

**Docket Nos. UE-170033 and UG-170034 (Consolidated) -
Vol. IV**

**Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v.
Puget Sound Energy**

August 31, 2017



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)
))
Complainant,)
))
vs.) DOCKET NOS. UE-170033
) and UG-170034
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,) (Consolidated)
))
))
Respondent.)

PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING, VOLUME IV
Pages 368-537
CHAIRMAN DANNER, COMMISSIONER RENDAHL
COMMISSIONER BALASBAS

6:00 P.M.

August 31, 2017

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSIONERS:

CHAIRMAN DAVID DANNER
COMMISSIONER ANN RENDAHL
COMMISSIONER JAY BALASBAS

* * * * *

1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; AUGUST 31, 2017

2 6:00 P.M.

3 --oOo--

4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5
6 CHAIRMAN DANNER: This is the public comment
7 hearing associated with Puget Sound Energy's request for
8 a rate increase. Thank you. So this is the public
9 comment hearing for Puget Sound Energy's rate case.

10 Puget Sound Energy filed a rate case with the Washington
11 Utilities and Transportation Commission on
12 January 13th, 2017. In their rate case, the Company was
13 asking for \$68.3 million in a decrease in gas rates of
14 29.3 million, and if approved, the average residential
15 electric customer using 900 kilowatt hours per month
16 would experience a monthly increase of approximately
17 \$2.36 for an average bill of \$99.83. The average
18 natural gas customer, residential natural gas customer,
19 using 64 therms per month would experience a monthly
20 decrease of approximately \$2.93 for an average bill of
21 \$66.85. If approved, these rate changes would become
22 effective in January 2018.

23 The Utilities and Transportation Commission
24 is charged with reviewing the request that Puget Sound
25 Energy has filed, and we're in the process of doing just

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1 that. This week we had a hearing among the parties to
2 the case. On July 31st in Bellevue, we had our first
3 public comment hearing, and it was as well attended as
4 this one apparently is. So what we'd like to do, it's
5 very important for us to hear the views of the public,
6 of Puget Sound's customers, to give us their thoughts on
7 what Puget Sound is requesting here and letting us know
8 your thoughts not only on the request but on the
9 Company's ideas or the services that they're providing,
10 the resources that they're using, and so on.

11 So we're going to get started. My name is
12 Dave Danner, and I'm the chairman of the Washington
13 Utilities and Transportation Commission. I'm joined by
14 my colleagues, Commissioner Ann Rendahl and Commissioner
15 Jay Balasbas. So thank you all for taking time out of
16 your summer evening, the last one before Labor Day
17 Weekend, and coming to share your thoughts with us.

18 Because we have so many people here, I am
19 going to ask that when you -- when we call you forward,
20 please be aware of the time. Please don't repeat things
21 you've heard other people say unless you think it will
22 move the conversation forward or that you think that
23 other people's thoughts haven't really articulated what
24 you want to say. But we are going to have to be as
25 brief as possible if we're going to get through the

1 evening.

2 So with that, the way we'd like to start
3 this evening is we have a short video that we want to
4 play that basically gives you the -- the rudiments of
5 how the UTC reviews rate case requests and how we set
6 rates. And so when we're done with that, we will then
7 start calling up each of those who wish to make
8 comments.

9 So with that, Andrew, could we turn down the
10 lights and start the video.

11 (Video playing from 6:05 p.m. to 6:17 p.m.)

12 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Okay. So we are going to
13 begin to take public comment. Right now, we are -- this
14 room is at capacity. We have people waiting to get in.
15 So if at some time you're inclined to make room for
16 others, then -- after you've spoken, then that would be
17 very helpful for us in making the process work smoother.

18 In our cases, as the video said, that the
19 interest of the public in UTC proceedings are
20 represented by the Public Counsel Office of the Attorney
21 General, and the Public Counsel for the State of
22 Washington is in the room. If you have specific
23 questions about the rate case that you'd like to take
24 offline, Lisa Gafken, if you could stand and raise your
25 hand, that is the person to -- to talk to. There are

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1 also representatives of the Company here.

2 So just one of the ground rules is this
3 is -- we're here to take your comments. This isn't
4 adjudication, so I can't engage you in a give-and-take
5 and neither can my colleagues. So if you're attempting
6 to ask questions, we will take them as rhetorical and
7 nod and -- but we will not respond or try to engage you,
8 innovate, or anything like that.

9 So with that, we have at this point 17 pages
10 of people signed in to testify. So if you're planning
11 on watching any late-night news at 10 o'clock, we're
12 going to have to get through it as quickly as we can. I
13 also want to recognize that there is some people -- I've
14 looked over the list, and we have people from Vashon
15 Island in the July --

16 (Interruption over bridge line.)

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: So those people who are
18 listening live, we can hear you, so if you would mute
19 your phone or just try not to intrude on the
20 conversation here. Appreciate it.

21 So we want to make sure that the folks from
22 Vashon -- last month in Bellevue, a number of people
23 from Vashon Island came and had to leave early because
24 they had to get back on the island. So I want to start
25 by inviting some people up.

1 Rob Briggs, are you here?

2 MR. BRIGGS: I am.

3 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Come forward.

4 All right. We may have to cut the bridge
5 line off, Steven. So just to let you know, we are in an
6 old building. We're hoping to move to a new building
7 with more seating capacity and also a state-of-the-art
8 AV system and sound system, but we're not there yet.

9 So I don't see -- other folks from Vashon
10 here who would like to come forward? All right. So
11 we're going to take you in groups of three. So why
12 don't -- why don't two of you come forward.

13 All right. In the meantime, Mr. Briggs, why
14 don't you go ahead.

15 MR. BRIGGS: Okay. Good evening. My name
16 is --

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Press the red light --
18 press the button there.

19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And it becomes red.

20 MR. BRIGGS: Okay. Good evening. My name
21 is Rob Briggs. I'm a PSE ratepayer from Vashon Island.
22 First, let me thank you, Chairman Danner and
23 Commissioners, for your public service. I'm here
24 tonight because I believe the work of this Commission is
25 of the utmost importance. The State of Washington must

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1 make an orderly transition to a carbon-free energy
2 future. This task is made even more critical by the
3 dereliction of duty by our elected officials in
4 Washington, D.C.

5 We often hear it said that integrating
6 renewable energy into the electrical grid is problematic
7 because of the intermittent nature of wind and solar.
8 "Intermittent" is not really the right term because it
9 implies the production is random and unpredictable.
10 With current weather forecasting, utility scale
11 renewable output, particularly when it's collected over
12 wide areas, is actually quite predictable and manageable
13 by grid operators.

14 A recent study by -- led by top NOVA
15 scientist, Alexander MacDonald, looked at the
16 integration of wind and solar when transmission spans
17 large scale weather patterns. Their projections
18 indicated that carbon-free energy production consisting
19 primarily of non-dispatchable wind and solar could
20 reduce carbon emissions by 80 percent without raising
21 the levelized cost of power. The study's least cost
22 solution relied heavily on transmission and achieved an
23 80 percent carbon reduction without energy storage.

24 The highest and best use of the transmission
25 line, Colstrip, is not to bring us climate-damaging

1 carbon-based power, but rather to enable the build-out
2 of wind and solar across Eastern Washington, Idaho, and
3 Montana, and to utilize the geographic diversity to
4 stabilize carbon-free energy production.

5 I urge you to shorten the payment schedule
6 for Colstrip Units 3 and 4 to enable our region to be
7 coal-free by 2025 and to address any power needs, net of
8 improved efficiency from wind and solar and not from
9 fracked gas. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
11 much.

12 All right. Can you identify yourself,
13 please?

14 MS. TWEDT: Yes, my name is Judy Twedt.
15 Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today.

16 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Please push the red
17 button. There you are. Pull it closer.

18 MS. TWEDT: Thank you for the opportunity to
19 speak here today. I'm a doctoral student in the
20 Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of
21 Washington, and my partner and I are also PSE customers
22 on Vashon Island. Until last winter, I was conducting
23 climate science using complex supercomputers to study
24 the interactions between the ice and the atmosphere in
25 Antarctica. But when it became apparent last year that

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1 our national leader did not recognize the immense threat
2 that we face from global warming, I changed the course
3 of my career and now work primarily in science
4 communication.

5 Climate change is the defining problem of
6 our time, and it calls on us to make difficult choices
7 and brought me here today. The externalized costs of
8 coal are everywhere; in lowered air quality, in
9 contaminated drinking water, fuel arise [phonetic], and
10 the thawing Arctic. Solving this problem requires a
11 careful and concerted transition to clean energy as soon
12 as possible.

13 King County signed on to a bold and
14 forward-looking strategic climate action plan that
15 commits to phasing out all coal-powered electricity by
16 2025. This plan is responsible, conservative, and in
17 the best interest of PSE customers. More hot, smoky
18 summers, more deadly wildfires, more Hurricane Harveys,
19 these risks are urgent and costly. As a scientist and
20 as a citizen, I don't want us to pay the dangerous and
21 expensive price of unchecked climate change. We must
22 keep our commitments to this ambitious and hopeful
23 climate action plan, and to meet these goals, PSE must
24 pay off and close its remaining two units in Colstrip by
25 2025. The decisions it makes now should reflect that

1 goal. As Washingtonians, we can't allow PSE to kick the
2 can down the road any further. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

4 MS. LOHR: I'm Virginia Lohr. I believe my
5 name is on the list just in front of Robert Briggs.

6 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. LOHR: I'm from Vashon, and I am a PSE
8 customer. I want to thank the three of you for the hard
9 work that you do serving us, and servicing us, of
10 course, includes having a viable utility. I'm here to
11 urge the closing of Colstrip Units 3 and 4 no later than
12 2025 and meeting future electrical needs through
13 improved efficiency and carbon-free sources, not with
14 other fossil fuels.

15 In addition to climate, I have concerns
16 related to the substantial risk coming from the
17 financial effects that we'll feel when carbon has a
18 price put on it. The World Bank says that 41 nations
19 already have a price on carbon, but the United States is
20 not yet one of them. I'm a volunteer with Citizens
21 Climate Lobby, and we're working hard to change this.
22 The political will in Congress to price carbon is
23 growing. Last year, for example, the House formed the
24 Climate Solutions Caucus, which now has 26 republicans
25 and 26 democrats working together to deal with climate

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1 change.

2 Additional evidence includes a proposal from
3 the Climate Leadership Council, a group of leading
4 conservatives that include former advisers to Presidents
5 Reagan and Bush. Their proposal would place a
6 steadily-rising price on carbon beginning at \$40 a ton.
7 This would initially add 3.7 cents to a kilowatt hour
8 from coal and 1.7 cents from natural gas. Accounting
9 for fugitive methane emissions from fracked gas could
10 easily double the tax on electricity from gas.

11 Allowing PSE to replace Colstrip with other
12 fossil fuels is unnecessary, unwarranted, and
13 unconscionable risk to PSE ratepayers. Carbon pricing
14 is coming, even ExxonMobil supports it. Help PSE and
15 help us have a viable future by protecting PSE from
16 alliance on a dying industry. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

18 I'd like to ask Kevin Jones and Anthony
19 Winkler, if you would come forward. And I saw some
20 other hands from Vashon residents. Yes, would you come
21 forward, sir.

22 MR. WINKLER: I'm Anthony Winkler. I don't
23 have a prepared statement.

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you.

25 Okay. So we will start with you.

1 MR. JONES: Thank you very much. My name is
2 Kevin Jones, so good evening. I am a PSE customer. I
3 very much appreciate your willingness to hear public
4 comments on this important issue that we face in the
5 future of Puget Sound Energy and their closure of coal
6 plants and their replacement with something yet to be
7 determined. I am a member of the Vashon Climate Action
8 Group and heading up the coal carbon-free PSE Vashon
9 team. My testimony will focus on the safety aspect of
10 your charter and your role to protect us from dangers
11 inflicted on us by energy providers.

12 My first point, after your last rate case
13 hearing, the Bellevue reporter quoted PSE spokesman,
14 Grant Ringle, saying that environment issues are of
15 great concern to PSE. However, I started calling PSE
16 last year to ask what I thought was a simple question of
17 how can your ratepayers help move you away from coal.
18 And I called almost every week for about four months.
19 Never once did I receive a single concrete suggestion on
20 how that might occur.

21 Secondly, I would ask you to be wary of
22 PSE's statements about natural gas safety. Mr. Ringle,
23 regarding potential spills at their Tacoma LNG facility,
24 said it virtually eliminates the spill risk because LNG
25 simply evaporates. In reality, when LNG evaporates, it

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1 can explode. Mr. Ringle makes light of this risk, I
2 believe, based on his statements, but in 2016, the
3 economists noted that natural gas leaks are
4 underestimated by about 30 percent. And this threatens
5 the argument that gas is actually cleaner than coal from
6 an environmental perspective.

7 In Plymouth, Washington, where they had an
8 LNG leak and explosion, an explosion I believe that
9 caused the leak, that incident injured five workers. It
10 forced a two-mile evacuation, it sent an explosive
11 natural gas cloud toward the town, and it revealed that
12 the LNG industry, according to the documentation, which
13 I've included here, is creating a false safety record.
14 These are concerns to me, and I trust concerns to you as
15 well as Commissioners.

16 Despite concerns over natural gas,
17 unfortunately the public is not always protected. When
18 asked why does the Tacoma LNG facility EIS not account
19 for greenhouse gas leaks during extraction,
20 transmission, and processing, the answer was that these
21 impacts are considered too remote to the project site
22 and the City of Tacoma to be part of the EIS. In other
23 words, they're basically written order. Fortunately, I
24 know that you and I realize we all live on one planet,
25 and that a carbon or environmental disaster on any one

1 part of that planet affects all of us on the planet.

2 So in summary, what I'm asking you is please
3 do not expect PSE to abandon their carbon-based fuel.
4 Do not rely on PSE to accurately convey the climate
5 change or safety risks based on some of the
6 documentation that I've provided to you. Please do lend
7 significant weight to the social cost of carbon
8 pollution and the related safety issues regarding
9 Colstrip 1 and 2, Colstrip 3 and 4, and the future
10 options for replacement, and I would ask you please do
11 protect us, your constituents, from harm. Appreciate
12 your time. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you,
14 sir.

15 MR. JAMES: Thank you. My name is Andy
16 James, also from Vashon and, first of all, as a PSE
17 ratepayer, I wanted to honor and thank you for your
18 service and the gravity and expertise you bring to your
19 work. I understand that your mission is that we, the
20 ratepayers, get access -- should have access to energy
21 that is fairly priced, available, reliable, and safe.
22 My friend, Kevin, spoke to the safety part. I want to
23 talk about the fair and fairly priced.

24 All around us in our region is renewable
25 energy, and yet in that region, PSE area is an island of

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1 dirty power. Everybody else around us gets clean power,
2 hydroelectric, solar, tidal wind. It's our turn to get
3 free power and to get that clean power and that would be
4 fairness. We live in a time when renewable energy is
5 plunging in cost. It's getting cheaper, it's getting
6 better, it's getting more reliable, the availability is
7 widespread, and this is only going to continue. The
8 future belongs to renewables, and yet PSE is expecting
9 us to buy into 40 more years of fossil fuel power
10 generation. 40 years of trucking in fuels at volatile
11 rates while renewables just get better and better at
12 gathering free energy. A fair price would include our
13 right not to buy into a dying model of power generation.

14 We live in a time when the Earth is crying
15 out, already raging with droughts, unprecedented storms,
16 the death of forests and ocean ecosystems. A fair price
17 would not ask us to fund our own destruction. In
18 considering the fair price, please factor in these
19 extended interests in the name of fairness. Please
20 reject PSE's proposal of building out more fossil fuel
21 infrastructure, please shorten the schedule that would
22 close Colstrip 3 and 4. I believe your stewardship of
23 PSE ratepayers compels you to take these steps, and I
24 hope you know that if you want to take these steps, we
25 have your back. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: So, Mr. James. Mr. James.

2 MR. JAMES: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN DANNER: So I believe Mr. Jones put
4 some paper there for -- just for distribution to the
5 Commissioners. I would ask that you give that to
6 Ms. Gafken.

7 Again, raise your hand. Thank you very
8 much.

9 All right. Go ahead.

10 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes, my name is Lisa
11 Chambers, and I'm also part of the Vashon Climate Action
12 Group. And I would just like to say that I have done
13 research and I support and second what's been stated
14 before. It's consistent with my feelings and my
15 understanding. But I want to thank you for your
16 representation of our interests as PSE ratepayers and
17 for this opportunity to speak. I know that your
18 responsibility does not allow you to leave these complex
19 problems to anybody else.

20 As most others in this region, I really have
21 no choice but to purchase power through PSE. As a
22 consumer, I want the security of safe, dependable,
23 affordable, and stable energy. A future fueled to any
24 significant degree by carbon energy is cost volatile and
25 it's not safe. I ask you to take the long-range view of

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1 the public interest and reject the extension of coal
2 burning beyond 2025, and if carbon-based fuel supplies
3 come from Colstrip, Montana, if they continue, the
4 expense is greater over time than the declining and the
5 predictable cost of renewables.

6 Opportunities really abound to develop
7 renewable sources, store energy at peak needs, and use
8 energy in more efficient ways that are safe, dependable,
9 and affordable. Given this, there's no reason that I
10 should be forced to pay for energy that harms me and my
11 community. The Earth's most abundant resources are
12 unlimited and they're constant. The time is now to
13 launch the human innovation for the designed purpose to
14 free us from the dependency on an outdated mode of
15 extraction and pollution, closing old power plants as
16 quickly as possible and building the infrastructure from
17 renewable energy will give us the freedom to explore
18 opportunities we've not even begun to imagine. The time
19 is now and it's no longer a giant step. It's just a
20 step and a simple step we can't afford to delay.

21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

22 So I don't have anybody else who signed up
23 as being from Vashon, but, again, I don't want to have a
24 situation where you're stranded here that we had a month
25 ago and having to leave early. So are you -- you two,

1 why don't you come forward. You in the green shirt,
2 come forward and identify yourselves. Go ahead.

3 MR. LAURIE: My name is Michael Laurie, and
4 I'm from Vashon, and I want to thank you Commissioners
5 for giving me the opportunity to talk on this subject,
6 and I thank you for your work on this vital topic. My
7 background, I have worked in conservation and
8 sustainability for over 40 years. I've worked, in fact,
9 in Puget Sound Energy's regional -- residential and
10 commercial energy conservation programs, other energy
11 utility programs in the state, and in 20 other states
12 around the United States.

13 I've sometimes been happy with the success
14 we've had with those programs, but I've also sometimes
15 been depressed by the slow pace of where we're -- it's
16 not going quick enough. But you know what, in the last
17 couple years, I've recently been very excited because
18 the pace is really picking up. We're implementing a lot
19 of the solutions, we know the solutions, they're being
20 implemented.

21 I want to point out this book, Drawdown. I
22 encourage everyone in the audience and I encourage you,
23 Commissioners, to read this book. It has a lot of
24 wonderful solutions put together by researchers all
25 around the world. And I think that's -- a lot of the

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1 solutions are there. That said, scientists tell us
2 we're still not making enough progress. So I am asking
3 you to encourage Puget to ramp up the great energy
4 conservation and the renewable energy programs that
5 they've been carrying out. But maybe more importantly,
6 I ask you to encourage them to invest now heavily in
7 energy storage and smart grid technologies.

8 You know, every week I am learning about new
9 energy smart grid and storage technologies being
10 implemented all around the world, but I think we need to
11 get them on the ground right now here and learn about
12 which ones make the most sense so that in a few years we
13 can ramp them up to take renewable energy to the next
14 level. And I think that can be done quickly if we make
15 the investments now.

16 So in short, I -- instead of PSE investing
17 in more financially and climate-risky natural gas
18 solutions to replace the coal plants, I really think we
19 need to make every effort to encourage them to invest
20 more heavily in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
21 It can be done, and it will be the wiser and more
22 reliable option. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you, sir.

24 MS. LONDON: I'm Angela London, also from
25 Vashon Island.

1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: I'm sorry, I didn't hear
2 you.

3 MS. LONDON: Angela London, L-o-n-d-o-n.
4 And I want to talk today about safety and fair pricing.
5 I just wanted to -- I went to PSE's website and got a
6 few quotes from them that I wanted to read. (As read)
7 At PSE, we're putting our energy into clean power
8 solutions that help our customers and the environment.

9 Doing -- quote, Doing smart things for our
10 customers and the right things for our planet is what
11 PSE is all about.

12 Quote, One of the ways Puget Sound Energy
13 demonstrates its commitment to the environment is by
14 providing our customers with reliable and ecologically
15 sustainable energy services.

16 These statements do not make me feel safe.
17 PSE advertises environmentally sustainable values to
18 their rate holders while being held by Macquarie
19 consortium, not only the largest Australian investment
20 bank, but also Macquarie is one of the largest gas
21 production and distribution companies in the U.S. Is
22 this a conflict? I think so. PSE claims to be
23 concerned about the environment while they run and
24 operate Colstrip, one of the largest carbon dioxide,
25 sulfur dioxide, and mercury-emitting coal plants in the

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1 U.S.

2 PSE's portion of Colstrip is responsible for
3 omitting about five million metric tons of carbon per
4 year. 60 percent of our energy comes from
5 carbon-sourced fossil fuels with PSE in a region that
6 has a surplus of hydropower and resources primed for
7 harnessing wind and solar. Is this because it's cost
8 effective? I don't think so.

9 When talking about the cost of electricity,
10 we must talk about environmental cost and factor in
11 climate change. Our least cost plan must require that
12 environmental externalities, especially the irreversible
13 environmental cost of climate change, be quantified and
14 explicitly weighed during the resource selection
15 process.

16 Regarding monetary cost, first we have to
17 consider carbon taxes and future limitations on fracked
18 gas within Washington and beyond its current federal
19 administration that would drive up costs of LNG.
20 Without a doubt, there would be costs passed on to us,
21 the ratepayers.

22 Second, as you may be aware of the Regional
23 Greenhouse Gas Initiative, I have a report here,
24 it's -- was the first mandatory program, market-based
25 program, in the United States to reduce greenhouse gas

1 emissions. The RGGI is a cooperative effort among a
2 region of nine states to cap and reduce CO2 emissions
3 from the power sector. In July of 2016, there was an
4 outcomes report that shows electricity prices across the
5 nine-state regions decreased by 3.4 percent between 2008
6 and 2016, while in states not establishing these caps,
7 the electricity prices increased 7.2 percent. I went
8 ahead and looked on PSE's website to see what their
9 prices difference was between 2008 and 2016, the years
10 of this report. Our electricity increased nearly 15
11 percent.

