

From: [arvia.morris](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Comment on dockets UE-160918 and UG-160919
Date: Monday, February 19, 2018 8:03:29 AM

Thank you for accepting my comments on dockets UE-160918 and UG-160919, concerning Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) two year integrated resource plans for electric and natural gas service in Washington State.

I request that the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission do all it can to ensure that PSE will transition away from the use of fossil fuels as rapidly as possible in compliance with meeting Washington greenhouse gas reduction goals. This includes requiring PSE to set an earlier retirement date than currently envisioned for Colstrip Units 3&4, for example no later than 2025. It is essential to move the closure date from 2035 to 2025 to meet our required greenhouse gas reductions for Washington state. It is exciting that PSE is the third largest user of wind energy. By closing Colstrip 3 and 4 earlier, PSE can build out more wind capacity in Eastern Washington to make up for the loss of the coal power. Wind is compatible with agriculture and is a good development opportunity in Eastern Washington. Requiring a 2025 closure date would also be consistent with Governor Inslee's Executive Order 14-04, which directed the UTC to use the full scope of its authority to reduce the consumption of coal fired electricity in Washington. Moreover, the continued operation of these units beyond 2025 would require expensive air pollution control upgrades. These added capital costs would not make the units part of a 'least cost energy mix', as the UTC is statutorily required to consider in approving utility integrated resource plans.

Furthermore, I request that the UTC work with PSE, and all of the Washington utilities it regulates, to be on a course to replace retiring coal with clean, renewable energy. Fracked Natural gas is not a renewable energy. However, methane captured from farming, and land fills is and these should be the only sources of natural gas that are considered in planning. The capital investment decisions our utilities make over the next 20 years will have implications far beyond that time period. Our existing natural gas infrastructure needs to have all leaks dealt with. We cannot build new capacity for natural gas if Washington is to meet its 2035 and 2050 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

I believe that non-extractive, non-fossil fuel energies are the most economic resources that all utilities in Washington should strive to produce in their long-term resource plans. PSE's own leadership and success in the procurement of renewable energy, energy storage, demand reduction, and energy efficiency demonstrate the cost effectiveness and viability of these resources. Moreover, the response to bids for power by major utilities nationwide such as Xcel Energy in Colorado show the ability of solar and wind combined with energy storage to compete with fossil fuels.

A future in which we provide fuel to our homes, offices, and factories that also preserves our climate, protects our oceans, and prevents heart and lung disease can be achieved if we act responsibly now to achieve it.

arvia morris
4535 Thackeray Pl NE
Seattle, WA 98105