate adjustments.

Please ensure that:

1. PSE releases a detailed and complete technical justification for EE based on a verified

and reasonable peak demand scenario.

2. PSE addresses all the safety issues that residents have raised.
3. PSE independently investigates and fully reports on alternatives to upgraded transmission lines.
4. PSE pursues a carbon neutral solution should a need be established.
5. PSE retracts their misleading and false claims about previous infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

David R. Schwartz, Ph.D.
Bellevue, WA