12 This is an economy where oil and coal have
13 dropped substantially. PSE must be held accountable to
14 the mission of the WUTC. Let's keep our utilities safe.
15 Let's require that the price of externalities be
16 considered and consider the high financial cost of
17 carbon-sourced electricity. We have many viable lower
18 cost renewable options to coal and natural gas. Close
19 Colstrips 3 and 4 before 2025, skip LNG, and go straight
20 to renewable resources. It is where we -- what we, the
21 ratepayers, want and is what the planet and our future
22 generations need. Thank you.

23 MS. EMERSON: My name is Diane Emerson. My
24 husband and I are PSE ratepayers on Vashon Island, and I
25 first want to thank the Utilities and Transportation

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1 Commission for its oversight work on behalf of all the
2 ratepayers. It means a lot to know you're there for us.
3 We plan on being PSE ratepayers for a long time to come.
4 I'd like to know that our power will be coming from
5 renewable resources in the future for the good of the
6 planet and the financial stability of PSE. Renewables
7 will win and win faster than most people realize.

8 100 percent clean energy, wind, solar, and
9 energy efficiency is not only abundant and affordable,
10 it's also the only long-term solution for fighting
11 climate change. With this in mind, it's vital that PSE
12 start planning now for getting out of Colstrip by 2025
13 to enable an orderly and just transition for the
14 community of Colstrip.

15 PSE may say they can't do it, going to
16 renewables, because renewables can't supply power during
17 peak demand, but this problem has been solved by others.
18 I will share briefly from the Drawdown website. How
19 does a utility store large amounts of electricity? One
20 option is pumping water from lower reservoirs into
21 higher ones, ideally 1500 feet higher. The water is
22 released back down into the lower reservoir as needed
23 and run through power-generating turbines. There are
24 more than 200 pumped storage systems in the world at
25 present, accounting for 97 percent of global storage

1 capacity.

2 Concentrated solar power plants are also at
3 the forefront of energy storage where molten salt is
4 used to hold heat until it's needed to generate
5 electricity. Then there are batteries at scale. Dozens
6 of start-ups and established companies are raising to
7 create low cost, low toxicity, and safe batteries that
8 will revolutionize energy storage, while some utilities
9 are already installing banks of lithium ion batteries to
10 help meet peak demand.

11 So Drawdown is not only a book. Researchers
12 from around the world are continually updating the
13 models as more information comes in. For example, for
14 utility energy storage, full model and technical reports
15 will be published later this year. So I've purchased a
16 copy of Drawdown for the Commission and its support
17 staff. We can't have too many of these books floating
18 around and being read. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Could you come back? I
20 just -- I didn't see your name on the sign-in sheet. I
21 want to make sure I have your name correct.

22 MS. EMERSON: Oh, Diane Emerson.

23 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Okay. Thank you very
24 much.

25 MS. EMERSON: Who do I give this to?

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1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Give that to Lisa Gafken
2 there.

3 Okay. Others from Vashon? All right. Come
4 forward, please. Okay. Proceed.

5 MS. STEFFEN: Commissioners, hi, thank you.
6 My name is Seana Steffen, and I'm grateful for your
7 service. We are neighbors. We do our best to do a
8 great job at work, be committed family, and be engaged
9 citizens, all of which gets a lot harder in climate
10 disruption as we're seeing in Houston. Houston reminds
11 us that coastal communities are on the front lines of
12 climate change, and Washington has thousands of
13 coastline communities.

14 Obviously being from Vashon Island, we have
15 coastline. Those of us on coastlines in particular are
16 at risk, not only because of the increased intensity of
17 the storms, but also because, as we know, of sea level
18 rise. So there are actually many of us here in
19 Washington, Washingtonians, who are at risk to being
20 climate refugees. So I appreciate that one of your
21 criteria is around just choices, and I encourage you at
22 this time when we are increasingly aware of the
23 frontline community risks, that Washington be on the
24 vanguard of climate leadership. To do anything other
25 than to pursue 100 percent renewable energy would be

1 unjust for Washingtonians and for billions of people
2 around the planet. Thank you for doing your best in
3 service to these criteria.

4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

5 MS. GREENBERG: Hi, my name is Suzanne
6 Greenberg. I'm from Vashon Island. I'm part of the
7 Vashon Island Climate Action Group as well. I would
8 like to thank the Commissioners, Danner, Rendahl, and
9 Balasbas, for listening to what I have to say here
10 tonight. We're all witnessing the devastating effects
11 of global warming as we watch the traumatic footage and
12 reporting down in Houston over the last week. Houston
13 has never seen so much water flooding in its history.
14 These kinds of natural disasters are increasingly
15 happening all over the planet. More than 1,000 people
16 recently lost their lives in Sierra Leone from mudslides
17 caused by torrential rain. In South Asia, more than
18 1200 people recently died from flooding caused by
19 monsoons that have also broken all sorts of records.

20 There's consensus among climate scientists
21 that this kind of devastation is only going to get
22 worse. As a ratepayer to Puget Sound Energy, I'm not
23 willing to fund the destruction of the planet I live on.
24 PSE has a choice in front of them, to lead the way using
25 renewable energy, setting an example for other areas to

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1 follow or to continue to put our money towards this
2 dying industry of dirty energy from fossil fuels. The
3 idea that liquid natural gas is a transition fuel is
4 reckless and greedy. We need to be phasing out fossil
5 fuels and not starting any new projects such as the gas
6 plant that PSE wants to build. The transition is now
7 and it must be to 100 percent renewables.

8 Others have said it at the last meeting, and
9 I reiterate, I'm willing to pay more to use renewable
10 energy if that is needed. I think it will be the
11 opposite, though. Renewable energy will be less money
12 in the long run, especially when you factor in future
13 carbon taxes that may be imposed on ratepayers as well
14 as massive clean-up costs from the coal plants.

15 It's known that PSE's parent company is the
16 fourth largest builder of natural gas plants, so the
17 motivation to build a plant is a financial investment of
18 a business looking to make a profit on their product.
19 That is not what is best for the taxpayers or for the
20 planet. I want to see Puget Sound Energy retire
21 Colstrip 3 and 4 by 2025 and invest in 100 percent
22 renewables.

23 I'm hoping that as a Commission dedicated to
24 protecting the needs of the consumers, you'll be
25 interested in protecting our health, life, and the

1 planet we call home as much as our dollars. I know that
2 regulating PSE's effect on the environment or
3 ratepayers' health is not historically what the
4 Commission has seen as its responsibility, but I'm
5 asking you to step outside of the box. We're facing a
6 crisis unprecedented in the history of our world with
7 challenges that will require creativity, determination,
8 and boldness. I'm asking you to be bold in your
9 decision and support the interests of the people and the
10 planet we live on. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
12 much.

13 All right. So we have been notified by the
14 State Patrol that we have too many people in this room.
15 We're over by about 15. We need to deal with this, so
16 we're going to take a five-minute recess so that we can
17 confer with troopers and figure out how we want to
18 proceed, and then we will come back and reengage. So we
19 are at recess.

20 (Recess taken from 6:52 p.m. to 7:03 p.m.)

21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. So thank you.
22 We are back on the record. I do want to say that I have
23 been with the Commission since 2005 and we have never
24 had this happen before. I think it's an indication of
25 the great public interest of the proceedings of the UTC.

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1 So, again, thank you all for taking time out of your
2 evening.

3 Let's come forward. Let's have Elyette
4 Weinstein and Judy Bardin and Nathaniel Jones, if you
5 would come forward.

6 MS. WEINSTEIN: We'd like to defer to our
7 elected official.

8 CHAIRMAN DANNER: That would be fine. I
9 don't think that -- Mr. Jones, why don't you proceed.

10 MR. JONES: Well, good evening. Thank you.
11 My name is Nathaniel Jones. I represent the City of
12 Olympia where I serve as the mayor pro tem. I
13 appreciate that you want to hear from the public about
14 burning coal to light our lights and to power our
15 electrical grid. Olympia views the UTC and PSE as
16 partners in cost effective and responsible energy
17 services, and we appreciate UTC as a consumer protection
18 agency safeguarding ratepayers from financial risk.

19 My city sits on the shores of the Salish
20 Sea, and our City leaders are stewards of billions of
21 dollars, literally billions of dollars' worth of public
22 and private investments which are sitting just above the
23 shoreline, just above high tide. Olympia is facing an
24 existential threat of frequent and severe flooding in
25 our downtown. Already episodic flooding has begun. We

1 have been sounding the alarm for more than 25 years that
2 we are facing the demise of our core through sea level
3 rise.

4 Olympia can only protect itself from carbon
5 pollution with the help of others. We need our partners
6 working with us, and so I come to you today to ask for
7 your help. At the local level, we've been quite active.
8 We are finalizing this area's first climate adaptation
9 response. We're working with sister jurisdictions on a
10 climate action plan, and we have new building codes that
11 include climate-related flood protection standards. Our
12 municipal operations run on 100 percent renewable
13 electricity, and we are aggressively updating our
14 infrastructure to save power.

15 We have set carbon targets for the entire
16 city. We need responsive action at multiple levels if
17 we are to save our city, yet we're keenly aware that
18 closing Colstrip is the most important thing that we can
19 do to protect the people of Olympia, and we need your
20 help to do it.

21 My City Council has unanimously passed a
22 formal resolution asking each of you to act now to close
23 Colstrip by 2025, and that resolution has been added to
24 your current docket. So I want to thank you for your
25 attention to the needs of the City of Olympia and its

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1 people. You have done great work in the past, and we're
2 counting on you again to do the right thing. Thank you
3 very much.

4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

5 Go ahead.

6 MS. BARDIN: Thank you for the opportunity
7 to testify today. My name is Judy Bardin. I'm a
8 registered nurse with a master's in environmental health
9 and a doctorate focused in epidemiology. Being retired
10 from my former position at the State Department of
11 Health air pollution epidemiologist, today I speak for
12 myself. I want to urge you to close the Colstrip power
13 plant in Rosebud County, Montana, by 2025 or sooner.

14 Burning coal has enormous and numerous
15 health impacts. Some of the air pollutants and health
16 effects are as follows. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen
17 oxide are strong respiratory irritants and decrease lung
18 function. Arsenic and benzene are cancer-causing
19 agents, mercury and lead are neurotoxins that especially
20 adversely affect the developing brain. Carbon monoxide
21 robs the body of oxygen and leads to ozone formation,
22 and fine particulate matter increases the risk of lung
23 and heart disease and lung cancer. It has also been
24 linked to lower birth weights and respiratory deaths in
25 infants.

1 Pollution control equipment can only
2 partially eliminate these substances. Depending on
3 weather conditions, air pollution can travel long
4 distances. We witnessed this in August when Canadian
5 wildfire smoke swept into Washington and was then
6 trapped to close to a week and we had really unhealthy
7 air pollution levels.

8 Six coal-related air pollutants are criteria
9 air pollutants regulated by the EPA because of their
10 known health effects. Please consider, people do not
11 have a choice in the air they breathe. Breathing air
12 pollution shortens life expectancy and increases visits
13 to doctors and hospitals. Infants and children, older
14 adults, pregnant women, and those with lung and heart
15 disease or a history of stroke or diabetes are more
16 likely to develop symptoms or have diseases worsen. For
17 example, breathing polluted air can cause people with
18 lung or heart disease to have additional health problems
19 such as asthma or heart attacks. As levels of air
20 pollution rise, more people experience health
21 complications or even die from breathing polluted air.

22 Data from Washington shows estimates of some
23 of the people at risk from coal-related air pollution.
24 More than half a million adults and 120,000 youths in
25 Washington currently have asthma and a hundred people

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1 die from asthma each year. 6 percent of Washington
2 people have heart disease and 10 percent have diabetes.

3 Another consequence of burning coal is the
4 production of greenhouse gases that lead to climate
5 change. The Climate Impacts Group at the University of
6 Washington has projected the health consequences from
7 climate change in Puget Sound. We can expect more air
8 pollution from smoke-related to increased wildfires.
9 Warmer temperatures themselves will cause increased
10 hospitalizations due to heat stress from extreme heat
11 events.

12 The combination of air pollution and heat
13 can be deadly to vulnerable people, especially the
14 elderly as well as those who spend time outdoors, for
15 example, children, farm workers, and the homeless.

16 Rates of vector, water, and foodborne diseases will
17 increase. Mental health effects from psychological
18 stress are expected to rise as our climate warms.

19 People will face safety concerns from flooding and mold
20 growth related to additional rainfall and higher sea
21 levels.

22 Given the human health consequences of using
23 coal for energy, I urge you to close the Colstrip power
24 plant and replace it by a hundred percent renewable
25 generation and to set a timeline for closure of Units 3

1 and 4 on or before 2025. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

3 MS. WEINSTEIN: Hi, my name is Elyette
4 Weinstein. I represent the Washington State League of
5 Women Voters. I am also a PSE ratepayer. I am
6 testifying regarding Dockets UE-170033 and UG-170034.
7 Thank you for this opportunity to speak and truly for
8 your dedicated service. As PSE customers, we don't have
9 the option to refuse to pay energy bills if a portion of
10 our bill extends the use of Colstrip Units 3 and 4 to
11 2035. We can't take our business elsewhere. We look to
12 you.

13 PSE owes its ratepayers the duty to take
14 reasonably prudent measures so that rates don't spike in
15 the future due to foreseeable events. There is a
16 natural trend away from coal-powered energy, yet PSE
17 seems oblivious to the future of Units 3 and 4 at its
18 Colstrip coal plant. PSE has been directed to fashion a
19 new debt schedule for Colstrip Units 3 and 4, and they
20 have proposed 2035 as the closure date.

21 This implicitly assumes that reliance on
22 coal should be extended to 2035. Perhaps PSE is relying
23 on the assumption that should this premise prove faulty,
24 the ratepayers will bail them out anyway, kind of like
25 the big banks. With a 2035 depreciation date, we will

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1 pay double if Colstrip retires before 2035. We will
2 have to pay off the debt for the stranded asset of Units
3 3 and 4 and for the use of a new energy source.

4 PSE has already made this mistake regarding
5 Units 1 and 2. The early retirement was foreseeable,
6 yet PSE failed to create a debt payment schedule that
7 took this into account. Through no fault of our own, we
8 ratepayers may be on the hook for a short rate hike due
9 to PSE's failure to take reasonable precautions and to
10 plan ahead for the inevitable and imminent retirement of
11 Units 1 through 4 in the future.

12 Please don't let PSE make the same mistake
13 twice. Please hold PSE to its obligation to prudently
14 plan its debt schedule so that ratepayers don't foot the
15 bill for the utility's gamble on coal-powered energy.
16 Please adjust the debt schedule to 2025 to facilitate
17 the retirement of these units by that date. What you
18 decide will make a differences in the lives of many
19 ratepayers. We rely on you to protect us and look out
20 for the public interest. You represent us. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

22 I'd like to call Joedy Morrow, Dave
23 Upthegrove, and Michael Gilliquist.

24 MR. LILLIQUIST: Lilliquist.

25 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Lilliquist, sorry.

1 MR. UPTHEGROVE: Good evening, Chairman
2 Danner, members of the Commission. It's a pleasure to
3 be here. I've had the opportunity work with each of you
4 in a previous role, and it's good to see you again. In,
5 I guess, my 15 years as serving as an elected
6 official -- for the record, my is Dave Upthegrove, an
7 elected member of the King County Council from District
8 Five in South King County. And during my time in
9 office, I faced some tough decisions like you do as
10 Commission members. And I think there's no denying that
11 our job as public servants can be complicated, and we
12 must know when to bring opposing parties to the table,
13 we must know how to explore ways to compromise and meet
14 in the middle, and we must never lose sight of what is
15 in the best interest of the public and the land and
16 living things we're all committed to serve, and that's
17 not an easy task.

18 But there are also times we must know to
19 draw a line in the sand and to not budge another inch,
20 and today is one of those days. That's why I'm here to
21 ask you to speed up Puget Sound Energy's debt schedule
22 to retire the Colstrip plant by 2025. Even the most
23 casual consumer of news understands climate change is
24 caused by human beings and poses the single greatest
25 threat to our long-term health and I'd say even our

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1 survival as a species. And assuming you hold these
2 widely-shared, rational, and scientifically unassailable
3 beliefs, I won't spend my testimony time inundating you
4 with the countless ramification of inaction.

5 Instead, I'd ask you one question, and it's
6 the same question I'm always asking myself as an elected
7 official. And so ask yourself this, are you willing to
8 be remembered as a leader who was complacent or even
9 complicit in the face of adversity? And for me the
10 answer has always been no, and for the sake of the
11 people of this great state, I hope your answer is also
12 no.

13 Why is this significant for King County?
14 King County is almost half of Puget Sound Energy's
15 service territory, and 2025 gives Puget Sound Energy the
16 time it needs to responsibly transition out of Colstrip,
17 but it also mirrors King County's commitment in our
18 adopted strategic climate action plan to phase out
19 coal-fired electricity sources by 2025. And so I
20 believe it's a reasonable request that reflects the
21 economic and ecological realities of our time. You have
22 the time, the information, and the moral clarity to know
23 what you must do, now we just ask you to act on it. And
24 I will be sharing a letter, if it hasn't arrived yet,
25 signed by a majority of the members of the King County

1 Council weighing in on these related issues. Appreciate
2 your time.

3 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you. We'll make
4 sure that gets in the docket.

5 Mr. Lilliquist.

6 MR. LILLIQUIST: Yes, I would like to begin
7 by echoing the thanks that many people have said before
8 for your service and for dealing wisely with these
9 important issues. My name is Michael Lilliquist, and
10 I'm the president of the Bellingham City Council, and in
11 such, I represent 85,000 of PSE's customers and
12 ratepayers. This is the second time that I have been
13 before the UTC speaking on these sort of issues, and
14 once again, I want to start out by praising PSE, which
15 has been a great partner, but at the same time, PSE has
16 a dirty coal problem in Montana, and that problem is a
17 Bellingham problem too.

18 I'm going to use three quick examples of PSE
19 as a partner. We have been buying green power from PSE,
20 a hundred percent of the City's power, for over a decade
21 now. Now we're going a step further. The City is
22 investing directly with PSE to build Washington's first
23 large-scale wind power facility making a 20-year
24 commitment, 2.4 megawatts, to fund our municipal
25 operations. We've spent millions of dollars over the

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1 last decade on energy efficiency upgrades, and recently
2 we spent \$4 million to replace each and every street
3 light in the City of Bellingham with LEDs, low-powered
4 LEDs, and for that, we received a rebate of \$400,000
5 from PSE.

6 So I give you these examples to indicate two
7 things. One, PSE has been our partner in clean energy;
8 and two, the City of Bellingham is committed to going to
9 100 percent clean energy in any means we can.

10 Bellingham has had a clean action -- I'm sorry, a
11 climate action plan in place since 2007, and after a
12 decade, we are updating, revising, and strengthening
13 that plan.

14 I have here a spreadsheet that I'm going to
15 hope to turn into some budget proposals for numerous
16 ideas how we can go through every aspect of municipal
17 operations to reduce our energy usage. We want to
18 invest and improve instead of reduce the energy
19 consumption and minimize our pollution of greenhouse
20 gases. But to meet our goals, our clean energy goals in
21 Bellingham, to be free of dirty fossil fuels by 2027 in
22 the next decade, we simply cannot do it on our own,
23 because one-third of all the electrons that come to our
24 city, to our ratepayers, comes from dirty coal power in
25 Montana. No matter how much we invest, no matter how

1 many efficiency measures we adopt, no matter how much we
2 do in the City of Bellingham as a city or as residents,
3 one-third of electrical power in Bellingham is tied to
4 dirty coal power from Montana.

5 Bellingham simply cannot achieve our
6 commitments to a cleaner economy or to a healthier
7 environment if PSE continues its reliance on dirtier
8 forms of energy. And these are also more expensive
9 forms of energy. As the unit cost of wind power and
10 solar power drops year by year, increasingly so, the
11 cost of coal power considered across its life cycle is
12 increasing. As you know, there are enormous legacy
13 costs for the clean-up, and there'll be huge future
14 costs for emission controls as new regional haze
15 regulations kick in, to say nothing of the risks of
16 carbon pricing. If all these costs are internalized,
17 coal power is the expensive option. Coal is the past,
18 coal is not the future.

19 Not so long ago, when our president chose
20 unwisely to abandon the Paris Agreement, the City of
21 Bellingham, along with hundreds of other cities and
22 local governments across this country, recommitted to
23 our own personal commitments to meet the Paris
24 Agreement. We officially recommitted to reach our own
25 climate action goals through the climate action plan.

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1 I'm asking you, as you consider the future
2 for PSE and its ratepayers, that you help us, you help
3 85,000 of your ratepayers for PSE to achieve our clean
4 energy goals by removing the dirty energy that comes to
5 us through electrical power. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you, sir.

7 MS. MORROW: Hello? Can you hear me okay?

8 CHAIRMAN DANNER: We can.

9 MS. MORROW: My name is Joedy Morrow. Thank
10 you for allowing me to speak today. I am the
11 environmental and social responsibility representative
12 as well as the interim vice president of student affairs
13 and pluralism for the associated student government of
14 Bellevue College. I am here today as a voice for the
15 students of Bellevue College. Our student body is
16 dedicated to environmental sustainability as shown by
17 our pledge to the American colleges and universities'
18 president climate commitments since 2007, which aligns
19 with the City of Bellevue's membership to the King
20 County City's climate collaborative.

21 As a customer of Puget Sound Energy,
22 Bellevue College urges the Utilities and Transportation
23 Commission to reject any renewal of a coal supply
24 agreement with Colstrip power plants in Montana. In
25 this 11th hour, we take action to combat climate change

1 by changing our behavior and our consumption patterns.
2 Although coal power seems to be less expensive,
3 curriculum at our college teaches the meaning of true
4 cost. In this case, any benefits coal has outweighs --
5 is outweighed by the risk to human health and the damage
6 to our environment.

7 The students of Bellevue College come from
8 all walks of life, from all four corners of King County
9 and from all around the globe. Some are straight out of
10 high school laying the foundations of their careers and
11 their dreams. Some are returning to school after more
12 years of life experiences to renew their drive to learn.
13 But one point of commonality between all of our students
14 is that they are all working to secure a better future.
15 Members of the Utilities and Transportation Commission,
16 students must not forced to be paid more -- to pay more
17 for energy sources that will make their futures
18 uncertain.

19 I, on behalf of the students of Bellevue
20 College, urge you to help our students secure a better
21 future, move to a more sustainable future, by supporting
22 the transition to renewable energy and rejecting any
23 further investment in fossil fuels. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

25 Donna Ewing, Pat Dickason, and Beth Doglio.

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1 MS. DOGLIO: Is it okay if I bring
2 Representative Dolan with me too?

3 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Yes, I did not see her
4 signed up.

5 MS. DOGLIO: We're a team. We're a team and
6 we even dressed alike.

7 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right.

8 MS. DOLAN: We didn't plan the dressing
9 alike.

10 MS. DOGLIO: We really didn't.

11 MS. DOLAN: It's a little too cute.

12 CHAIRMAN DANNER: That is just fine.

13 MS. DOGLIO: Thank you so much.

14 CHAIRMAN DANNER: That's all right.

15 MS. DICKASON: I'll start. Is this on?

16 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Yes, it is.

17 MS. DICKASON: Okay. I'm Pat Dickason, and
18 I'm representing the League of Women Voters of Thurston
19 County. I'm the president, and I'm testifying on behalf
20 of the Thurston League. So we do not support allowing
21 the Puget Sound Energy rate request that would pass
22 expenses associated with the Colstrip, Montana plant on
23 to consumers past 2025.

24 So by way of background, League is a
25 non-profit membership organization. We neither support

1 or oppose candidates or parties. We work to strengthen
2 election systems, and we also develop positions in
3 multiple public policy areas using them to advocate for
4 public policy outcomes. So League positions support
5 policies to ensure the safety of communities, protect
6 public health, maintain environmental quality, protect
7 streams and estuaries, and reduce ambient and
8 transboundary toxic air pollutants and greenhouse gas
9 emissions.

10 Based on these positions, we are opposed to
11 the PSE request. Instead, League wants the Utilities
12 and Transportation Commission, you folks, to shorten the
13 payment schedule for Units 3 and 4 of Colstrip to 2025.
14 Making sure the Units are paid for by 2025 is an
15 important step in facilitating retirements of the units
16 by 2025. This would help all communities in the PSE
17 service territory with their electric generation
18 emissions reduction targets. This would also be
19 congruent with the goals of the U.S. Climate Alliance
20 Coalition led by Washington, California, and New York
21 states among others that are committed to reducing
22 greenhouse gas emissions.

23 So we believe that there is no time to waste
24 in reducing the carbon footprint if there is to be any
25 hope of avoiding the most serious consequences of

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1 climate change; that is, an Earth that can no longer
2 support human civilization. Given these and the other
3 well-founded concerns already expressed about PSE rate
4 request, the Thurston League urges that the requested
5 permits be denied. The risks are simply too high.

6 Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

7 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you.

8 MS. DOLAN: I am Representative Laurie Dolan
9 from the 22nd Legislative District which includes
10 Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, and North Thurston County.
11 I'd like to start by thanking the Commission for your
12 service and also for the opportunity to share my
13 thoughts with you this evening. Together with 20 other
14 legislatures, we are collectively calling on Puget Sound
15 Energy to retire Colstrip Units 3 and 4 by 2025. Our
16 letter is as follows.

17 (As read) Thank you for committing to retire
18 the two most toxic boilers at the Colstrip coal plant.
19 This decision is a tremendous victory for our climate
20 and we commend PSE for its leadership in moving the
21 Northwest beyond coal. However, the job is not done.
22 It is extremely urgent for PSE to retire the remaining
23 two units, Units 3 and 4, no later than 2025.

24 There are three key reasons why PSE must get
25 off coal by 2025. Number one, King County's Strategic

1 Climate Action Plan calls on the County to phase out
2 coal-fired electricity by 2025. The County Council has
3 formerly adopted the plan and 13 King County mayors have
4 signed the agreement. That means that half of PSE's
5 customer base is committed to getting off coal by 2025.
6 The County cannot achieve its targets unless PSE makes
7 the responsible choice to retire Colstrip Units 3 and 4.
8 As an aside, the City of Olympia in our district, as you
9 heard from Nathaniel Jones earlier, also passed a
10 similar resolution.

11 Number two, the owner of the Rosebud coal
12 mine, the sole source of coal for the Colstrip coal
13 plant, predicts that Rosebud will run out of coal in
14 currently mined areas by the end of 2024. If PSE
15 continues to operate Colstrip past 2025, it will likely
16 facilitate an unlawful expansion of the mine, which has
17 already destroyed thousands of acres of pristine
18 habitat, severely disrupted the aquifer, and heavily
19 polluted the groundwater of Colstrip.

20 Number three, with fossil executives in
21 power at the federal level and President Trump
22 withdrawing from the Paris Accord, this is the moment
23 for strong State-based leadership on climate change. As
24 Washington's largest electric utility, Puget Sound
25 Energy has a particular responsibility to lead the way.

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1 Retiring Colstrip is the single most important step that
2 Washington can take to act on climate.

3 The first compliance deadline for the Paris
4 Accord is December 31st, 2024. Puget Sound Energy has
5 the power to make Washington a national leader on
6 climate by retiring Colstrip no later than 2025. Thank
7 you, again, for the opportunity to deliver this message
8 from 20 legislators.

9 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

10 MS. DOGLIO: Thank you. I appreciate the
11 opportunity to address you today, and my name is Beth
12 Doglio. I also represent the 22nd Legislative District,
13 and I, too, joined 19 of my colleagues in signing the
14 letter that my esteemed seatmate just read to you. You
15 know, what an opportunity that Utility and
16 Transportation Commission have and what Puget Sound
17 Energy has.

18 Puget Sound Energy can really dig in and be
19 a national, even an international leader and make the
20 commitment to get off coal and move towards 100 percent
21 clean energy in the years to come. In light of the
22 travesty in Houston, the 1200 people who have been
23 killed in floods recently in India and other countries
24 in South Asia and the wildfires with their smoky haze
25 that now seem commonplace in the Pacific Northwest.

1 There is no better time, the time is now, to move
2 swiftly toward clean energy.

3 I do recognize that there are real
4 consequences for coal-dependent communities in a
5 transition to the clean energy future. Both my
6 grandfathers were coal miners, and I just spent some
7 time at a conference with legislators from Wyoming.
8 Their state relies on the coal industry for moneys to
9 build schools and employ their people. And while
10 nationwide jobs in clean energy like solar and wind are
11 more abundant than jobs in the coal sector at this
12 point, for Wyoming where 3 percent of the workforce is
13 employed in the coal industry, families are and will
14 continue to be impacted through this transition. I hope
15 that PSE and the UTC will be a part of the solution and
16 part of the conversation to adjust transition so that
17 families remain strong and workers find a new place in a
18 changing energy future.

19 I also point to PSE's most recent analysis
20 which shows that even modest carbon pricing, and if I
21 had my way, it would not be modest. Closing Colstrip's
22 Units 3 and 4 in 2025 would save customers \$149 million.
23 On the documents that I reviewed, it's in slide 53 and
24 explained on slide 54, now, these numbers are likely to
25 change. I think they relied on the Clean Power Plan

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1 being in place, so, you know, that is likely to happen,
2 it's already true. But what it does point out and what
3 is clear is -- from PSE's analysis is that they now show
4 that even with modest carbon pricing, closing Colstrip
5 in 2025 will benefit customers from a rate perspective.
6 This in addition to all the air quality and carbon
7 reduction benefits reap from getting off coal.

8 Finally, we have a lot of coal coming off
9 the grid thanks to some leadership here in this state,
10 and hopefully there will be more because you will make
11 the right decision and be on the right side of history
12 here. While this rate case is not specifically about
13 replacement power, I think it's really essential that
14 PSE incorporate risk into their resource decisions.
15 Even with the carbon price and increasingly
16 carbon-constrained world, PSE will still acquire a lot
17 of gas according to the -- the documents that I
18 reviewed. And I think it's in the public interest to
19 account for risk such as increased regulations and
20 volatile gas prices and resource decisions.

21 Accounting for short-term economics of a
22 resource is just not good enough. We must incorporate
23 long-term costs, benefits, and risks. There is another
24 slide I reviewed, slide 49 -- I have these documents
25 that I'll pass along -- I reviewed shows that a PSE

1 future that acquires only clean energy, they modelled
2 this, it is possible. They can do that. It may cost
3 more, but we know that costs are coming down on
4 renewable energy all the time. That model includes a
5 significant amount of Montana wind. Here we're talking
6 about transition piece that's so important. This is
7 possible.

8 So with this in mind, I urge the shedding of
9 Colstrip 3 and 4 by 2025. Puget Sound Energy, with the
10 help of the UTC, can lead the way toward a clean energy
11 future. Many, many legislators, city, county, tribal
12 officials, and much of the public in your -- in this
13 service area call for your leadership, and I thank you
14 for taking the time, your evening, to hear from all the
15 folks in -- that are served by Puget Sound Energy.
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you. Thank you for
18 taking the time.

19 Okay. Donna Ewing, why don't you come
20 forward, please, and Daniel Hall and Stew Henderson.

21 Okay. Ms. Ewing, you can go ahead.

22 MS. EWING: I want to thank the three of
23 you --

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Stew is downstairs.

25 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. We will get

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1 him when we can.

2 Go ahead, Ms. Ewing.

3 MS. EWING: I want to thank the three of you
4 for your service and for this opportunity to speak
5 against the continuation of the Colstrip power plant.
6 Not long after we began working on climate change in
7 1997 with the League of Women Voters, Puget Sound Energy
8 began moving toward cleaner energy by introducing such
9 techniques as total emission offsets, which began in
10 2002. And later in 2005, the name was changed to green
11 tags total emission offsets. Then in 2013, the name of
12 their campaign became green power purchase total
13 emission offsets. In good faith, we contributed to this
14 campaign monthly from 2002 until we moved into a
15 retirement community in 2015.

16 Needless to say, it has been most
17 discouraging that Puget Sound Energy continues to plan
18 for coal use into the future. Since they ignore the
19 facts about coal being the least desirable fossil fuel,
20 if we're ever to reduce our carbon footprint, we believe
21 that it will take UTC's guidance to shorten the energy
22 company's payment schedule for Units 3 and 4 at Colstrip
23 coal plant in 2025.

24 We believe that every effort must be made to
25 stop the use of coal here in the west as well as

1 throughout the United States and elsewhere. Therefore,
2 we sincerely thank this Commission if they will assist
3 us as energy users to stop our dollars from going to the
4 third largest climate polluter in the U.S., the Montana
5 Colstrip coal plant. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

7 MR. HALL: Can you hear me okay?

8 CHAIRMAN DANNER: I sure can.

9 MR. HALL: My name is Dan Hall. I'm a PSE
10 ratepayer from here in Olympia. At the end of June, I
11 was fortunate to hang out with people like Al Gore, Jay
12 Inslee, and some climate scientists from the University
13 of Washington, and about 800 other people who were just
14 like me, average people interested in dealing with the
15 climate changes that we're having to face.

16 One of the themes that was reoccurring
17 through this three-day get-together there in Bellevue
18 was that combatting the negative effects of climate
19 change is a moral issue. It's about doing the right
20 thing and doing the wrong thing. It's about right and
21 wrong. It's wrong to pollute the Earth, it is wrong to
22 make energy choices based on the profits of energy
23 companies.

24 Today's hearing is about a rate increase for
25 Puget Sound Energy and not specifically about climate

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1 change, yet PSE is a company who markets itself as a
2 green energy company while devising approximately 30
3 percent of its energy from a coal-fired power plant in
4 Colstrip, Montana. In my scheme of values, that is not
5 the moral thing to do. That's what a polluter does.

6 I urge the UTC take action in this rate case
7 to influence Puget Sound Energy to make the moral choice
8 of divesting themselves from the use of fossil fuels and
9 become a truly green energy company by relying on
10 renewable energy sources. Thanks for your time and the
11 opportunity to testify.

12 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

13 MR. HENDERSON: Hi, my name is Stew
14 Henderson. I'm a citizen. I want to first make clear,
15 I don't own stock in PSE, but my primary goal is for PSE
16 to make a fortune and to be the most successful utility
17 in the world. I want them to prosper because I think if
18 they prosper, we prosper. So I'm opposed to this talk
19 about closing in 2025. I think they need to close
20 Colstrip in 2020 at the latest, because Colstrip is an
21 economic disaster waiting to happen. It's being caught
22 in the jaws of a tiger. On one side, they've got
23 reduced costs of renewables, especially solar, and
24 3/11/17, as you all know, there were negative costs for
25 solar coming out of California. How can coal compete

1 against power that is low or have negative variable
2 costs?

3 I don't think any of the current analysis
4 adequately forecasts the unprecedented changes we're
5 facing. And on the other side, there are greater and
6 greater crises generated by climate change and we're
7 going to wake up one of these mornings and everyone --
8 it's going to be obvious to everyone that we have to
9 close Colstrip immediately, and we -- we need to be
10 ready for that.

11 Recently, Paul Weatherby, who is an internal
12 official with PSE, was speaking at a conference and
13 said, you know, one of his lessons in recent activity
14 was that we need to get smart and nimble to deliver
15 results. There's nothing smart about coal-fired thermal
16 power and there's nothing nimble about coal-fired
17 thermal power. The things that are smart and nimble are
18 utility scale solar, distributed solar, utility scale
19 wind, demand response, energy efficiency, energy
20 conservation, energy storage, fuel production using
21 surplus energy, time and use rates, integration of
22 vehicle charging systems, behavior-based energy
23 efficiency programs, smart grids. Those are the kind of
24 things that PSE should be getting guided to working.

25 I think PSE's done about 1 percent of what's

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1 possible to promote energy efficiency. When you compare
2 them to what the -- such companies as 21st Century,
3 which is working on its one million rate base as a plan
4 to reallocate utility capital and reconsider assets
5 based to democratize and accelerate widespread adoption
6 energy efficiency and to distribute energy resource
7 technology. If you look at Eneco, the Dutch utility,
8 which is betting its future on an unusual strategy of
9 selling less power --

10 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Mr. Henderson, I'm sorry,
11 can you slow down just a little bit for the benefit of
12 the court reporter?

13 MR. HENDERSON: If you look at the Smart
14 Energy Co-Op in Maryland, if you look at the Urbanova
15 partnership in Spokane with the -- with the City and the
16 university Novista [phonetic], those are the kind of
17 things PSE should be doing, and I don't think they
18 really even need Colstrip, and the sooner we get out of
19 it, the better.

20 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
21 much.

22 And thank you, court reporter, for keeping
23 up.

24 Okay. Paul Elwood, Kathleen Saul, and Lynne
25 Robinson, please come forward. And on deck, Lon

1 Freeman, Marlene Meyers, and Nancy Roberts.

2 Mr. Elwood, go ahead.

3 MR. ELWOOD: Sure. I'm Paul Elwood. I live
4 here in Olympia, and I'm here representing a newly
5 organized nonprofit organization called Electrify
6 Thurston, and we're focused on accelerating the adoption
7 of electric vehicles in Thurston County. My background
8 is as an analyst, so for 30 years, I worked as an
9 analyst in a variety of settings. This is relevant
10 because I'm going to tell you the results of some
11 analysis I have done.

12 In -- in 2011 to 2015, I was a credit
13 analyst for the Washington State Investment Board, which
14 invests the pensions of State employees and teachers.
15 And I was covering the oil and gas industry and the
16 utility industry, both in the U.S. and globally. And
17 that tuned me in to the fact that utilities and utility
18 commissions and investors in utilities have to take an
19 unusually long timetable when they make decisions. So
20 2025 is a short time for a utility because as a bond
21 investor, I was buying 30-year bonds. 30-year bonds
22 have to be repaid in the 2040s at this point.

23 So I ask you to make your decisions in the
24 context, in that kind of a long context. I was thinking
25 about how any scenario that plots the -- that would

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1 demonstrate how we might reduce our greenhouse gas
2 emissions to the levels required by -- to reach the
3 State's goals or the level on the climate -- Paris
4 Climate Accord goals. They all -- all those scenarios
5 include converting to electric vehicles powered by clean
6 power. There's really no other way to get there. So
7 that process of turning over our entire fleet of
8 personal transportation vehicles to clean vehicles needs
9 to get underway pretty quickly.

10 So the analysis I have done was focused on
11 Thurston County and using Puget Sound Energy as a
12 source. And what I did was I looked at what would
13 happen if either a household or everyone converted
14 magically overnight from the cars they drive now,
15 internal combustion engine cars, to electric cars using
16 Puget Sound Energy as the source of energy. And so the
17 result of that is that that would reduce personal
18 transportation emissions by 42 percent and overall
19 greenhouse gas emissions for Thurston County households
20 by 9 percent.

21 9 percent, you know, as an analyst is like
22 is that a big number or a small number? It seems like
23 it's not enough if we think in terms of we probably need
24 to get a 90 percent reduction by 2050, but then if you
25 think of what else can I do to reduce my greenhouse gas

1 emissions by 9 percent, 9 percent looks like a lot.
2 However, I then took this analysis another step, and I
3 said what if instead of Puget Sound Energy, we just had
4 the average power supply for the Northwest PowerPool.
5 That's actually what most of the models use that are
6 representing household carbon footprint.

7 So that energy is about -- has a -- Puget
8 Sound Energy has a greenhouse gas intensity of about one
9 pound of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour,
10 and Northwest PowerPool is about a quarter of that. So
11 it's about a quarter-pound per kilowatt hour. So if we
12 made that switch, that would -- and didn't change our
13 cars, just switched our electricity, that reduces our
14 carbon footprint by 28 percent. If on top of that, we
15 then switched to electric cars, we get a further 19
16 percent reduction by using cleaner power to power our
17 cars. So the net of those two is a 47 percent
18 reduction.

19 Now we're talking about the scale of
20 reduction that's necessary to meet our climate goals.
21 And I guess I would just say as a -- so that's the
22 presentation. I will leave -- usually I have a lot more
23 charts and graphs, but under the circumstances, I don't
24 get to offer those. But I will offer the thought that
25 think about -- I mean, I think we all sort of at the end

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1 of the summer, we have a heightened awareness of the
2 consequences of climate change. In five years or in ten
3 years, are Puget Sound ratepayers going to have a
4 greater awareness and concern about climate change or
5 less of a concern about climate change? I think it
6 should be obvious where this trend is going and what the
7 sort of long-term regulatory pressures are going to be
8 that are going to support the use of clean power and not
9 coal or natural gas for our power supply. Thanks.

10 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
11 much.

12 So I want to do a little reality check here.
13 It's ten to 8:00. We have -- I have 21 pages of sign-in
14 sheets, and we are on page 4, okay? What that means is
15 I'm going to ask everyone first of all, please hold your
16 applause because that adds -- that does take time.
17 Second of all, if you have major points that you feel
18 others have made, just hit the highlights and see if we
19 can help. Otherwise, we're not going to be out of here
20 before midnight, and I think that other people have --
21 you may have some plans. I don't. I'm here until
22 everybody's done.

23 But -- so let's go forward and -- but
24 please, everybody, be conscious of the time because
25 it's -- it may be an inconvenience for others that are

1 here.

2 So please go ahead.

3 MS. SAUL: Over the past year, people
4 throughout the Pacific Northwest have been fighting coal
5 exports --

6 CHAIRMAN DANNER: I'm sorry, can you
7 identify yourself?

8 MS. SAUL: Oh, sorry, Kathleen Saul.

9 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

10 MS. SAUL: I have a Ph.D. in Energy and
11 Environmental Policy, and I have been a Puget Sound
12 Energy ratepayer for over 25 years. And as I said, over
13 the past year, people in the Pacific Northwest have been
14 fighting coal exports because of the impact that
15 transporting coal would have on this state, on the
16 environment, and the natural environment, and the human
17 environment. At the same time, we've been forced to
18 support a coal-generating plant in Colstrip, Montana,
19 because we pay electric bills to Puget Sound Energy.

20 While not in our backyards and not
21 immediately visible to us, those coal plants are doing
22 irreversible harm to the natural and human environments
23 as well. And according to the Department of Energy,
24 staff report on electricity markets and reliability,
25 also known as the grid reliability report that was

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1 published just last week, society places values on
2 attributes of electricity provision beyond those that
3 are compensated by current design of the wholesale
4 market. That's nowhere more visible and no more true
5 than here in the Pacific Northwest. We value clean,
6 renewable, and sustainable electricity generation that
7 will carry us into the future, not that system that will
8 keep us tethered to technology from the Industrial
9 Revolution.

10 I won't bother you with a lot of statistics
11 about Puget Sound Energy's Colstrip generating station.
12 I will just pass that on to your representative over
13 there. We know that Puget Sound Energy wants to keep
14 those Units 3 and 4 going until 2035, but we can't wait
15 until 2035. Each day that facility remains in operation
16 puts people, the natural environment, and the climate at
17 risk. So I ask you to ask Puget Sound Energy to retire
18 Colstrip 3 and 4 by 2025. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

20 MS. ROBINSON: Good evening, Chair Danner
21 and Commissioners. My name is Lynne Robinson and
22 although I am a councilmember for the City of Bellevue,
23 tonight I'm speaking as a private resident of Bellevue,
24 Washington, and as a PSE ratepayer. My brother, former
25 astronaut Steve Robinson, wrote the following in 2005

1 after seeing our atmosphere for the first time from
2 space. (As read) If you look at Earth's atmosphere from
3 orbit, the entire sky is only a paper thin blue wrapping
4 of the planet looking as tentative as frost. It is
5 fragile and shockingly tiny, maybe 4 percent of the
6 planet's volume. Of all the life we know about, only
7 one species has a responsibility to protect that
8 precious blue planet wrap.

9 In 2012, Puget Sound Energy had the
10 opportunity to develop and use energy-saving
11 infrastructure solutions that could be sold to other
12 utilities, allowing PSE to achieve their profit margins,
13 like smart grid battery bank infrastructure for
14 efficient storage and distribution of renewable energy.
15 They chose not to. Today they could be combining
16 battery banks with standby natural gas generators as
17 part of a viable solution for peak time electricity
18 demands that could be applicable to East King County and
19 other utility districts where PSE has partnered to
20 provide natural gas infrastructure. They have chosen
21 not to do that as well.

22 PSE continues to push for energy production
23 and infrastructure that is regressive. As a ratepayer,
24 I do not support the proposed rate increase, and I urge
25 the WUTC to not approve this request until PSE

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1 demonstrates their willingness to use sustainable power
2 generation, storage distribution and transmission that
3 includes the leading infrastructure technologies
4 available today. And I encourage PSE to make the
5 transition to ecologically sustainable systems that will
6 preserve our fragile atmosphere while enabling Puget
7 Sound Energy to remain a profitable regional power
8 company for now and future generations. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

10 All right. Lon Freeman, Marlene Meyer, and
11 Nancy Roberts, and on deck, Carl Flowers, Judy Olmstead,
12 and Walter Jergensen.

13 MS. MEYER: Excuse me, I'm Marlene Meyer,
14 and I would like to give my position to Don Marsh. He's
15 in my neighborhood.

16 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Mr. Marsh, are you signed
17 in?

18 MR. MARSH: Yes, I am.

19 MS. MEYER: Yes, he's just a few names below
20 mine.

21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Step forward,
22 please.

23 All right. Please proceed.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Hello. Thank you for allowing
25 me to be here. This is my first hearing I've ever been

1 to. Bear with me. I would like to thank the speakers
2 that have already spoken tonight. I have learned so
3 much and they're wonderful, and I appreciate all the
4 time that they have put in to getting here and preparing
5 their speeches.

6 I don't have a prepared speech. I'm going
7 to speak from my heart. I'm from Kirkland. Have lived
8 there for about 46 years. I'm retired. I was a
9 schoolteacher, and I was an officer in the Navy. Served
10 in public service for over 26 years and my husband did,
11 too, as a Navy retiree.

12 Anyway, I'm here to speak for those who
13 can't speak for themselves. I'm a naturalist. I'm with
14 the beach naturalists for five years for King County and
15 the City of Seattle and the aquarium. I'm also speaking
16 not only for the creatures that live in the Puget Sound,
17 but also for those of my family and loved ones who have
18 been touched because of pollution with all the health
19 effects that people have mentioned tonight.

20 One of the problems that no one has
21 mentioned today, although as I'm sure they're aware of
22 it, is the acidifications of the oceans, which is caused
23 by burning fossil fuels. That affects the very basis of
24 our food chain as so much of you must know. If we get
25 the basis of our food chain, it's going to reach the top

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1 to us. We're the top of the food chain. The Orca,
2 which is an endangered species, is at the top of the
3 food chain. If the salmon can't eat, they won't grow
4 and there won't be any salmon and there won't be any
5 Orcas in the Puget Sound. We have the largest octopus
6 in the world. We have some of the oldest living clams
7 in the world. The geoduck, we laugh at it, but it's an
8 amazing creature and China loves them. They import them
9 like crazy.

10 Anyway, I'm really concerned about the
11 destruction of our food chain and the acidification of
12 our oceans. We have up to a million birds that migrate
13 from -- all the way to the North Pole and to the South
14 Pole twice a year. They stop in this area to feed on
15 our shores in the Puget Sound and along our coastal
16 waters. If there is no food -- they usually feed at the
17 bottom of the food chain, there will be no birds. I do
18 not want another silent spring. We have, as human
19 beings, an obligation to stop burning coal, to stop
20 using fossil fuels. And I beg you as public servants
21 and I thank you, the rest of you speakers, for all that
22 you have done to protect this Earth. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

24 I had -- I believe I had called up Nancy
25 Roberts.

1 MS. ROBERTS: Oh, that was me.

2 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Loa Freeman.

3 MR. FREEMAN: Lon Freeman.

4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Oh, Lon Freeman. I'm
5 sorry.

6 MR. FREEMAN: That's okay. You can call me
7 Loa.

8 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Penmanship is not what it
9 used to be. So, Mr. Freeman, why don't you go ahead.

10 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you very much.
11 Commissioners, I thank you for the opportunity to share
12 and to speak to this issue tonight. I just discovered
13 the announcement for it yesterday, so I do not have a
14 written comment about it, but I have some thoughts which
15 I think may -- I have not heard yet tonight except with
16 the exception of the last woman who spoke on the right.
17 Not the one that just left, but the former panel. And I
18 want to say that I am a ratepayer of PSE, and I live in
19 the northwest community of Olympia. And I have -- okay.
20 Let me just get this straight.

21 What I wanted to say is that in thinking
22 about this issue, it has sort of come to my attention
23 that we live on a planet which is in an ecology of a
24 solar system. We call it the solar system Sun. None of
25 the other solar systems are called by a name like that.

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1 They're all ED765 or something like that. This is solar
2 system Sun. And this is planet Earth and Earth is going
3 through a transition that we have not experienced before
4 in the history of human evolution. And through that
5 evolution, we have also accumulated, by some quirk of
6 biological evolution, some degree of intelligence.

7 And with that in mind, and I mean this
8 seriously, I'm not really joking about it. It's not a
9 dig and it's not a satirical comment against PSE
10 necessarily. We're just in that stage of our world
11 evolution, and what I want to say is that there are
12 effects which we are experiencing based on what is going
13 on now in the global transition. And what we have to
14 realize is that we do need to get away from the base of
15 the fuel and energy system that exists in the world.
16 And introduction of new technologies that will change
17 that kind of base are always difficult as a transition
18 for civilizations, and that's been a history written
19 about and for our species.

20 So to -- just to cut this short, I will say
21 that it's basically common knowledge at this point that
22 we need to do the transition, so the question is when
23 and when determines what are the effects that are going
24 to be happening as a result of that date that's set.

25 Now, I happen to feel and this is all I can

1 say in a personal anecdotal sense, I happen to feel like
2 Stan Henderson [sic] said, I would like to see the
3 Colstrip 3 and 4 Units shut down by 2020, but 2025 I can
4 understand because there are economic ramifications for
5 the people who work with that particular agency and that
6 particular setting. So I understand out of compassion
7 some of the considerations that need to be given to
8 that.

9 But we must, we must realize the impacts
10 that are going on now on a global level. And that's as
11 an anecdotal personal statement. I could start quoting,
12 you've heard them tonight over and over and over again,
13 about the statistical analysis of the distribution of
14 events that have been happening. And we need to take
15 that into our full consciousness and intelligence, and I
16 thank you very much for the opportunity to state this
17 tonight.

18 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
19 much, sir.

20 And go ahead?

21 MR. MARSH: Don Marsh.

22 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Don Marsh.

23 MR. MARSH: My name is Don Marsh, and I
24 serve as the president of CENSE, the Coalition of
25 Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy. 31 days

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1 have passed since the last rate case hearing held in my
2 home city of Bellevue. During that time, we have
3 witnessed two natural disasters, which if not directly
4 attributable to climate change, gave us a frightening
5 preview of the world our children will contend with if
6 we continue to saturate the atmosphere with greenhouse
7 gasses. I was going to describe this, but I'm going to
8 cut those remarks short. You've already heard it, about
9 the fires in British Columbia and Hurricane Harvey. I'm
10 going to cut those short, so I get to talk about a
11 couple things that you may not have heard tonight.

12 One thing is that this closure of Colstrip
13 is a smart decision, not only for the environment, it's
14 a smart move for Washington's economy. The resources we
15 will use to replace those coal plants such as solar
16 cells and batteries, are designed and manufactured by
17 Washington companies such as Itek Energy and UniEnergy
18 Technologies. These companies provide good jobs and a
19 base for our future green energy economy.

20 I represent thousands of eastside residents
21 who want safe, clean, sensible energy to power our homes
22 and businesses. I'm here tonight because PSE's first
23 allegiance is to the company's shareholders. The
24 shareholders' top concern is profit, not necessarily
25 what is best for people and for the planet.

1 Now, one thing I think is interesting is
2 that Microsoft recently, as you know, divorced PSE as
3 their energy supplier because with the dirty mix of
4 electricity that Microsoft was getting from PSE, they
5 could not reach their carbon emission targets, and so
6 Microsoft left -- I believe with your permission, left
7 PSE in order to get contracts for wind and other clean
8 energy sources. And while I applaud my former employer,
9 I worked there for a little over a decade, I'm sad that
10 they're no longer driving the -- this goal to get
11 cleaner energy. I think they would have been a great
12 partner or a great voice. However, we have other
13 companies that have similar goals. I believe Amazon,
14 Google, and other companies in our area have similar
15 targets, and so I'm sure that they would support the
16 same thing.

17 PSE is not the only utility that's wrestling
18 with this. I just read this in a news brief from
19 yesterday, it says (as read) Xcel Energy and a diverse
20 group of stakeholders in Colorado have reached an
21 agreement that calls for the early retirement of two
22 coal plants in the southern part of the state and the
23 potential for \$2.5 billion in rural clean energy
24 investments. Specifically the plan calls for shutting
25 down 660 megawatts of two coal-fired generation units at

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1 the Comanche Generating Station. Unit 1 will be
2 mothballed at the end of 2022 and Unit 2 by the end of
3 2025. I believe that they are seeking permission from
4 their commission to proceed with that plan. I sure wish
5 that PSE was doing the same thing in our state.

6 Anyway, we need the Commission to act as our
7 collective voice and to achieve a better outcome for
8 citizens, our children, and grandchildren. Thank you so
9 much.

10 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
11 much.

12 All right. Carl Flowers, Judy Olmstead, and
13 Walter Jergensen.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you say that
15 again?

16 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Carl Flowers and Judy
17 Olmstead and Walter Jergensen.

18 Sir, why don't you go ahead.

19 MR. JERGENSEN: I think my button's on. So
20 my name is Walter Jergensen. I buy power from PSE in
21 Tumwater and thanks for listening. Number one is kind
22 of an information-seeking question. I wondered if the
23 Staff recommendations represent replacement amounts or
24 changes to the PSE requests. It wasn't clear, at least
25 to me.

1 Secondly, please do retire Units 3 and 4 at
2 the Colstrip location. And Stew Henderson asks us how
3 can coal compete against cleaner, cheaper sources.
4 Unfortunately, one insidious way is to allow PSE to
5 continue using us, their ratepayers, to leverage new
6 expensive energy. The groupings of customers for the
7 purpose of allocating costs is inadequate and some ways
8 inappropriate. Only residential customers, residential,
9 commercial, and industrial groupings are considered to
10 determine the appropriate amount that each group should
11 pay. Additionally, customers should be grouped into
12 current and new for the purpose of charging back the
13 cost of new capital facilities only needed to provide
14 service to new customers.

15 A few years ago, I served on the Thurston
16 Economic Development Council. At one of their public
17 workshops on energy, the PSE folks attending easily
18 disclosed that one-third of an average customer's bill
19 is spent by PSE to create new generation, transmission,
20 and distribution equipment to attract and accommodate
21 new customers. I don't want to pay for PSE's new
22 customers. And I feel only just a little bit guilty
23 about being able to go home now, but I hope you got a
24 lot of sleep last night.

25 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very

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1 much. And with regard to the technical question you
2 had, you can talk to Staff or the attorney general
3 representative here.

4 Please proceed.

5 MS. OLMSTEAD: Hi, I'm Judy Olmstead. Thank
6 you so much to all of you for being so patient and
7 listening so deeply. I can see that. I'm here to talk
8 from the heart. I live in Olympia. I spent yesterday
9 with my nephew's year and a half-year-old son and his
10 seven year-old daughter and had a wonderful time, and I
11 love them deeply, and I'm speaking on their behalf.

12 We need to give future generations our very
13 best shot at slowing climate change, and retiring coal
14 plants is urgently important. And you've had wonderful
15 broadly-based scientific evidence brought to you, and
16 I'm sure you're going to hear a lot more too. It's time
17 for PSE to get off coal as soon as possible, by 2025 at
18 the latest. Let's support these young generations that
19 we love so much. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you.

21 All right. Madeline Goodwin, Maurine Canny,
22 and Joel Carlson, and on deck Barak Gail, Roxanne White,
23 and Philip Palios.

24 MS. GOODWIN: Did everyone else leave?

25 CHAIRMAN DANNER: No, we still have a crowd

1 here, but why don't you proceed and we'll figure the
2 others out.

3 MS. GOODWIN: Okay. This thing working?

4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: It is.

5 MS. GOODWIN: Excellent. One moment.

6 Sorry, I just got back from the bathroom.

7 MS. WHITE: Do I sit here?

8 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Yeah, come on up.

9 MS. GOODWIN: I have some data on here.

10 Hello, and for the record, my name is Madeline Goodwin,
11 and I am a ratepayer for PSE. I am here to share a
12 little bit of information and to ask you to please have
13 PSE get off of Colstrip, retire Colstrip and finish
14 paying it off by 2025.

15 A few years ago, I was able to intern for
16 Thurston Climate Action Team and in doing so, I got to
17 look at some greenhouse gas inventory data. As of 2013,
18 the built environment accounted for 44 percent of
19 Thurston County's emissions, greenhouse gas emissions.
20 That is -- includes residential, commercial, and
21 industrial natural gas and electricity. 44 percent is a
22 pretty large amount. I believe that was only superceded
23 by on-road vehicles, which as Paul Elwood said would go
24 down if we converted to electric vehicles and veered off
25 of fossil fuels.

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1 My generation has grown up in a world
2 affected by climate change. This isn't the future, this
3 is now. 2025 used to seem like a long time from now,
4 but now it's only eight years away. And in the world of
5 bureaucracy, that isn't so long. 2050 also used to seem
6 like a long time away, but that's only 33 years from
7 now, by which time I will be middle-aged. My generation
8 needs your generation to take action, to shut down
9 fossil fuels, and get us on renewables as quickly as
10 possible. Thank you for hearing us all today. Thank
11 you for taking our remarks into consideration.

12 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
13 much.

14 MS. WHITE: Thank you. (Speaking in Native
15 American) Roxanne White. (Speaking in Native American.)
16 Thank you for letting me speak, and I'm also going to
17 speak from the heart because I'm not one of these people
18 that write things down. I just kind of just go into
19 prayer and ask the Creator to help me to speak in a good
20 way and a truthful way. So I also want to thank the
21 grandmother that spoke and everybody else that spoke and
22 those that are going to speak after me for making their
23 way out here and sitting here and being so patient.
24 Thank you for listening to each and every one of us.

25 So for me, I am also for the closing down of

1 these coal sites. For me, when I was thinking about
2 these coal sites, I was thinking about the genocide that
3 occurs from these coal sites, from fracked gas and
4 fossil fuels and how it's caused so much destruction for
5 our eagles, for our salmon, for our bears, for our
6 whales, for (Speaking in Native American) for all our --
7 all our plant life. You know, for our air quality, for
8 our trees. You know, it's not just us that we're
9 worried about. You know, these things have affected
10 many tribes, and oftentimes, tribes are the first ones
11 affected by these corporations and these type of
12 situations.

13 And so I'm just here as an indigenous woman,
14 a grandmother. In fact, my grandson is seven months
15 old, and every time I come to one of these things I
16 think about him, and I think about his future, and I
17 think about my great-grandchildren and what we're going
18 to leave for them. And so I'm only going to be here a
19 short time, but what I leave for him is not in dollar
20 signs, it's not in material things, it's in the land,
21 and it's in the salmon, and it's in the trees and the
22 air. And so those are the things that -- that I value
23 and that many of my people value.

24 And so I really hope that you guys can pray
25 and seek, you know, a different way, renewable energy.

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1 There has to be other ways. And I know that I heard
2 from all these people here that we do have other ways,
3 and I'm just asking you to please, you know, take that
4 into heart. Take into heart the future generations, and
5 also thank you for letting us be here and hearing our
6 voices.

7 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you. So you
8 didn't -- are you Maureen Canny?

9 MS. WHITE: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't even do
10 that. See, I'm just learning my language.

11 CHAIRMAN DANNER: That's okay.

12 MS. WHITE: So I was saying and I got so
13 nervous. I'm not a public speaker so what I was saying
14 is (speaking in Native American) is I am Roxanne White.
15 (Speaking in Native American) Roxanne White. (Speaking
16 in Native American) I am Yakima, and then (Speaking in
17 Native American) you get it.

18 CHAIRMAN DANNER: I get it.

19 MS. WHITE: Thank you for hearing me.

20 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you so much.

21 Okay. Again, Maurine Canny, are you here?
22 Joel Carlson, Barak Gale, come forward.

23 Okay. Go ahead, sir.

24 MR. GALE: Excuse me one moment. Sorry. My
25 name is Barak Gale. I'm a doctor of optometry residing

1 in Tumwater and speaking as a private citizen and
2 ratepayer. On August 21st, my spouse and sister and I
3 joined me in witnessing the total solar eclipse in
4 Madras, Oregon. For two minutes, the moon and the sun,
5 the feminine and the masculine spheres merged into one.
6 For two minutes, thousands of people of diverse
7 interests and traditions were one in awe. What an
8 amazing thing to behold. We're not for the rigorous
9 science of astronomy, we would not have understood this
10 cosmic wonder and implausibility, let alone have had the
11 opportunity to witness this celestial event.

12 You know what, there were no eclipse
13 deniers. The shortness of the two-minute window was
14 lamented by all. It had focused your attention like
15 nothing else could. Not a time to brood or banter over
16 anything, rather a time to be in awe, perhaps to say a
17 prayer for peace. There is another science meteorology
18 and another window in time of perhaps a decade that
19 calls us, begs us, to focus our attention like never
20 before to reverse the devastation of global warming.
21 And our focus during this window of time must be total,
22 as in the total eclipse.

23 Right now, in this brief window we must end
24 the poisonous emissions of our coal plants. We must use
25 every appropriate instrument of power that we can employ

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1 including your oversight of Puget Sound Energy and the
2 closing of the Colstrip mines by 2020. My in-laws are
3 anxiously watching the water level outside their homes
4 in Houston. And more than 1200 people are feared dead
5 and 40 million affected by recent flooding in India,
6 Nepal, and Bangladesh. Ocean waters are warmer and are
7 warming.

8 We trust you'll focus your attention during
9 this crucial window of time for our planet, for our
10 civilization, for our children. Thank you so much.

11 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you, sir.

12 Philip Palios, are you here? Okay. Chris
13 Peterson, Judith Peterson, Jane Lindley, please come
14 forward. And Erika Shriner, are you here?

15 MS. GOODWIN: How many pages of sign-ins
16 left?

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Quite a few. We're on
18 page 6. Okay. So that's why we should proceed swiftly.

19 Go ahead.

20 MS. LINDLEY: Hi, my name is Jane Lindley,
21 and I live on Bainbridge Island. I have been a PSE
22 ratepayer for more than 20 years. In 2007, NASA
23 scientist, James Hansen, warned us that we needed to
24 keep our atmosphere CO2 levels at 350 parts per million
25 or below. Our current CO2 is at 407 parts per million.

1 Many scientists, along with the EPA, list fossil
2 fuel-generated electricity as one of the nation's
3 leading causes for CO2 emissions, the primary cause of
4 climate change.

5 Coal, for its part, generates about 70
6 percent of the CO2 emissions in the U.S. electricity
7 sector. Colstrip, where PSE gets its coal-generated
8 electricity, was recently rated as the third highest
9 greenhouse gas emitter in the nation. So not just the
10 Northwest, but the entire nation. It's clear from
11 everything we've heard tonight that we need to speed up
12 our transition to cleaner energy.

13 I was glad to see that in March of this
14 year, UTC Chairman, David Danner, signed a memorandum of
15 understanding with utility regulators from Oregon and
16 California. It underscores the need to take into
17 account the impact that utilities -- that the resource
18 decisions have on climate change. I believe that
19 getting rid of coal-generated electricity is priority
20 number one, as it will slash CO2 emissions, the primary
21 cause of climate change. I am urging the Commission to
22 direct PSE to please stop buying and selling
23 coal-generated electricity by 2025. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

25 MS. SHRINER: My name is Erika Shriner, and

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1 I live on Bainbridge Island, and thank you for this
2 opportunity. Many of us have for years voiced our
3 concern about PSE, petitions from thousands of
4 ratepayers. Resolutions passed by cities and testimony
5 at events and hearings like this have all been ignored
6 by PSE. We resent the fact that not only we are forced
7 to write checks each month to a company so tone deaf to
8 the reality of climate change, but that we also are
9 being asked to fund clean-up of the reckless behavior.
10 However, that is not all.

11 On Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Island
12 ratepayers' money was used to silence those who simply
13 wanted to investigate an alternative to PSE. When a
14 local group proposed a community-operated utility, we
15 saw the money from PSE pour in. They paid for several
16 expensive polls to find out how to best discredit the
17 idea. PSE employees and contractors spoke up at local
18 meetings identifying themselves as local citizens. They
19 held community meetings that were full of misleading
20 statements and brainwashing. They paid for an extremely
21 expensive study that unsurprisingly said that a locally
22 owned utility was not feasible. And perhaps most
23 troubling of all, they essentially, in my opinion and in
24 the opinion of many others, bought the support of our
25 local newspaper with months of non-stopped ads touting

1 that their supposed concern for our community and our
2 environment.

3 Their investment worked. Repeated
4 editorials strongly favored keeping PSE as our utility
5 provider and attacked those who favored an alternative.
6 A local organization staff of volunteers has no chance
7 up against PSE's unlimited funds and extremely talented
8 marketing and PR departments. PSE left us with a
9 community that remains angry and divided over the issue
10 of a local utility, an idea that was never allowed a
11 legitimate hearing.

12 Our only hope is for this Commission to
13 bring PSE under control in terms of fossil fuels and in
14 terms of their future. I'd like to think all of us as
15 individuals have a certain amount of power, but we have
16 learned in our community you don't go up against PSE.
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

19 All right. Lisa Reiner, Debra Jaqua, and
20 Claudia Riedener.

21 Please proceed.

22 MS. REINER: Yes, my name is Lisa Reiner,
23 and I have been in this room testifying about a decade
24 ago, I believe, just as the other speaker was speaking.
25 We were in this room and were asking the Commission to

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1 allow a local group, regional group, to run the facility
2 that now is currently owned by Puget Sound Electric.

3 At that time, as the last speaker just said,
4 we were -- we filled this room I think twice as full of
5 people that got up and spoke before you and, of course,
6 our initiative was turned down. As the last speaker
7 said, the Puget Sound Energy spent a lot of their
8 ratepayers' money to lobby so that they would prevail.
9 And the \$17 million per year in profit that Puget Sound
10 Energy gets, that profit was not kept here regionally
11 for our people here in Western Washington. It was
12 taken -- basically Puget Sound Energy is owned by an
13 overseas corporation out of the area. So essentially,
14 those profits were taken from our communities.

15 So I am very skeptical. I'm a cynic, and
16 these people that we see in front of us, you sitting in
17 front of us, you are appointed on this Commission, and I
18 have very little faith in you. I have very little faith
19 that you will look beyond your own pocketbook and your
20 own fancy houses and your own cars and your own
21 children's future. You will not look at these people
22 sitting in this audience. You will not look at our
23 future. Many of us don't have the resources that you
24 do. Many of us will not be able to run from the rising
25 waters. I have been out here in Taholah tribal nation,

1 we were without power for 12 days. We had our streets
2 flooded during an episodic event during climate change.
3 I have been here in Olympia, Washington, we were also
4 without power for 12 days during the '90s. We had no
5 power and we were cold, we were freezing. There was no
6 way to stay warm.

7 These episodic events are going to happen
8 more and more frequently just as happening right now,
9 Harvey, people are in the water right now, they're in
10 that dirty water. We are going to be in the same
11 situation, and you have a chance to change this. You
12 people sitting right there in front of us, but you're
13 going to fail. You're going to fail because you don't
14 have the courage to stand up to Puget Sound Energy. You
15 don't have the courage to stand up to the elites that
16 run this country essentially.

17 You don't have the courage, and you're going
18 to watch, you're going to watch what's happened to your
19 children just like the people in this audience is going
20 to watch what's happened to their children, and we know
21 what's happening in Harvey right now. We know those
22 people are in that dirty water. But you're going to be
23 in your bed at night, you're going to be thinking about
24 this once you let Puget Sound Energy keep going the way
25 they've been going, and you're going to be rolling over

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1 in bed at night and you're going to be thinking to
2 yourself, I'm the one that kept this going. I'm the one
3 that stopped -- basically this is the erosion of our
4 civilization on this Earth, and you are a part of the
5 puzzle. You are a keen part of the puzzle, and you are
6 going to fail us, but I'm used to it.

7 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you.

8 Debra Jaqua, Debra Jaqua, are you here?

9 Claudia Riedener, Alice Lockhart.

10 Go ahead.

11 MS. RIEDENER: Hi, my name is Claudia
12 Riedener. I'm here from Tacoma, and thanks for having
13 us here tonight. I urge you to look at Puget Sound
14 Energy and their behavior and their actions. For
15 example, when Puget Sound Energy was sold in 2009, there
16 were several [inaudible] provisions put into place to
17 protect the ratepayers from the private Macquarie Group
18 from Australia. Just a few years later, PSE came back
19 to you and demanded that those restrictions were lifted,
20 and you allowed them to go ahead and lift those
21 restrictions with the result that PSE formed an LLC to
22 build Puget LNG gas refinery in the middle of our city.

23 Now, when you allowed them to create an LLC
24 for the gas refinery, you also allowed them to roll 43
25 percent of the private tank over to public ratepayers.

1 That's about 140 million with the cost of [inaudible]
2 happening already, while the public investment as you
3 allowed it to happen is \$140 million. PSE is only
4 insured for \$50 million. That means even the investment
5 that they force the public to pay for is not even
6 protected. So how can we possibly trust PSE when they
7 say they can't shut down the coal when PSE staff
8 personally told me at the last board meeting that
9 Washington State law prohibits them from shutting down
10 the Colstrip.

11 So I really urge you to look at PSE in its
12 totality that character of the organization. In Tacoma,
13 we've been overwhelmed with push-pulls that were pushing
14 for one particular mayoral candidate. He has
15 advertisements everywhere. He has consultants who show
16 up at our meetings that we organized. They're
17 absolutely everywhere. They swarm the airwaves, the
18 phones. They have an unlimited budget in law, an
19 unlimited budget in advertisement, and the people are
20 here in front of you. You are the three people, the
21 only three people, that can help us to stop PSE and
22 their practices. I hope you take us to heart. Thank
23 you.

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

25 Okay. Greg Saul, Roy Treadway, Bryndis

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1 Danke, are you here? Why don't you go ahead.

2 MS. LOCKHART: Okay. I'm sorry, I didn't
3 think you were going to get to me, so I'm less prepared
4 than I'd like to be.

5 CHAIRMAN DANNER: And you are?

6 MS. LOCKHART: I'm Alice Lockhart. I will
7 speak very briefly. You have heard from many ratepayers
8 tonight. I am not a PSE ratepayer. I live in Seattle
9 where I can do everything I can to use less and greener
10 energy. We have relatively a green power mix in
11 Seattle. I can put solar on my house, and I'm in the
12 process of looking into that and to -- I can buy an
13 electric car. I can -- I can use a lot less. As
14 private individuals, we can always do more, but there is
15 a limit to what we can do.

16 In my case, my husband works in Redmond, and
17 if we buy an electric car and it's the smallest,
18 cheapest, and therefore actually greenest one we can
19 buy, he will need to charge his car every day on Puget
20 Sound Power. And my point is, the larger point is, that
21 we are all connected, and as long as coal is being
22 burned, all of our children and our grandchildren are at
23 even more risk than they already are.

24 And then I want to speak very briefly to the
25 science as others have before. There is as much climate

1 change, an extremely risky amount of climate change
2 baked into the system already. We have a bunch of
3 warming ahead of us even if we stopped using coal
4 instantaneously. We -- it is all of our jobs as
5 grownups to take care of our children, to recognize that
6 we're all interconnected, that it's not just about this
7 little -- we've heard how huge Puget Sound Energy is and
8 Colstrip is as a polluter in this country.

9 But our task is bigger than that in terms of
10 us all being connected. And I think sometimes we feel
11 that we have to do business as usual because -- because
12 we're beholden to current economic reality, and the
13 reality is that we have such a short time, and we're all
14 responsible for each other, and we look to you in your
15 position of power to help us do the things that we
16 cannot do as individuals no matter how hard we try.

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

18 Okay. Greg Saul, Roy Treadway, and Bryndis
19 Danke.

20 Ms. Danke, go ahead.

21 MS. DANKE: Hi, my name is Bryndis Danke,
22 and I'm a sophomore at Olympia High School. I am
23 nervous being here tonight as it is my first time
24 testifying, but I decided that I have to step out of my
25 comfort zone because I'm very worried, worried about

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1 climate change and what it means for me, my generation,
2 and our future.

3 Puget Sound Energy must go coal-free and it
4 must go coal-free as soon as possible. At the latest,
5 by 2025. 2035 is just too late. Ten years makes a big
6 difference in our battle against climate change. Ten
7 years is two-thirds of my life so far. It is a long
8 time and it is too long to wait. At my house, my
9 parents taught my sisters and I never to leave a light
10 on longer than necessary. Not just because it adds to
11 our energy bill, but because the energy that's used to
12 light the lamps comes from coal and coal is killing our
13 world.

14 I learned about some of the actions we can
15 take to slow and eventually stop climate change, and the
16 biggest step right now is to stop using coal. This
17 decision you are making is important to the world, to
18 our community, to my generation, and to me. Puget Sound
19 Energy must stop using coal by 2025. Please don't allow
20 them to keep passing costs along to the customers after
21 that date. I look forward to the day when I can leave a
22 light switch on and know that it may be adding to my
23 parent's energy bill, but it won't be adding carbon into
24 our atmosphere. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

1 Kimberly Danke, Cynthia Pratt, and Donna
2 Albert.

3 Anna Roberts, could you come forward.

4 Please Proceed.

5 MS. DANKE: Good evening. My name is
6 Kimberly Danke. You're hearing a lot tonight about
7 protecting our planet for future generations from the
8 existential threat of climate change. I have three
9 teenage daughters. You just heard from one of them. I
10 better not have any grandchildren coming in the near
11 future. So rather than talk about why shortening the
12 time Puget Sound Energy is using coal is the only right
13 thing to do for my grandchildren and the Earth, which it
14 is, I want to address why it is the right thing to do
15 for me as a ratepayer.

16 I have been a PSE customer most of my life,
17 even paying for years into their green energy program
18 thinking that was the right thing to do. But while
19 they've been taking that extra money, they have not been
20 responsible in establishing firm transition plans for
21 getting out of coal, despite the solid science showing
22 that is the only way forward. PSE is now the one
23 dragging their feet while places like Olympia and King
24 County, home to well over half of PSE's customers, have
25 declared their intentions to move beyond coal by 2025.

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1 PSE must make plans now to ensure a transition that is
2 smooth and just for ratepayers. I do not want to be
3 left holding the bag of double payments when they are
4 still paying off Colstrip and making investments into a
5 replacement resource at the same time.

6 Setting 2025 as the deadline for PSE getting
7 out of coal will give certainty for transition planning
8 and protect me as a ratepayer as well as protecting
9 those hypothetical future grandchildren of mine. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

12 MS. PRATT: Chairman Danner and
13 Commissioners, my name is Cynthia Pratt. I'm from
14 Lacey, Washington, and thank you for allowing me to
15 comment. While I'm deputy mayor for the City of Lacey,
16 I am not representing the City Council. However, I have
17 been a ratepayer for Puget Sound Energy for well over 40
18 years.

19 I want to speak about our city's carbon
20 reduction and resiliency plan, what we call our CR2 plan
21 and Puget Sound Energy's request to increase base rates.
22 PSE passing rates on to our city's residents, including
23 myself, while still holding investments in coal through
24 their holdings at Colstrip, impacts our city in meeting
25 our CR2 plan. Our CR2 plan states, and I quote, In

1 2008, the City of Lacey joins local governments for
2 sustainability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and
3 work towards sustainable practices and policies,
4 unquote. Transportation produces more than 50 percent
5 of local greenhouse gas emissions. Using clean fuels
6 will lower carbon emissions.

7 However, if the City increases its use, for
8 instance, of electric vehicles and encourages citizens
9 like myself to purchase electric and electric hybrid
10 vehicles so that emissions can be reduced to help meet
11 our goals, one-third of the electricity to charge
12 vehicles would still be produced by coal, doing just
13 opposite what is intended. Since there is no competitor
14 for PSE in Thurston County, any use of electricity for
15 commercial and residential buildings also contributes to
16 emissions because of PSE's coal investments. We should
17 not have to pay for investments associated with Colstrip
18 past 2025, especially if cities like Lacey are to meet
19 our obligations to reduce carbon emissions for our CR2
20 plan.

21 I want to also add, besides being
22 environmentally detrimental, coal is becoming
23 economically unviable. Alternative energy is the
24 future, both for utility companies and to their
25 ratepayers. Please deny any requests by PSE and require

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1 them to retire Units 3 and 4 at Colstrip by 2025. Thank
2 you very much.

3 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

4 MS. ALBERT: Hi, my name is Donna Albert.
5 I'm a professional civil engineer with a Master's in
6 Civil Engineering. I work for the State of Washington
7 as an energy engineer. I'm here as a private citizen.
8 My comment will be based on the assumption that the
9 State of Washington will reach near zero greenhouse gas
10 emissions by 2050 or sooner in the spirit of our
11 governor's commitment to the Climate Agreement in Paris.

12 Over the years, I've watched the IRPs which
13 show PSE's future energy mix, and I don't see them
14 planning a transition to wind, water, and solar. Taking
15 coal out of the mix is a necessary first step. The key
16 to near zero greenhouse gas emissions from energy, both
17 transportation and electricity, is energy -- is fossil
18 fuel-free electricity, electrifying the heating systems
19 and electrifying transportation. The person who spoke
20 about the difference that it makes, what electricity you
21 use when you charge your car, if the electricity is from
22 100 percent renewable energy sources that don't have
23 greenhouse gas emissions and when you charge your car,
24 then that car isn't producing any emissions when it
25 runs.

1 That's the answer and, in fact, Washington
2 will not achieve the intent of the Paris Agreement
3 without fossil fuel-free electricity. That is the way
4 to get there, fossil fuel-free electricity with
5 electrified transportation. You won't get there any
6 other way.

7 In my daily work, I help municipal school,
8 college, and state agency clients reduce their energy
9 use. Many state agencies and facilities have PSE
10 territory. Some of my clients have organizational
11 greenhouse gas reduction goals and can see that they
12 can't reach the goals they have set and they ask what
13 the next step is. I tell them they should expect
14 electricity in Washington to be free of fossil fuel by
15 2040 since developed countries will lead and the World
16 has committed to the Paris Climate Agreement. I tell
17 them to electrify and not invest in natural gas
18 infrastructure with a life span of 20 years or more and
19 PSE and the other investor utilities also should not be
20 investing in natural gas infrastructure.

21 Please require that the investor utilities
22 in Washington create viable and affordable strategies
23 for transitioning off of natural gas by 2040 or sooner
24 and implement those plans systematically. We have the
25 technology now. Remarkably in the last year or so,

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1 control technology has developed which makes fossil
2 fuel-base load plants unnecessary. So don't let the
3 utilities tell you that they need base load plants.
4 They no longer need them. When PSE challenges you and
5 says they can't do without the fossil fuels, require
6 them to hire experts who understand how to use wind,
7 water, and solar to deliver reliable and affordable
8 electricity. I recommend contacting other utilities and
9 communities who are already doing this or contact
10 Dr. Mark Jacobson at Stanford University. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
12 much.

13 So I'd like to -- at this point, could I get
14 a show of hands who is intending to speak who has not
15 spoken yet.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We all have a lot to
17 say.

18 CHAIRMAN DANNER: So -- and we're going to
19 stay here until you say it. Again, I want to impress
20 upon everybody, though, the hour. And so if you heard
21 other people say it before, hit the highlights, okay?
22 We don't need to repeat ourselves. We do need to take a
23 break, and I want to do this in an orderly fashion. So
24 should we just go into recess, is that --

25 SHERIFF: It's your show.

1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Well, my show is that
2 we're going to take a five-minute recess. I would like
3 all of you who don't need to get up and go into the hall
4 not to get up and go into the hall so we can get back
5 into the show here as soon as possible. So with that,
6 we are going to take a five-minute break. We're in
7 recess.

8 (Recess from 8:45 p.m. to 8:51 p.m.)

9 CHAIRMAN DANNER: We're ready. Stacy Oaks,
10 would you come forward?

11 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Come on, folks.
12 Let's get going. It's late. Let's get going.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your mic's not on.

14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: It is on. It's on.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They can't hear you
16 in the back there.

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Yeah, because everybody's
18 talking.

19 All right. Dakota Case, please come
20 forward. I believe it's Annette Bryan.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She left.

22 CHAIRMAN DANNER: She left, all right. Mary
23 Paynter.

24 All right. So why don't you start,
25 Ms. Oaks.

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1 MS. OAKS: When we talk about our state's
2 commitment to the Paris Agreement, when we consider
3 science and fact, and when we lay awake at night in bed
4 unable to sleep because we're terrified of the world
5 we're leaving for our grandchildren, one thing is
6 obvious. We need to get off fossil fuels yesterday, if
7 possible. The majority of American people want access
8 to renewable energy, yet corporations like PSE have a
9 different idea. They continue to prop up -- they
10 continue to prop up outdated, harmful systems in order
11 to focus on short-term profits.

12 The cost of this corporate greed will be our
13 land, our air, our water, our health, and if left
14 unchecked, the continuation of our species. Since money
15 is the language we understand, it is extremely important
16 that we tell them we are not going to pay for any more
17 infrastructure that we don't want, especially when it
18 threatens our children. We want that dirty coal mine
19 closed by 2025. That's eight years from now. That's
20 plenty of time to be investing in renewable energy to
21 replace it.

22 Ratepayers are not willing to pay for any
23 new fossil fuel infrastructure, and that includes the
24 toxic LNG fracked gas facility proposed for Tacoma.
25 Two-thirds of all natural gas comes from fracked gas.

1 It's not a transition fuel, it's a fossil fuel. If
2 Puget Sound Energy won't listen to their customers, then
3 maybe it's time that we take the necessary steps in
4 towards making a publicly-owned renewable energy so that
5 we can keep Washington green and do our part to avoid
6 climate catastrophe. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

8 MS. PAYNTER: Thank you. Before I begin, I
9 would like to thank the Commissioners for their
10 patience, their courtesy in listening to all of us. My
11 name is Mary Paynter. I'm a mother, a grandmother, a
12 native of Washington State, a climate activist, and a
13 Puget Sound Energy ratepayer. Victor Hugo said "an
14 invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea
15 whose time has come." Shaping our public policies -- I
16 don't think I'm really on here. Am I on?

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: We can hear you fine.

18 MS. PAYNTER: Shaping our public policies in
19 light of the reality of climate change, is an idea whose
20 time has come. We cannot watch the events unfolding in
21 Texas without acknowledging this truth. Stopping the
22 burning of dirty coal to generate electricity is an idea
23 whose time has come. It makes no economic sense to
24 continue coal-based energy and the climate crisis
25 demands that we end this practice. Making renewable

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1 carbon-free energy available to all PSE customers is an
2 idea whose time has come. Many businesses and
3 individuals have already shown their willingness to pay
4 more for clean energy. PSE must begin planning now for
5 a transition from dirty coal to renewables and energy
6 efficiency and for ending coal-fired energy by 2025.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

9 All right. Dakota Case?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not here.

11 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Not here, all right. Paul
12 Wagner, are you here? All right. Come forward. Ron
13 Morrison or Momson. I'm sorry, I can't read your name.
14 Please come forward.

15 MR. WAGNER: (Speaking in Native American.)

16 I am Che oke ten. I'm from here. My ancestors been
17 here for 20,000 years at least. We have mastodon bones
18 that have carvings in them 16,000 years old. Carvings
19 in the sacred feminine. I see we have some
20 representatives from the sacred feminine here, and I'm
21 thankful for that. I am. Because that's the life
22 bringers, that's the one that cares for all life.
23 That's the one that would never let their grandchildren
24 go out and be harmed. They would never let the children
25 from those grandchildren and those children beyond that

1 and the children beyond that and the children beyond
2 that and the children beyond that ever be exposed to any
3 one thing that would ever harm them or any environment
4 they need to live in that they need to have a real life.

5 We have a thing called Tlingit in our
6 understandings here where you happen to live, and that
7 Tlingit says that we are born, it's a birthright, we're
8 born with the right to have clean water, to have our
9 language, to have our culture, to have a stable climate.
10 To have the lack of a destructed, collapsed climate,
11 which I'm afraid to tell you we're in the very early
12 stages of, and there's absolutely no denying that.

13 Greenland is on fire, did you know that?
14 Greenland is on fire. A place that should have
15 permafrost is burning. It's burning underground, and
16 that's pure carbon, and it's being released. Your
17 decisions as colonial leaders within a government of the
18 United States, you sit here right now with an enormous
19 responsibility. An enormous responsibility for all life
20 in which you have not in the past shown that you are
21 capable of having that responsibility to care for all
22 life. You have not shown that, but at some point in
23 time, it will become necessary that you learn about
24 natural law. Natural law is unbendable. You do not
25 influence, as human beings, natural law.

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1 You stand here with a colonial law that says
2 that PSE has the right to do these things and perpetuate
3 the destruction of our climate into the future when it
4 should end right now. It should end this minute. You
5 should have the strength, you should have the wisdom,
6 and you should have the courage to know that your
7 grandchildren and their children and their children,
8 your own offspring that comes right from the love of
9 your heart and from the Creator and from the life
10 bringer, if you do not make these decisions with that
11 form of responsibility and understanding of a human
12 being, what are the responsibilities of a human being?
13 Those are the things that were brought to our people
14 from the Creator right here where you live since time
15 immemorial.

16 The responsibilities of paying respect to
17 every single thing around us, which, by the way, brought
18 paradise to where you live. It brought paradise to this
19 place for tens of thousands of years, and how many years
20 has it been since your law, your colonial law, has made
21 the decisions of what's going on in this world? How
22 long has that been? It's been that long in the history
23 of our first peoples right here where you walk upon the
24 bones of our ancestors. It has been instantaneous in
25 that timeline, 150 years roughly you have brought to

1 this Salish Sea.

2 95 percent of the forests are gone. 95 --
3 real forests, ecosystems, a living forest that has all
4 of the balances of life in it. 95 percent of the
5 natural animals have been annihilated right where you
6 live because of your colonial laws that have stepped
7 outside of natural law and have not been inside of the
8 circle of life and the knowledge of how to be in the
9 circle of life. 98 percent of our indigenous people, so
10 if you're concerned about people, through your laws and
11 your things that you said was okay to bring here, you've
12 annihilated 98 percent of our human beings here. And if
13 you continue, if you continue upon these lines, upon
14 these ways of thinking that -- that your laws, your laws
15 are supreme, that your laws are just, that your laws are
16 the right thing to do because your corporations are
17 married to your government and even ones that are not
18 even from here, they're not even from here and you're
19 still married to them, PSE.

20 I hate to say, but we're talking about money
21 and what is just for a ratepayer, right? That's what
22 we're talking about. So someday your children and their
23 children beyond that, maybe they are going to be a PSE
24 ratepayer, and maybe someday when that climate disaster,
25 because climate change is not the right word. When

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1 Greenland is on fire and British Columbia is on fire and
2 our Salish Sea is dying from the effects of climate
3 change, that's the bottom line. Our Salish Sea is dying
4 from the acidifications and things -- you know, the
5 starfish have melted. These are the truths. These are
6 what's going on.

7 And those grandchildren of yours and the
8 children beyond that, we're talking about what will be
9 paid. What will be paid. Well, a suffering beyond
10 human recognition, beyond imagination, will be the
11 future for your grandchildren and their children and
12 their children beyond that if you continue along these
13 lines. You -- at some point, and I pray that point is
14 very soon, but at some point, you must stand up and
15 become a human being, a true human being that cares for
16 all life.

17 And you, Ann Rendahl, you must make your
18 decisions as a matriarch, as a bringer of life who would
19 never let your grandchildren and their children beyond
20 that and their children beyond that ever receive harm
21 from your decision. So I pray, I pray that the love of
22 our people and the love for those children, your
23 children, that you can stand up and you can do that, you
24 have the strength to do it, you have the wisdom to do
25 it, you have the courage to do that. Don't let this --

1 you know, the methane that they're going to bring here
2 and Puget Sound Energy's clean and green-washed program
3 is methane-based fuel that's 80 times more toxic to our
4 climate, 80 times more toxic to the climate that your
5 children will wallow in and suffer in. And I feel it.
6 I hear their cry. I hear the cry of the future
7 generations. And I pray that you can hear their cry too
8 because they are calling to us right now, build that
9 bridge.

10 My mom told me it's not easy to be an elder.
11 You get up early and you pray for everyone in your
12 family, the children, and the elders and everyone that
13 you know. And she said that you also pray for the souls
14 that have not come to this Earth. You open the door for
15 them, you open the way for them. But at this rate
16 that -- in your decision-making that it's okay to let
17 these coal plants continue until the far date that
18 you're looking at, it should be at least 2020. It
19 should be much sooner because the people who lose their
20 jobs, they'll find another job, but your grandchildren
21 will never find another climate. Your children beyond
22 that will never find another climate to live in. They
23 will not. No money in the world, no money in the world
24 will correct that broken and collapsed climate.
25 Nothing. No colonial law, colonial decision or

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1 oppression will correct those things.

2 And so, you know, we have to build that
3 bridge. It's up to us. It's up to each and every one
4 of us to do that, including you. You stand at a very
5 high place in decision-making and I pray to the spirit
6 that the love of your own future generations and your
7 own children and their children beyond that that you can
8 feel their love and know their love and know that you
9 must make strong decisions for them. Right now. Not
10 tomorrow and not far into the future, but today.
11 (Speaking in Native American.) Thank you for listening
12 to my words.

13 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right.

14 MR. MORRISON: Hi. Not sure this is on. My
15 name is Ron Morrison. I live in Tacoma. I get my
16 electricity from the City of Tacoma, which has about
17 five hydroelectric power dams, which I am thankful for.
18 But I use gas to heat my house, which, you know, this is
19 something I kind of -- when I bought the house I ended
20 up with, but unfortunately in Tacoma, from my
21 perspective is unfortunate, Tacoma has an ugly history
22 of air pollution. Now, this is greenhouse gases plus
23 everything else. Now, I grew up in the north end of
24 Tacoma, I got polluted by the Asarco smelter. I have
25 asthma today. Everybody in my family has asthma.

1 Now, there's one part of Tacoma that's still
2 in the wrong end of this pollution thing. And the thing
3 about the air -- Washington State -- Puget Sound Clean
4 Air Agency is, I found out, they range emitter of
5 pollution based on what the standard allowable is, but
6 they don't rate the accumulation of all the emitters.
7 Okay. Now, I'm against air pollution that hazardous --
8 that causes hazard to our health. Now, the people of
9 northeast Tacoma were getting the bad end of Asarco
10 smelter when I was and so were people in Vashon Island.

11 Now Asarco is gone, but the people of
12 northeast Tacoma and I guess Vashon probably, too, are
13 still getting the bad pollution area -- polluted air
14 from the Port of Tacoma, and now PSE wants to build an
15 LNG plant at the Port of Tacoma, which will be eight
16 million gallons of LNG. And they hope to fuel
17 commercial ships, then they also want us rate -- us gas
18 utility people to pay for part of that plant, which we
19 most likely don't need, and they don't even have enough
20 insurance to cover the cost of that plant if it has a
21 meltdown.

22 Now, my -- I have been up there to northeast
23 Tacoma, I've seen -- I've seen -- I've smelled the
24 pollution up there, there's kids growing up, there's
25 public schools up there. And one of the pollutants that

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1 is very harmful is benzene, which is a carcinogenic.
2 And also you've got this new plant that's going in will
3 not only emit periodically benzene but also toluene and
4 a few other chemicals. Toluene also kills your brain
5 cells as well I'm told.

6 My point is I don't want us to be paying as
7 gas customers for this new plant that they decided they
8 want to put in and forced on us, which they'll also use
9 part of it to sell unregulated LNG to commercial
10 shippers. Another thing is I want you to try to make
11 sure that they have enough liability insurance which
12 they don't have as a limit liability company -- excuse
13 me -- owning the eight million gallons storage plant and
14 refinery. They don't have the -- the liability
15 insurance to cover the disaster that plant could cost,
16 cost in lives, cost in property, if it goes -- if it has
17 a disaster.

18 I remind you of the Cleveland LNG disaster
19 years ago, and in 2014, there was an LNG disaster, near
20 disaster, it was an accident, and it wasn't an
21 explosion. By the way, it was a pipeline company in
22 Eastern Washington. It caused the evacuation of a small
23 town. Okay. LNG cannot only smother you when it
24 vaporizes, it can blow up, okay? Now, I know that this
25 plant, this storage capacity in Tacoma, will have

1 three-inch-thick cement walls around it, but I bring to
2 the Commission the fact that the South Koreans and
3 Japanese are building similar plants, but they're
4 putting them underground, which makes a lot of sense
5 from the safety standpoint. My chemical engineering
6 friend, Steve Storms, who is a retired warehouse
7 chemical engineer says that if this plant in Tacoma were
8 to blow up, it would have the equivalent, in terms of
9 energy, of a small nuclear bomb.

10 So I don't want us to have to -- I don't
11 want us as customers to have to pay for part of this
12 plant, and if they're going to build this plant, I
13 want -- this is most important, I would urge you to try
14 to make sure they have a multimillion dollar indemnity
15 bond to indemnify the people of Tacoma who may be
16 injured or killed by this plant. And that's the summary
17 of it, besides the pollution fact that's going to
18 pollute even more of northeast Tacoma, I think that
19 is -- they should also have the right to come back and
20 sue for health care damages if they can afford it, they
21 can prove it, okay? And there's already people dying of
22 cancer there. Thank you. My name is Ron Morrison.
23 Goodbye.

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

25 All right. Kevin Haughton, Anne Kroeker,

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1 Kim Dobson. Any of you here?

2 Come forward, sir.

3 MR. DOBSON: Well, thank you for putting up
4 with us all here. I think there's some legitimate
5 concerns here.

6 CHAIRMAN DANNER: I'm sorry, and your name
7 is?

8 MR. DOBSON: My name is Kim Dobson, and I am
9 a 40-year ratepayer from long ago. Started paying in
10 1972. I'm here to object to, yes, Colstrip, and I'm
11 also here to object to using fracked natural gas as a
12 so-called bridge fuel. Fracked natural gas is not safe
13 or clean. The scope of the chain of events to fracked
14 gas involves destroying bottleable water aquifers,
15 contaminating these limited resources in the Earth with
16 drilling mud, batch of chemicals, radioactive saltwater
17 is brought up and dumped on the ground. And methane
18 leaks from the bases of these wells that are not
19 sealable. About 10 percent of the wells leak a lot of
20 methane out that -- right around the well head.

21 Where we're getting a lot of this gas is BC
22 and some of it -- most of the gas produced in -- in the
23 Bock and shale is being flared off, and you can see the
24 flares burning from hundreds and hundreds of wells in
25 North Dakota. North Dakota was lit up with a yellow

1 light with all the wasted gas and carbon being burnt
2 there to produce the Bock and shale oil.

3 So Colstrip, getting to a different subject,
4 is very dirty, old technology, and we were fighting that
5 here long ago before the UTC during the public power
6 campaign, which I was a part of, and PSE beat us here in
7 Thurston County, too, as well by spending almost a
8 million dollars, and we collected small donations of
9 about 38,000 and they lied and said we couldn't handle
10 it. That's long ago, but it still hurts.

11 The LNG storage export proposal for the Port
12 of Tacoma must not be built. This project will be
13 unsafe and renewables should be chosen instead of
14 fracked gas for this purpose. It is not a bridge fuel,
15 I repeat. And I'll just keep my comments short. I
16 could go on. And the burning of coal and encouraging
17 fracking with the these kinds of proposals will result
18 in planetary climate collapse. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

20 All right. Earth-Feather Sovereign, Zane
21 Smith, and Julia Minugh.

22 All right. Proceed.

23 MS. SOVEREIGN: My name is Earth-Feather
24 Sovereign. I am a PSE payer. I am also a member of the
25 Colville Confederated Tribes that's located here in the

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1 State of Washington. I'm also a representative of the
2 Indigenous Women's Warrior Society, and I would like to
3 give acknowledgment of the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854
4 because the treaty are our superior law here in the
5 United States. I will also like to remind everybody
6 that the City of Olympia along with King County along
7 with Bellingham, they have all declared Indigenous
8 People's Day and the Puget Sound Energy has clients and
9 customers in these areas.

10 And a lot of these cities have also made
11 proclamation to the North Dakota Access Pipeline where
12 we all not believe that we should be digging up our
13 Mother Earth anymore. That we should keep all of her
14 fossil fuels, the coal, her natural gas, everything, we
15 should leave her untouched. We shouldn't rape her
16 anymore. How we treat our Mother Earth is how we treat
17 our indigenous women.

18 There's these man camps that are related to
19 these coal mining and fracking and these construction
20 camps where a lot of our women, they are becoming
21 missing because they are becoming stolen or they're
22 being forced to do -- they're being raped. Even
23 children are being stolen and they're being raped at
24 these man camps. Everything is connected from digging
25 up our Mother Earth to the raping of our women to the

1 stealing of our children, it's all connected.

2 I have children. One of my daughters, she's
3 Blackfeet. That is near Montana and where your Colstrip
4 area is and the indigenous people of Montana, their
5 waters are dirty, their air is dirty. A lot of these
6 people are not able to fish for their trout anymore,
7 which is one of their staples, their indigenous food
8 staples. Along with our treaties, we have the right to
9 hunt, we have the right to fish, and how can we fish
10 when all of our salmon are sick?

11 My tribe is the Colville Confederated
12 Tribes. We are known as the salmon people. What
13 happens here in the Salish Sea affects the Colville
14 Confederated Tribes even though that we are on the
15 eastern part of the Washington State. We are all
16 connected. We have tribes all over Washington State who
17 are being affected. A lot of our people are dying from
18 cancer. My mother just passed away two years ago
19 because she had breast cancer. Washington State has one
20 of the highest rates of breast cancer, and I think it
21 has to do with our environment. And I'm sure that
22 everybody here has some kind of family connection where
23 somebody has passed away because they are sick with
24 cancer.

25 Our elders are dying at a young age. My

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1 mother was only 67 when she passed away. I am 38 years
2 old. My children, my youngest, she is five years old.
3 She will not be able to be around her grandmother, and I
4 worry about my daughters. I have two daughters, and I
5 worry about how life is going to be when they grow up,
6 and I worry about my -- my grandchildren, and I worry
7 about the seven generations to come. How are we going
8 to leave this land for our children and our children's
9 children?

10 When you pass away, how do you want to be
11 remembered? I want to be remembered as trying to
12 advocate for the best interest of my people and trying
13 to advocate for the best interest of my children and my
14 children's children. And I want to be remembered as
15 being someone who will stand up for our Mother Earth and
16 stand up for our sea creatures, stand up for our plants
17 because they're living too. For -- stand up for those
18 who are too scared to stand up. And I pray that you
19 will find it in your hearts to make the right decisions
20 to be able to respect and honor the treaties and to be
21 able to respect and honor the proclamations made by
22 these cities and counties and be able to respect and
23 honor the people here today and their wishes and that is
24 no, we don't want to pay for the coal anymore. We don't
25 want to pay for LNG anymore. We want cleaner energy.

1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you.

2 Mr. Smith.

3 MR. SMITH: Oh, please. Ladies first.

4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right.

5 MS. MINUGH: My name is Julie Minugh. I've
6 been a customer of PSE for over 25 years since I moved
7 back here from Montana. I'm very afraid. I'm very
8 afraid of the LNG plant. If you don't know, the only
9 way to get to the LNG plant is through the Puyallup
10 Reservation. You can't get there any other way unless
11 you're on a boat. They're going to put pipelines
12 through the reservation and they never leak, so we don't
13 have to worry about that.

14 So many of the native tribes have had these
15 things put upon them, things that hurt the people, and
16 now we have an LNG plant that could explode and wipe out
17 maybe half of the Puyallup Tribe. That's a lot. And I
18 know that no natives have been through anything like
19 that before. I mean, you know, there's so many of us
20 now. And it just seems like these kind of things
21 continue, you know, forever. It's been hundreds of
22 years and now these same kind of things are still
23 happening. Maybe in different ways, hidden ways, but
24 they're still happening, and I'm afraid that some day
25 I'm going to find out that all my relatives are dead

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1 because of that plant. And that's not even counting
2 about the climate change and the pollution and
3 everything else. That's -- that is just from the LNG
4 plant.

5 So I just -- I want to tell you that I don't
6 want to pay for that. I'm tired of businesses paying
7 for poison to poison us. They're doing that -- I mean,
8 all of our food is poisoned. Our water is poisoned.
9 Fluoride is in our toothpaste and it's poison. You
10 know, when is this madness going to stop? I'm just
11 afraid, and that's all I have to say. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

13 Mr. Smith.

14 MR. SMITH: And now for something completely
15 different, I promise. My name is Zane Smith. My wife
16 and I are participants in PSE's solar energy program.
17 We drove here to this hearing from our home out on the
18 Boston Harbor area of Olympia in our hybrid Prius
19 plug-in on energy that was generated today from solar
20 cells on our roof. We -- we -- seven to eight months
21 out of the year, the only bill that we receive from PSE
22 is the charge they charge us for sending the bill. We
23 also -- we also receive a check every year for the
24 excess energy that we produce and therefore provide to
25 our neighbors.

1 Ironically, we don't get as much back on the
2 energy we produce because PSE has told us that the
3 program has been popular and has, I don't know,
4 oversubscribed or something so they don't have as much
5 money to pay out. Now, despite all that, when you drive
6 around, when I drive around and you look at rooftops,
7 how much -- how many solar panels do you see? Not much.
8 Not much. And my wife and I decided to make the
9 economic investment. We're lucky enough to have the
10 financial resources to pay to put the solar panels on
11 our roof, and I understand that not everyone can afford
12 to do that. So that's one reason why there's not a lot
13 of solar panels on every roof out there.

14 But we really looked at it as a moral
15 decision that we should do this, that we should do this
16 because it was the right thing to do. And I think that
17 you folks as Commissioners may come to a point where you
18 have to make a difficult political decision in order to
19 make Washington clean energy by 2025, you may have to
20 raise rates because you have to invest in the future.
21 That probably wouldn't be a very popular decision. I'm
22 sure it's never popular to raise rates, but it would be
23 the moral decision and you should do it. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you,
25 sir.

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1 All right. Annette Bryan, Annette Bryan,
2 come forward. Ryan Dewitt, D Shaw, and Val Peaphon.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They called you
4 earlier.

5 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Well, hang on.
6 Just -- proceed, please.

7 MR. SHAW: Okay. My name is D Shaw. I am a
8 resident of Thurston County, Lacey. This is going to be
9 short and sweet, but I agree with Mr. Smith and what he
10 is saying about basically being penalized for conserving
11 energy, which PSE is currently doing to us. I do not
12 believe that Puget Sound Energy has our best interest at
13 heart despite what they proclaim.

14 All of the people that you have heard from
15 tonight, none of them are in agreement with what PSE is
16 planning to do, charging us for Montana, for the
17 Colstrip. I'm not going to go into more of what
18 everyone else has already said, but to quote the late
19 Maya Angelou, and this is directly for you folks, When
20 you know better, you do better.

21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

22 MS. PEAPHON: I'm Valerie. I think you
23 called me, didn't you?

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Val Peaphon?

25 MS. PEAPHON: Okay. Hello, Commissioners.

1 My name is Valerie. I am a PSE ratepayer in Tacoma,
2 Washington. I don't trust Puget Sound Energy. I don't
3 trust them to do the right thing simply because it is
4 the right thing. I don't trust them to honor indigenous
5 treaty rights, I don't trust them to compensate business
6 owners in Greenwood for the property that they've blown
7 up. I hope that I can trust you.

8 I support clean, renewable energy. Call me
9 selfish, but I support having a livable planet that can
10 sustain life. I support science and reason and common
11 sense. I do not support outdated extraction methods. I
12 do not support the degradation of the planet. I do not
13 support dirty and dangerous fossil fuel energy sources,
14 and I cannot support any rate hikes unless two
15 conditions are met. One, an accelerated transition away
16 from coal as soon as possible. If they can't close it
17 down tonight, then tomorrow would be just fine.

18 Two, no new fossil fuel infrastructure, no
19 liquifying natural gas in Tacoma. The future must be
20 fossil free. I do not wish to fund the death of our
21 planet. I heard an analogy once that stuck with me.
22 When you are drowning ten feet underwater, it does not
23 help to be brought up in a slow and measured manner one
24 foot at a time. We need your help. We are drowning.
25 Will you approve a slow and insufficient rescue?

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1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
2 much.

3 Pamela Bond and Tom Crawford and Nikie
4 Walters or Nikie Walters.

5 MS. WALTERS: Nikie.

6 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Nikie, come forward.

7 MR. CRAWFORD: My name is Tom Crawford. I'm
8 a board member of Thurston Climate Action Team and with
9 a new campaign we've launched called People for a Carbon
10 Free Olympia. I've lived in Thurston County for nearly
11 30 years. I, quote, own a home and still I consider
12 myself a tenant. The Nisqually, Squaxin, and Chehalis
13 people have graciously allowed me to reside in and enjoy
14 the land, rivers, lakes, and Salish Sea that has been
15 their home for millennia. They're my landlord. Their
16 home is now at great risk because of climate change,
17 climate disruption, whatever you want to call it. So I
18 feel partially responsible for helping to create this
19 problem, and I hope you will join me in trying to fix
20 it.

21 As the Commission considers Puget Sound
22 Energy's rate proposal, I ask you to encourage PSE to
23 rapidly replace its coal-fired power plants with
24 renewable, clean energy. In 2013, our regional planning
25 council, the Thurston Regional Planning Council,

1 completed a county-wide sustainability plan that calls
2 for drastic reductions in carbon pollution. The City of
3 Olympia recently recommitted to these targets as you
4 heard earlier from Councilmember Jones and will be
5 completing a detailed climate action plan in 2018.

6 Based on the carbon wedge analysis work
7 recently completed for the City, decarbonizing the
8 electric grid that serves Olympia is likely to be a
9 major contributor to its ability to achieve its
10 community-wide target for reducing carbon pollution,
11 which in turn, as we know is causing our current global
12 warming crisis. Similar analysis is now underway
13 county-wide sponsored again by the Thurston Regional
14 Planning Council, and we expect it to have similar
15 results.

16 So rapidly replacing PSE's coal-fired power
17 plants with renewable energy sources will help our South
18 Sound communities achieve their community-wide carbon
19 reduction goals. Therefore, as an important step in
20 that direction, I ask you to shorten the payment
21 schedule for Units 3 and 4 at Colstrip by 2025. Thank
22 you for your consideration of public comments during
23 this hearing.

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you,
25 sir.

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1 Ms. Walters.

2 MS. WALTERS: Hi, my name is Nikie Walters.

3 I have only lived here in Washington for two years, and

4 I feel like I was duped. I don't like that feeling.

5 I'm very -- with what he said about solar, I am getting

6 solar put into my house in three weeks. I am not okay

7 with what he -- what I just learned about his experience

8 with solar. It's expensive. It costs a lot of money.

9 A lot of people can't do what I'm doing and what he's

10 done with solar. A lot of people depend -- you know, I

11 worked for a city for eight years before I moved out

12 here. I know what it means to be a public servant, so I

13 appreciate you guys, I really do. But this is wrong.

14 Whatever you guys have to do to stop this,

15 we will support you. We will all support you. This is

16 all wrong. You know, if there's going to be a blow, if

17 there's going to be a lawsuit, whatever, we will support

18 you because this is so wrong. That's all -- I guess

19 that's all I want to say. You have our support to end

20 this.

21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you.

22 Lyle Shawn Conway, Joanne May Spottedbear,

23 and Patricia Conway.

24 All right. If you're not ready, then --

25 MR. CONWAY: I'll start if you want.

1 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Yes, please.

2 MR. CONWAY: Yes, my name is Lyle Shawn
3 Conway. I want to thank you all for taking the time out
4 of your day to listen to all of us. I am an enrolled
5 Puyallup Tribal member, so I am going to speak on behalf
6 of my children, my grandchild that's going to be born
7 here in November. I really appreciate you guys taking
8 all this time to listen to everybody tonight. I don't
9 think I can top anything that's been said tonight. A
10 lot of really good things have been said, so I'm not
11 going to really try to go over all of that.

12 I'm going to pray for you. I'm going to
13 pray for each and every one of you to have a good life,
14 to make good decisions. You know, these decisions do
15 lie in your hands, and I'm really nervous about that.
16 It scares me for my future. It scares me for my
17 children. I'm going to pray that you guys make the good
18 decisions for the planet, for our Mother Earth. We're
19 on a living being, and she has been abused for a long
20 time. Hundreds of years' emissions coming up every day.
21 Not one day does she get a break.

22 I pray that one day our people will take a
23 break from all these emissions and put them away and
24 have a clean, safe environment. Not just a clean, safe
25 Puget Sound, but our whole Mother Earth, everybody is

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1 going to be able to enjoy something, you know, that our
2 Mother Earth produces instead of taking stuff out of it
3 and polluting the environment. There's been a lot of
4 harm on Mother Earth, and it's harmed a lot of the human
5 beings and all of our relations upon it.

6 I'm not going to take a lot of time. I'm
7 going to pray for you guys tonight to make these good
8 decisions. I know Puget Sound Energy has been here for
9 135 years, and they have done a lot of bad decisions. I
10 have done some research in my life. Lately I haven't
11 been able to do a lot because I'm a widowed father. I
12 take care of my son. He's ten years old. He's been
13 without his mother for two years. It's really tough for
14 me to even talk about that sometimes, but I have to
15 provide a future for him so I come up here to talk to
16 you guys about this. I have been to other places too.
17 Sometimes I get really passionate about what I say
18 because I want something for myself and for the future
19 of other beings on this Earth and time's running out.

20 You know, there's scientists out there that
21 are saying it's already too late. I don't believe that,
22 and I'm not going to go with that. I'm going to say
23 maybe those scientists were paid off so that everybody
24 else can keep going in the way that they're going, to
25 continue to pollute the Earth until it's gone. And I

1 don't want to see this Earth end. I don't want to see
2 life end like this. I want a safe, clean future for the
3 present, right now. Not the children of the future,
4 right now. The time is now, and you guys can make those
5 decisions, and I hope you do. And like she said, we
6 will back you up. We will stand up for you. I'll fight
7 for you. If you make the decisions to stand up for our
8 Earth, I'll do that. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you.

10 MS. SPOTTEDBEAR: I'm going to let my sister
11 go first and then I'll go after her if that's okay.

12 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Yes, please.

13 MS. SPOTTEDBEAR: Thank you.

14 MS. CONWAY: My name is Patricia Conway. I
15 am an enrolled member of the Puyallup Tribe. My
16 ancestors are of many of the tribes of Washington State.
17 I also have ancestry in Blackfeet, Montana. I'd like to
18 thank you, Commissioners, for giving us this generous
19 and gracious opportunity to speak to you on behalf of
20 the ratepayers. I'm a ratepayer of Puget Sound Energy.
21 I live in Tacoma, and I want to let you know that I do
22 not want to pay any more rate increases for fossil fuel
23 infrastructure, and I wanted to -- I read your mission
24 statement that says that you are -- your mission is to
25 protect the people and ensure that services are safe,

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1 available, reliable, and fairly priced. And I would
2 just like to note that maybe you can include all life.

3 Also, ensure that the life in Washington
4 State and -- is healthy, you know. There might be
5 different definitions between "safe" and "health." I'm
6 not sure how you look at that policy-wise. And I just
7 wanted to read a quote from Chief Seattle. (As read)
8 Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one
9 bred within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to
10 ourselves. All things are bound together. All things
11 connect.

12 And so I'd just like to thank each and every
13 one that has come on behalf of our future generations,
14 for ourselves, and I want to also bring attention to the
15 LNG and the 253 in the Port of Tacoma that whatever it
16 is that you guys can do to stop that, it needs to be
17 stopped today. It needs to not go any further, and we
18 are here, and we will continue to bring our voices to
19 the table. We will continue to keep fighting on behalf
20 of all human beings, and I guess I'd just like to say
21 thank you for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

23 MS. SPOTTEDBEAR: (Speaking in Native
24 American.) I want to thank first my relatives of what
25 is now Washington Pal -- Pal -- Pallup?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Puyallup.

2 MS. SPOTTEDBEAR: Puyallup. I want to thank
3 them first because this is their land, okay, it's not
4 yours. Also, the treaty holder Fort Laramie 1851, and
5 this flag right here is the flag of the Little Bighorn,
6 and the flag behind you is illegal. It belongs to the
7 sea, not on land. You and I both know that, and so does
8 the general attorney.

9 Also, this whole entire evening I sat here,
10 I've been to the United Nations four times, okay? And
11 I'm talking to the World Court in The Hague, The
12 Netherlands. This is the bankruptcy of the United
13 States of America 1933. Washington does have a charter
14 number. LNG has no treaty. The coal that's coming out
15 of Montana is stolen from our people. Please support
16 the people here and protect the water.

17 My -- Jesse Nightwalker and myself just got
18 back from the U.N. We took a family of six, a white
19 family of six, to the United Nations. They're
20 contaminated with benzene, [inaudible], copper, lead,
21 and the 17-month-old baby who will not live for five to
22 ten years is contaminated with uranium.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A little baby. A
24 beautiful baby.

25 MS. SPOTTEDBEAR: A baby. That baby isn't

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1 going to live. That could have been your grandsons that
2 I took -- or Jesse and I, I should say. Our indigenous
3 nations took to save your lives. Our people, we reap
4 the benefits of your actions, genocide, poverty, death,
5 and now we're just simply asking that you step up for
6 one time and do the right thing.

7 The right thing that I've also found out
8 here in Washington is the seven treaties written by
9 Isaac Stevens, right? Those treaties are all null and
10 void because they weren't properly enforced. So you
11 have four bankruptcies, two constitutions, a charter
12 number of the United States, a bankrupt corporation, a
13 charter number of Washington State, you have laws that
14 are not fully honored and a death of people, let alone
15 the water. Is that what you want to tell the Creator
16 when you meet him? When God asks you when you die and
17 we all are dead and Judgment Day is here and God says,
18 "What did you do for your people?" You want to say,
19 "Well, I sat there and didn't say anything"? Or do you
20 want to say, "I made a conscious decision, in Jesus'
21 name, amen, to help save the planet by listening to the
22 people because we know that the land we are on is stolen
23 and we want our people to live, so therefore we rejected
24 LNG"?

25 We're all going to meet Him one day, and

1 that day is coming soon. I want to say thank you for
2 your time and sorry you're not paying too much attention
3 to me, but I promise you one day --

4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Oh, I'm listening,
5 Ms. Spottedbear.

6 MS. SPOTTEDBEAR: That man that is over
7 there, the attorney general, I strongly urge him and all
8 of you to take a copy of this because it is going
9 nationwide and around the world. I'm releasing it. I'm
10 the one that spoke at the Women's March in Washington,
11 D.C. I'm also the woman who went to jail at Scott
12 Pruitt's office when they shut down, when Donald Trump
13 shut down the EPA office of Scott Pruitt's. I'm also
14 the woman that spoke at the gay and lesbian conference
15 in LA, and I am going to be that woman to help my people
16 live including yours. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you. If you would
18 share that with Ms. Gafken from the Attorney General's
19 Office, I would appreciate that very much. All right.
20 Thank you.

21 Chelsea Rustad, are you here? Grace
22 Christie, are you here?

23 MS. CHRISTIE: Yes. Hi, my name is Grace
24 Christie. I'm 14 and I live on Vashon Island. I was
25 not expecting to speak today, but I felt it was

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1 necessary to try and make a difference. My generation
2 and the generations to come need a change. We need
3 to -- we can already see how climate change is affecting
4 our Earth, and it is only going to get worse. Either
5 we're going to switch to renewable energy or we're not.
6 So why not do it now? If we have a chance to make a
7 difference, we need to do it now. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you very much.

9 Okay. Bear with me. There's some names I
10 am having trouble with reading. Billie Blattner,
11 Marilyn Kimmerling, LaDonna Robertson.

12 MS. ROBERTSON: I'm here.

13 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Come forward, please.

14 MR. RIDEOUT: You called my name earlier, as
15 well.

16 CHAIRMAN DANNER: I'm sorry, what is your
17 name, sir?

18 MR. RIDEOUT: James Rideout.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: About 12 names ago.

20 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Sit down.
21 Proceed while Ms. Robertson is coming forward.

22 MR. RIDEOUT: I come to you today, Chairman,
23 Commissioners. I'm James Rideout from the Puyallup
24 Tribal Council. To give you a little bit of background
25 of Puyallup Tribe and its efforts to help the Puget

1 Sound Energy LNG plant. Puyallup Tribes of Indians has
2 lived in Tacoma since the time of immoral [sic],
3 thriving the bountiful gifts provided by the Creator.
4 The Tribe has engaged in litigation and numerous grants
5 to protect the shorelines from the City of Tacoma to the
6 threat of proposed liquid natural gas, plans since 2015.

7 Puget Sound Energy converts natural gas to
8 liquid and then store an 8 million-gallon tank that
9 liquifies gas will be used to fill ships for PSE,
10 regional and natural gas distribution during peak times.
11 The Tribe was not consulted in its meaningful way and
12 objects and projects because it's a threat of the
13 Tribe's future. Central to the Tribe objections of the
14 plant developers of no adequately analyzed safety of
15 LNG's storage facility. They have not disclosed the
16 risk of catastrophic explosions to the Tribe nor to the
17 public.

18 In particular, the Tribe questions whether
19 or not a leak can be contained, it's when it happens.
20 The Tribe further question alternates for location has
21 been adequately evaluated because construction at the
22 current proposed site, which is located soil subject to
23 liquefaction on the earthquake, may disturb the toxic
24 chemical sediments that are already in the Port of
25 Tacoma tide flats and associated to groundwater due to

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1 past chemical spills.

2 Currently, the Tribe is challenging several
3 permits necessary to construct the LNG plant before
4 Shorelines Hearings Board. Pollution Control Hearings
5 Board of the State Court of Appeals to permit challenges
6 focused on the facility impacts to the environmental and
7 the fisheries resources. Further, the facility has not
8 been analyzed in environmental justice impacts including
9 health risks to the community closest to the plant which
10 consists of both tribal members and nontribal members.

11 Many members of the community are concerned
12 given its proximity to the schools, residential areas,
13 and cultural and viable tribal land and resources. The
14 treaty tribe fishery across the waterway from the
15 proudly owned land that was restored as fish habitat,
16 including the three species listed under the Endangered
17 Species Act. Since 2015, the Tribe has engaged with
18 decision-makers in Washington, D.C. and with those at
19 the State and City levels to share the concerns in 2016.

20 The Tribe submitted comments and the Army
21 Corps of Engineers are considering their permits. They
22 also shared their concerns with the facilities of the
23 Washington State Congressional Delegation. The Puyallup
24 Tribe disagrees with the current project location, will
25 continue to litigate the issue in order to protect the

1 land of water and resources of the citizens and all
2 citizens in Tacoma-Seattle region.

3 I apologize. I've been very patient this
4 entire night right along with you. The Puyallup Tribe
5 of Indians has worked to preserve, protect the lands,
6 water, and people since the beginning of time. Our
7 tribal council are those -- of Indian tribes is not
8 responsible for leading our tribal government, but is a
9 key steward accountable for protecting our assets of our
10 tribe, starting with our tribal elders down to our
11 youth, as well as our lands and natural resources
12 including harvesting the fish, seafood, wild game,
13 roots, herbs, and substances of all families.

14 We are taking a variety of available legal
15 steps to ensure our lands, waters can provide our future
16 generations for all of our neighbors. Our solemn
17 obligation to protect our sovereignty to our fish,
18 water, and lands. We all care about our health and
19 welfare of our neighbors in Tacoma, and hope that our
20 rights will be respected by not only corporations of
21 other governments, but also to the individuals who stand
22 in solidarity with us. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

24 Okay. Pat Rasmussen, come forward. Okay.

25 And, Ms. Rasmussen.

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1 MS. RASMUSSEN: Good evening. I first want
2 to point out some important recognition for your court
3 reporter, because I was one once, and I know what you're
4 going through. It's a long night.

5 There was a great article printed in The
6 Guardian on August 29th entitled, "Why are the Crucial
7 Questions About Hurricane Harvey Not Being Asked?" It's
8 a polite opinion that most republicans and 45 believe
9 climate change is a hoax. Our greatest predicament is
10 that climate-related disorders have been hidden from the
11 public's mind. Same thing is happening in the Tacoma
12 area called greenwashing by PSE in The Tacoma Tribune.

13 What happened in Houston is no accident. If
14 we ever mention climate change, it seems to question
15 Trump and the entire political economic situation. The
16 Australian-owned PSE by the Macquarie Group is robbing
17 the future to fossil fuel the present by implementing an
18 LNG plant that is not sustainable and will destroy
19 everything if mishandled in our neck of the woods. So
20 to say there is no link between climate change and
21 Hurricane Harvey is wrong.

22 Additionally, LNG brings us one step closer
23 to a tipping point with its increased particulates and
24 imminent explosive possibility. We were warned in the
25 absence of major efforts to reduce emissions and

1 strengthen resilience, our planet will take a major hit.
2 Exposure to sea level rise poses a major risk to its
3 community, and in this case, the PSE ratepayers.

4 LNG is not a gateway fix to 100 percent
5 renewables. Scientists have been conducting their
6 analyses all along, but our politicians and big business
7 people are not listening. By failing to make the link
8 between climate change or climate breakdown, we are
9 being forced towards a catastrophic existence and W --
10 and Washington UTC wants to support a PSE rate increase
11 to its ratepayers or not? We oppose any rate increase
12 at this time, especially when PSE screams LNG will save
13 money.

14 If we do have a catastrophe like that in
15 Houston, the writing is on the wall. Who will pay for
16 the damages? The ratepayers, the same people PSE wants
17 to slap an increase on. When the public goes against
18 the GOP and Trump and acknowledges climate change, we
19 are scandalized. When the media does it, it's fake
20 news.

21 So we outcasts who oppose deep-pocket
22 politicians and fossil fuel corporations stand tall and
23 firm. We, along with the Puyallup Tribe, who are being
24 compromised for their treaties and use of their own
25 property, will continue to fight this down. Stop coal,

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1 stop the LNG plant, and keep it in the ground, and keep
2 your eye on the chemical industry giant, Arkema group in
3 Houston, in Crosby, Texas. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

5 All right. Bruce Speight, Janet Hedgepath,
6 and Steve Hofer.

7 MS. LAWHON: I have a question. My name was
8 after Patricia Conway's. Is my name on there somewhere?
9 Kathy Lawhon.

10 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Your name is here. We
11 haven't called it yet.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We live in Seattle
13 and Redmond, so we're going to leave, but I just wanted
14 say thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you so much.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You've been so good
17 to us.

18 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you for coming out
19 tonight. I appreciate it.

20 All right. So, Ms. Lawhon, I will -- right
21 from where you're sitting, if you'd like to speak to us
22 now. Press the button.

23 MS. LAWHON: Testing. Can you hear me?

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Yes.

25 MS. LAWHON: I've come to speak very

1 strongly against the LNG plant being built, actually
2 being built now on the tide flats of Tacoma, on the Port
3 of Tacoma. They have laid the pipeline already. We've
4 been standing on the pipeline for maybe a couple weeks
5 ago, and then attending all the meetings and doing
6 whatever we can. I stand in solidarity with the
7 Puyallup Tribe, and I will do anything that I can to
8 help them stop this insane, incredibly dangerous,
9 outrageous project.

10 This -- the plan that they are undertaking,
11 Sightline Institute, by the way, is a good place to look
12 because there is no other information, even on the City
13 of Tacoma websites or on the PSE sites. It's all PSE
14 propaganda. There is no alternative view. There is no
15 Sightline Institute, there is no Steven Storms chemical
16 engineer who has studied this from every angle. It's
17 just one side, and it's propaganda. And I studied mass
18 communications and I studied political campaigning and
19 politics on a graduate level, and I know propaganda when
20 I see it. And it's pretty slick, and it's pretty
21 pervasive, and it's just like everything else that we
22 get on cable now because it's all bought and paid for by
23 petrochemical billionaires, corrupt. It's corrupt.

24 And we have corruption in Tacoma, we have
25 politicians that are bought and paid for that are in

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1 support of this project with no regard. I can't believe
2 they're that callous actually. I think they probably
3 are just too trusting. They trust that PSE is telling
4 them the truth, but it is not the truth. It is -- they
5 said that it's safe. No, it's -- well, first they say
6 it's local. It's owned by Macquarie Group in Australia.
7 I mean, the first line is a lie. They say it's safe, it
8 is absolutely not safe. This is unprecedented in the
9 complexity of the plant they are building here. PSE has
10 never built one of these and never operated one of
11 these.

12 Their track record on safety on non-highly
13 complex things is not great. It's absolutely not clean.
14 People have talked about what a horrible, a horribly
15 polluting and destructive environmental greenhouse gas
16 that methane is. More than 80 times worse than CO2 in
17 the atmosphere. It's science. You hear it over and
18 over again because it's true and it makes a difference.
19 And something is happening on a much more rapid level
20 than we've been led to believe with a degradation of our
21 environment and what is happening with these storms.

22 If anything comes out, and I fear thousands
23 of people are dead that people couldn't get to because
24 this storm has -- has -- I've lived in the South, and
25 this storm is nothing like anything anybody has ever

1 seen. It's being described as the worst storm in
2 history, it is being described as bigger than Katrina
3 and -- and Sandy combined. And we had hurricanes before
4 global warming, it's just now that it's one degree
5 warmer, they just suck up all this moisture, and the
6 amount of water dumped in the short amount of time is
7 absolutely staggering and beyond any comprehension.
8 It's now, it's here, global warming is here. I'm a
9 water warrior now. I will not stop. I will fight to
10 the end with my new friends in the Puyallup Tribe.

11 This is not climate change, it's climate
12 chaos. We need a new word. Climate change just sounds
13 like oh, well, you know, we had it yesterday, we'll have
14 it today, big deal. It's climate chaos and that -- if
15 that is not in really clear view with what's happening
16 with Hurricane Harvey, then you just don't want to know.
17 And you guys, you know, you have -- you have the power
18 of life and death in the decisions you make. I don't
19 understand all the politics of the UTC, but I know that
20 you have power beyond rate, beyond rate setting. I'm
21 asking you to do everything you can to stop this plant.
22 We don't need it. We don't need it.

23 You know, when sustainable energy and
24 industry is given a chance, and it's not going to go
25 there with this kind of stuff, and we already -- Arkema,

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1 okay. Arkema built a chemical plant on the Port of
2 Tacoma in, what, the '50s or something, and it was there
3 for several decades and it -- and it -- and they left it
4 in the '90s. Arkema, of course, is the plant that is
5 now exploding in Crosby, Texas, okay? I'm Facebook
6 friends with a guy that lives seven miles away from
7 there, and they were smelling stuff before it exploded.
8 And there's another chemical plant considered just as
9 dangerous two miles away, and he can't get out because
10 of flood water.

11 This is real. This is real. So Arkema,
12 LLC, whatever, we were at a Port of Tacoma meeting on
13 the 17th of August, and they just voted more money, I
14 think it was like \$5 million, and I don't know what's
15 been spent today already for a plant that closed in the
16 mid-'90s because of all the arsenic and everything they
17 left behind, but they're not responsible to pay for it
18 because it's an LLC, I guess. I don't know why they're
19 not paying for it, but the taxpayers are paying for it.
20 The clean-up of arsenic and a whole bunch of other
21 really nasty things that they've left there at the site
22 right next to where PSE is now building a crazy
23 dangerous and very complex -- dockside fueling of trucks
24 is considered so dangerous, that it's recommended that
25 it not be placed, not be done in a busy port, and that

1 it be done away from population areas. And they're
2 going to dockside fuel -- fuel ships as well.

3 You're utilities and transportation, right?

4 Okay. They're gonna -- they're gonna have, what, at
5 least two trucks a day that actually have not gas in
6 them, they have LNG in them. So if there's a
7 refrigeration problem, a wreck on Taylor Road, which is
8 crazy busy and they drive like bats out of hell. I
9 don't know if they have any speed limits on the Port,
10 but I can tell you from sitting on the pipeline they
11 drive like crazy down there, and I know a truck driver
12 and they say it's because they don't get paid by the
13 hour, they get paid by the load. And that needs to
14 change.

15 So the PSE is going to be an LLC too, which
16 means that if there's an earthquake or a lahar or
17 whatever, then the ratepayers are going to pay for it.
18 The ones that are left alive, by the way. Trucking, you
19 know -- oh, and the wording is land vehicles, so for all
20 we know they're going to ship it on trains. All it
21 takes is a collision -- on I-5, they're going to have
22 trucks full of LNG that if there is a refrigeration
23 problem or a collision or an earthquake or whatever and
24 it escapes there and there's all these people sitting in
25 traffic, which is the normal on I-5 around Tacoma, then

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1 how many people are going to die? And who's done --
2 there has not been a study of the danger of trucking it.
3 Nobody did a study.

4 And the fire study, by the way, is a
5 complete and utter sham. Is Steve Storms still here? I
6 talked to Steve Storms about the fire study. They talk
7 about water mains. You can't put out an LNG fire with
8 water. You have to have like powder and stuff, and
9 Steve said there's not enough in the world if that whole
10 tank explodes or ruptures.

11 It's a sham fire study, but if you hear
12 nothing else here, that fire study was done by the same
13 people that are building the plant, Chicago Bridge &
14 Iron. Is there -- am I making -- should there be a
15 problem with that? Is it -- should there be a problem
16 with that? It's like, oh, let's do a little sham, oh,
17 it's not very dangerous, it's a really cool and clean
18 fire study, and therefore -- then we'll give you a \$310
19 million contract to build the plant. There's a problem
20 with that. And who can stop it? If you guys can't stop
21 it, who can stop it? Who can do something about that?
22 That's criminal. That should be criminal.

23 And also, I just learned yesterday that
24 there is environmental testing that goes on at the PSE
25 site to see if they're releasing all of this plume of

1 horrible chemicals that sit under the plant of the old
2 Occidental -- Occidental site. PSE does their own
3 testing, and every now and then, they let the Port
4 environmental people come over there and look at what
5 they're doing or something, I don't know. But PSE does
6 their own testing, their own environmental testing.

7 This is outrageous, and it has to stop. And
8 you guys, I'm begging you like everybody else here has
9 done. I think if Harvey showed us anything, we can't
10 keep doing this, and at some point, it has to stop, and
11 at some point, some people in your position that have
12 the power, wherever the tote [sic] points are, to step
13 up and exert your power and help us save this
14 environment. Help us respect the Puyallup people that
15 have been here all these years and never did anything
16 like this to that land. Please.

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
18 much.

19 Mr. Hofer.

20 Question in the back, yes.

21 MS. GOODWIN: I wanted to clarify something
22 because if I'm incorrect, then I had more to say. My
23 understanding was that this hearing was specifically
24 about PSE and its rates.

25 CHAIRMAN DANNER: This hearing is about a

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1 rate case proceeding that they filed. There are a
2 number of issues in it. So what is your -- you've
3 already had your opportunity to speak. I'm not -- it's
4 10:15 at night. I'm not going to give you a second
5 time.

6 MS. GOODWIN: I know. I wanted to clarify,
7 does this have any -- do any comments with -- about the
8 LNG plant have any bearing on this particular case?

9 CHAIRMAN DANNER: None of the LNG comments
10 have anything directly to do with the case in front of
11 us. We will -- nonetheless, I'm going to take all this
12 comment. We're not going to cut it off tonight.

13 MS. GOODWIN: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN DANNER: So who wants to go first?

15 MR. HOFER: Hello.

16 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Yes, proceed.

17 MR. HOFER: Hi, my name is Steve Hofer, and
18 thank you for letting me speak here today. I am an
19 associate member of Veterans for Peace. That means I
20 didn't serve as a veteran, but I support the
21 organization. It occurred to me as I was preparing for
22 this testimony that the members of this Commission are
23 like the Federal Reserve of northwest energy. It takes
24 a tremendous amount of technical expertise and with this
25 expertise, you have a privileged perch atop the ebb and

1 flow of electric markets, sales numbers, generation
2 numbers, consumption. For a region that spans multiple
3 states, some up to two million people, your decisions
4 affect a lot of people.

5 My mission here today is to bring in to
6 sharp focus two important numbers from the blizzard of
7 statistics available on the complex topic of climate
8 change, greenhouse gas emissions, energy generations,
9 and so forth. The first number I want to bring up is
10 5.78 percent. That is the proportion of net generation
11 being the electricity delivered to the customer is from
12 coal in Washington State is about 6 percent. The other
13 number is 30 percent. That is the amount of CO2
14 emissions due to the coal that's supplying that 6
15 percent of net generation.

16 So I am asking PSE and the Commission to
17 find a replacement for this minimal 16th. That 6
18 percent is 1/16 of our needs and that the motivation, if
19 you need any to do so, is that this tiny portion is
20 responsible for the maximal third of pollution. And I
21 say "maximal third" because the 30 percent is CO2, coal
22 has much worse stuff in it than CO2. So it should be an
23 incredible priority to -- and not that hard to do. It's
24 6 percent.

25 And I want to make one other comment about

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1 pollution, and I'll say that the most toxic pollutant
2 did not flow from smokestacks into the jet stream or
3 from discharge pumps into holding ponds. The most toxic
4 pollutants is the lesson children are learning from our
5 inaction. We're not teaching that lesson in our
6 schools, but kids never limit their education to the
7 topics being taught. They learn the same way scientists
8 learn, from observation.

9 So I would like to conclude with like the
10 Federal Reserve, the Commission is tasked with
11 regulating by applying subtle pressure, heavy-handed
12 edicts that cause great disruption are avoided. But
13 like the Federal Reserve in 2008 and 1929, the
14 Commission is facing an emergency of historic
15 proportions. The Fed responded to 2008 by taking bold,
16 decisive action, and the planet is facing a similar
17 crisis and the Commission is faced with a choice. You
18 can be like the 2008 Fed whose bold maneuvers kept the
19 bottom from falling out while simultaneously -- the
20 longest economic expansion since World War II or be like
21 the 1929 Fed 1929 which sat on its hands as the Great
22 Depression ravaged a country and brought untold
23 suffering to millions.

24 One final point, too, is that I am from
25 Montana, and it should be said that as we prepare for a

1 transition, that we should do so with the workers of
2 Colstrip in mind. They will be as heavily affected as
3 any other community, and we have, in this state,
4 benefited from Colstrip for many decades, and we owe it
5 to them to make sure that whatever happens to that
6 plant, they have a fair and an equitable stake. Thank
7 you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you.

9 MR. SPEIGHT: Excuse me. Good evening,
10 Commissioners. My name is Bruce Speight. I'm the
11 director of Environmental Washington, a state-wide
12 membership-based environmental advocacy organization,
13 and I'm here on behalf of our members, supporters, and
14 activists across the state, many of whom are PSE
15 ratepayers, to urge you to require PSE to accelerate the
16 depreciation date for Colstrips -- Colstrip Units 3 and
17 4 to 2025. I will submit a lengthier statement, but I
18 just want to make a few brief comments, and I've heard a
19 few people talk tonight about economics, and I'd like to
20 just say -- make a few comments about that.

21 Nearly every segment of the clean energy
22 market is seeing rapid price declines. A U.S.
23 Department of Energy survey of clean energy prices found
24 that from 2008 to 2015 the cost of land-based wind
25 energy fell by 41 percent, the cost of distributed solar

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1 photovoltaics capacity by 54 percent, and the cost of
2 utility scale for the photovoltaics by 64 percent.

3 Today, after years of price declines, the
4 unsubsidized cost of utility scale wind and solar have
5 fallen to levels that are in a, quote, cost competitive
6 with conventional generation technologies under some
7 scenarios. That's according to Lazard's most recent
8 levelized cost of energy survey. And on top of that,
9 experts are predicting that renewable energy prices, as
10 I know you know and many here in the room do, will
11 continue to fall. A recent survey of wind energy
12 experts by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory
13 found that the global price of wind power is expected to
14 fall 24 to 30 percent by 2030 and 35 to 41 percent by
15 2050.

16 In a Bloomberg New Energy -- Bloomberg New
17 Energy Finance predicts that by 2025 solar may be
18 cheaper than using coal on average globally even when
19 the cost imposed by coal used on public health and the
20 environment are excluded. I share this because taking
21 steps now to replace fossil fuels with clean, renewable
22 energy, as I think everyone here tonight has rightly
23 said, is essential for the future of our planet, but the
24 data even increasingly suggests that it's the right
25 thing for consumers and ratepayers. And your leadership

1 is critical in making that happen and leading us to the
2 transition to a 100 percent renewable energy future. So
3 thank you for -- for your attention tonight, your
4 consideration of this, and your time, and have a good
5 evening.

6 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you so
7 much for coming out this evening.

8 Okay. Noel Parish, are you here?

9 MS. PARISH: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Come forward.

11 Carolyn DeFord-Eden, are you still here?

12 And Carlo Voli, are you here?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He left.

14 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Okay.

15 Okay. Proceed.

16 MS. PARISH: Hello. My name is Noel Parish.

17 (Speaking in Native American.) I have lived here in
18 Olympia my whole life. My -- I worked for the
19 Department of Health, a finance coordinator and for
20 prevention on community health. I'm speaking on behalf
21 of myself as a citizen, and I introduced myself with my
22 ancestral name because I'm also going to speak a little
23 bit about the impact of fossil fuels on our tribe in
24 North Dakota. So the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
25 Indians is in northern North Dakota about four hours

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1 from where the North Dakota Access Pipeline cap was this
2 last -- this last year.

3 And -- and so I am -- you know, I know
4 finance, I know economics, I know statistics. My last
5 job was for the budget and operations manager -- or as
6 the budget and operations manager for the chief
7 scientist of fisheries. So I know about the impact,
8 right? The footprint, all the stuff that's been talked
9 about tonight about the climate change.

10 And so what I want to say to you is I
11 encourage you to figure out models and ways to digress.
12 To figure out how can we move away from fossil fuel and
13 coal -- coal and -- and ultimately, you know, killing --
14 like -- like destroying a lot of different places as far
15 as ancestral land and indigenous land and our water
16 resources. You know, I -- when I go -- so two out of
17 three of our tribes have cancer from -- babies have
18 cancer. A lot of the most vulnerable areas of -- with
19 indigenous people, but also lower class people who live
20 in Olympia are impacted by us continuing on to the --
21 with the fossil fuels and the coal emissions. It is
22 absolutely devastating.

23 And so that's -- I urge you -- as an
24 employee for the State of Washington what I know is that
25 we have absolutely intelligent people working for the

1 State of Washington. Some of them are tribal people,
2 some of them are scientists, some are, you know,
3 economic -- economic analysts, natural resources
4 departments that we could come up with a model that
5 moves us away before 2025. And so I encourage you to --
6 and, you know, yes, I agree that 2025 is, you know, a
7 plan, but I work in government, and I know that if we
8 say 2025 that means 2040, you know?

9 And so what I would like to encourage you to
10 do is come up with a model where that could be
11 accelerated because what I've seen in the last ten years
12 since peak oil rank was determined is that we are -- the
13 decline is rapid, and the impact of the footprint in the
14 Mother Earth, you know.

15 And I will say this one thing that, you
16 know, with my relatives who have cancer and many others
17 who have cancer and all of the impact to the vulnerable
18 and the press people in the United States of America, if
19 our president can get rid of the EPA in 60 days, we can
20 do something more accelerated. We can, I know we can.
21 I believe in that. We are intelligent people. And
22 if -- you know, if our president can start a pipeline
23 that was rejected by multiple different government
24 agencies and states and cities, we can. We can make an
25 approval in the decision process -- decision process

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1 that will impact in an accelerated way.

2 And, again, it's like -- it is, it's about
3 our grandchildren. It's about our generation leaving
4 something behind, it's about the next seven generations.
5 And I am so grateful to you because I know how hard that
6 you all work. I know. I mean, from working with our
7 leadership and the different agencies that I've worked
8 in and how much people have to go through to make these
9 decisions and the bureaucracies and, you know, the
10 timelines and everything, I just want to tell you like
11 thank you so much for staying late here tonight, and I'm
12 going to leave it at that. Thank you so much.

13 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
14 much.

15 Okay. Ms. DeFord.

16 MS. DEFORD: My name is Carolyn DeFord. I'm
17 an enrolled member of the Puyallup Tribe. I'm a mother,
18 a daughter, a business owner, a PSE ratepayer, and soon
19 to be the proud first-time grandmother. I'm not a
20 public speaker. I tend to get emotional and cry, so
21 forgive me. That to me is just that this is coming from
22 my heart, and I hope that each of you know, all know
23 that this is heartfelt. I am not a public speaker.
24 It's hard for me to get up here.

25 A little bit of history, and you've heard so

1 much passion about everybody, but my great-grandmother
2 was born the year that the Medicine Creek Treaty was
3 signed. In that, in our culture, we believe that our
4 grandmothers prayed for us in this most stressful,
5 unprecedented time with everything that they knew, their
6 entire way of life was taken away from them. If I gave
7 you ten minutes to write down the most valuable things
8 in your life and gave you two minutes to cross them all
9 off, how hard would that be? That's what my
10 great-grandmother had to go through. She lost her
11 language, her family, her way of life, her religion,
12 her -- her -- everything she knew. And she was given a
13 new name because hers was ugly and it was hard to say.
14 So her name's Elizabeth. We don't know her traditional
15 name.

16 My culture, we believe that our grandmothers
17 prayed for us in this -- in the time of genocide where
18 they lost their way of life. They prayed for us to know
19 who we are and where we come from. That was all they
20 could do because they were losing everything. My first
21 grandchild will be born in January. This precious baby
22 is my family's seventh generation. Today I pray that my
23 children and my children's children simply have clean
24 air and water. That they have the ability to exercise
25 their treaty rights that should not be treaty rights,

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1 they should just be their right. That they have the
2 ability to exercise their treaty rights, and I pray that
3 you hear me and that you hear all of us and that you
4 take it to heart.

5 The LNG plant pollutes our water, our air,
6 and jeopardizes our way of life. I don't support paying
7 a PSE rate increase that puts my future generations in
8 jeopardy. I think they should pay me. I think I should
9 get a discount for everything that I sacrifice if they
10 have a mistake, for everything that that takes away from
11 me. For the -- for the pollution that it puts in our
12 water that [inaudible] to our Salish Sea that is already
13 disgusting. There are signs all along there that say
14 that you can't eat the fish out of the Puget Sound
15 already.

16 I'm 43 years old. I'm the first generation
17 of my family that has been legally allowed to practice
18 and teach our traditional way of life, to speak our
19 language, and to perform our ceremonies. Indigenous
20 people all over are experiencing a cultural
21 revitalization like never before because we're the first
22 generation that's been allowed to do that. Let's say we
23 take away your church and you can't go back, and all of
24 a sudden that is given back to you and you can have
25 things to believe in and have faith again and you can

1 practice things that are in your blood.

2 If you know about DNA memory and the healing
3 that comes from that, when you're able to sing your
4 songs and do your traditional practices, it is in your
5 blood. That's the reason why we tap our feet when the
6 music starts because that is in our blood. It's in all
7 of us. That's human. My generation is the first one
8 that has been able to do that without fear -- legal fear
9 of persecution, prosecution, or death.

10 So you've seen the passion in my brothers
11 and sisters here speaking about the seventh generation,
12 about our culture, about Mother Earth. That's because
13 we're the first generation that has been allowed to
14 embrace that, that's been allowed to feel that healing,
15 that's been allowed to speak our language and have that
16 sense of pride and walk down the street and be Native
17 American and protect Mother Earth and have the sense of
18 unity like never before.

19 We're here defending our culture, our Mother
20 Earth not just for us, but for your children and your
21 children's children so that hopefully your children
22 don't get cancer from this LNG plant and that your
23 grandchildren don't have to watch them die. Don't have
24 to hold their hand as they die, and so that they're not
25 paying for a rate increase to do that. I should get a

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1 discount. It should be free. If you're going to
2 pollute me, I don't want to pay for that. That's not a
3 bonus. We live in undeniably one of the most beautiful
4 places on Earth. The Puget Sound is gorgeous. If
5 you've flown in here on a beautiful day after being in
6 the desert, you know what I'm talking about. It takes
7 your breath away.

8 We owe it to ourselves and our future
9 generations to protect and reserve what we have left.
10 The Tacoma tide flats is hideous, it's ugly, and it
11 should be beautiful. Commencement Bay should be
12 beautiful. You can close your eyes and imagine what it
13 once looked like down there, and the PSE LNG plant wants
14 to put this gigantic -- Kathy said everything about it.
15 I'm not going to reiterate what she said, but she's on
16 point. There's going to be burning gas vents at that
17 plant 24 hours a day, four massive burning vents. The
18 pollution that will come from those, that will wash
19 downstream, that we will breath, that will come through
20 that, just the visualization of it makes my skin crawl.
21 I don't want to pay for that.

22 As a ratepayer and caregiver for my elders,
23 I oppose PSE's rate increase. My elders are living on
24 Social Security. They can't afford to pay their rent as
25 it is. They're too proud to ask for help. They're

1 barely paying their light bill right now. Barely. My
2 stepmother lives on \$750 a month, her rent is \$450
3 because she has a really cheap landlord. Her light bill
4 is another \$250 a month in the wintertime. She can't
5 afford food, she can barely afford a cell phone. She
6 has to have a cell because she has medical problems and
7 has to be able to dial for help and make appointments.
8 It hurts me that she has to choose, that she has to eat
9 food that is not good for her, that is poison, because
10 she can't afford to eat organic.

11 As a caregiver for her and other vulnerable
12 populations that are the ones that are suffering through
13 and cannot afford this PSE rate increase, cannot afford
14 to put solar panels on their house, cannot afford
15 anything additional that is going to jeopardize their
16 health or their pocketbook. The cost of living is sky
17 high. To qualify for food stamps and DSHS and benefits
18 like that, it's still below poverty level. It's
19 ridiculous.

20 I work within the blast zone of PSE's plant.
21 I don't trust PSE to assure that I'm safe from pollution
22 or worst case scenario, an explosion. But I also don't
23 trust them to make sure that my neighbors' businesses
24 are safe, and there's only one route out of town if I'm
25 forced to evacuate. One route for what's the population

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1 down there? I don't even know. Thousands and
2 thousands, 80,000 people. I do not support paying PSE
3 to destroy my ancestral land. I do not support paying
4 PSE to put my life in danger every day. I do not
5 support paying PSE a rate increase to add a terrorist
6 target in my backyard and to add additional risk of
7 explosion or pollution.

8 My name is Carolyn DeFord. I'm an enrolled
9 Puyallup Tribal member, mother, daughter, a grandmother,
10 and a business owner, and I do not support PSE's rate
11 increase. Thank you for listening to me. I have a lot
12 of respect for you guys for staying late for us tonight
13 and being respectful to everybody here. Tacoma City
14 Council doesn't give us that. So thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Thank you. Thank you for
16 coming out tonight.

17 All right. Rhonda Hunter and Cathy
18 Carruthers, are you here?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Rhonda is not.

20 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Is there anyone else here
21 tonight who has not been called on? I think I have
22 called all the names, so you may have been out of the
23 room when we called, but come forward.

24 Proceed.

25 MS. CARRUTHERS: So you asked us to boil it

1 down, so I have. But my name is Cathy Carruthers. I
2 worked with Carmen [phonetic] Washington, and I will be
3 working with the alliance to pass initiatives to put a
4 tax on coal. And I appreciate the fact that you're
5 allowing us to speak and have stayed so late. I used to
6 work for the Department of Ecology for 21 years. We
7 never stayed this late to talk to people. I really
8 appreciate it.

9 I was wondering if I could ask that you
10 please make your rate decisions based on the expectation
11 that there will be a tax on carbon in the future. I
12 mean, remember last time, but we only spent \$5 million
13 and 600 people working part-time as volunteers to get 42
14 percent of the population moved from no to yes. And I
15 think that with further effort by the alliance and with
16 other options possibly on the table legislatively, it's
17 likely that sometime in the near future there will be a
18 tax on carbon.

19 That has obvious impact for the need for
20 Puget to plan the transition more rapidly away from coal
21 by wire. Please don't force ratepayers to pay for
22 capital investments like natural gas plants, which will
23 be subject to premature obsolescence if there is a tax
24 on carbon. There are IRP plans for more fossil fuel
25 use. They have a lot of natural gas plants in their

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1 potential. A green energy plan with high energy
2 efficiency in essence will protect ratepayers in the
3 long term instead of building toward losses under a
4 carbon tax in the future. And I think the carbon tax is
5 necessary to protect the environment, of course. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
8 much. Thank you for staying this late.

9 So I apologize if I called your name and
10 missed you. So what is your name, sir?

11 MR. STORMS: My name is Steven Storms.

12 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Steven Storms.

13 MR. STORMS: I'm a 37-year resident of
14 Tacoma and the area there.

15 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Did you sign in?

16 MR. STORMS: Yes, I did.

17 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Okay. I'm trying to keep
18 track of everybody here.

19 MR. STORMS: I think we signed in together,
20 but I don't --

21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Well, I missed
22 you both. So why don't you go ahead.

23 MR. STORMS: My background is I'm a retired
24 chemical engineer. I was also a licensed professional
25 engineer, and I usually talk about scientific and

1 engineering things, but today I'll -- enough has been
2 said about that, I think, so I'll speak a little more
3 from my heart. Right now, I'm looking at all the -- the
4 coal mines and the natural gas and -- and LNG plants,
5 I'm sort of concerned. I'm more than concerned, I'm
6 scared of what we're doing to ourselves especially in
7 the United States.

8 I've traveled to Europe before and driving
9 around you see all these solar panel farms all over the
10 place. You drive into the towns and nearly every house
11 has solar panels on it. There was one guy that was
12 talking about saying that he hoped that Puget Sound
13 Energy makes lots and lots of money. Well, my goal is
14 to put them out of business. I think we can do that.
15 Europe is headed that way real quick, and we are so far
16 behind. We don't need any more coal plants, we don't
17 need any more coal mines, we don't need any more LNG
18 plants. That's all obsolete, and if you spend precious
19 capital now, you're going to be wasting it in 20 or 40
20 or however many years, 50 years that you will still be
21 operating that trying to recover the cost much like PSE
22 is trying to do with the coal mines now. You don't want
23 to get caught in that trap.

24 We need to shut down as much fossil fuel as
25 possible, as soon as possible. Immediately, if not

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1 sooner. PSE is not an environmental company even though
2 it professes to be. Right now actually they're a
3 for-profit company, and right now they are suing the
4 State of Washington because they don't want to follow
5 the clean air rule. And the clean air rule says that
6 they have to reduce the carbon emissions by 1.7 percent
7 per year, and they can't meet that. They can't meet
8 that with their coal plants, they can't meet that with
9 their LNG plants, so they're suing the State of
10 Washington to prevent that.

11 That's something that should lead you to
12 believe that they're not looking out after our best
13 interest, they're only looking out after their profit.
14 We should be striving to spend capital on clean energy
15 whether it be solar or wind. We happen to be blessed
16 with the most unique place in the world for tidal
17 energy. I'm surprised that hasn't been mentioned today.
18 I look at it and I think that Washington ratepayers foot
19 the bill so PSE can continue to make -- continue the
20 polluting in order to make a profit.

21 In the LNG case, I think that they are
22 actually -- the Macquarie Group is looking to sell their
23 interest in PSE. I think they're probably looking to
24 get it as soon as they get the \$133 million investment
25 that the ratepayers are going to have to pay for the

1 plant. So please don't allow rate increases, please
2 shut down the coal plants as soon as possible, and
3 please don't allow the LNG plant to be built. Thank
4 you.

5 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you.

6 Mr. Roberts, went through the sheets. We
7 did not find a sign-in sheet that had Mr. Storms' name
8 on it. Is there another sign-in sheet that's around the
9 room here?

10 MR. ROBERTS: This is all of them.

11 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Okay. And I don't know --

12 MR. STORMS: We can sign in when we leave.

13 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Well, we can sign you in
14 here, just --

15 MS. REETZ: I was signed up before Val
16 Peaphon.

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: What's your name?

18 MS. REETZ: Nanette Reetz.

19 COMMISSIONER DANNER: Okay.

20 MS. REETZ: She spoke a while ago.

21 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Okay. Yeah, that was a
22 while ago. So all right.

23 MS. REETZ: Okay.

24 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Proceed.

25 MS. REETZ: Okay. My name is Nanette Reetz,

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1 and I'm a mother of three, grandmother, a 26-year
2 resident of northeast Tacoma, and also a business owner
3 in Pierce and in King County. I stand with everybody
4 that spoke before me about PSE needs to go coal-free by
5 at the latest 2025, hopefully sooner than that, and no
6 rate increases by PSE. I'd like to bring up that I was
7 here nearly a year ago, last -- last fall for our
8 hearing with you over the LNG, and we came down here on
9 a cold, rainy Wednesday night and a lot traffic, packed
10 this room, I think 80 to a hundred people, and we
11 appreciated you listening to us. We felt that it was
12 heartfelt. We thought you heard our concerns. We were
13 disappointed that you didn't. I feel you've made a
14 grave mistake by allowing PSE to become an LLC and
15 putting us on the hook for 43 percent of the bill, which
16 is somewhere around \$140 million.

17 The project is already over around \$35
18 million from 275- to 310-. And it's just, you know,
19 barely under construction. So where those costs are
20 going to end up, where are our costs going to end up?
21 There's no need for this. This is purely for profit.
22 PSE has spent nearly a million dollars in South Puget
23 Sound on their propaganda saying that this is needed for
24 peak shaving. On their website if you go to look at it,
25 they have one of the largest gas reserves in the United

1 States down -- it's at Jackson Prairie in Chehalis, and
2 they say specifically on their website, We have this gas
3 reserve so you will always -- we will always meet your
4 needs on the coldest days of the year.

5 So someone mentioned earlier they felt
6 duped, I feel really duped. And at that PSE hearing, we
7 thought we were being heard by you, disappointed that we
8 weren't. I think 140 people also sent in personal
9 comments by email or written letter, and we feel that we
10 weren't heard. We feel that this facility is being
11 forced upon us in Tacoma. We feel that the safety
12 regulations have not been properly evaluated. We feel
13 that corners have been cut by our City and they're not
14 qualified to be the lead agency. And there's many other
15 things that lead us to really be fearful of this plant.
16 And PSE has a bad track record in our area, and even the
17 gas line that they're going to use is from Williams
18 pipeline. They have one of the worst compliance in
19 safety records in the company that does that kind of
20 work.

21 So we were led to believe by you also that
22 there would be a safety hearing by the UTC before the
23 gas line was permitted and installed, and it's nearly 80
24 percent complete. It was put in through Pierce County
25 on a class C right-of-way permit that cost Pierce

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1 County -- or cost PSE \$49. And that's going through
2 tribal land. Their lands claims treaties are being
3 violated and there's no oversight. We're very concerned
4 about this, and we've asked numerous times, we need a
5 meeting with Bob Ferguson because this -- this is above
6 a level of -- we were misrepresented, and we weren't --
7 we weren't protected by you as ratepayers. So I ask
8 that you would consider your decision on allowing Puget
9 Sound Energy to become an LLC and put us, as ratepayers,
10 on the hook for -- for paying for it and also for being
11 in harms way. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
13 much.

14 Okay. Let's see, I have one more. Pamela
15 Hanson, are you here? Come forward.

16 Is there anybody else in the room who wishes
17 to speak tonight?

18 Okay. Ms. Hanson, please proceed.

19 MS. HANSON: Thank you, Commissioners. It's
20 a wonderful opportunity to testify before you. I would
21 like to testify in support of the Staff's recommendation
22 for a rate decrease. According to the press release in
23 front of me, it states that Staff recommends an overall
24 revenue reduction of 46 million, which is 2.2 percent
25 for electric and a reduction of 54 million, which is 6.6

1 percent for natural gas. Staff also proposed separate
2 residential electric rates for summer and winter. Under
3 the recommendation, the average residential electric
4 customer using 900 kilowatt hours a month would pay five
5 dollars and 21 -- excuse me, \$5.21 less in the summer
6 and \$2.62 less in the winter for an average monthly bill
7 of \$92.16 and \$94.75 respectively.

8 It is very late in the evening, and I don't
9 want to go into the minutiae of my State employment
10 background of utility evaluations that span 39 counties
11 and 281 cities. You have a tremendous responsibility in
12 the decision-making process for people, the people of
13 Washington State, and I truly thank you for letting me
14 film you. I did not intend to comment, but I really
15 could not let this input that I did not hear about the
16 Staff recommendation of a significant rate increase, and
17 let me -- let me quote this. (As read) PSE -- PSE filed
18 a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual 87
19 million or 4.1 percent overall rate increase for
20 electric customers, and an annual 22 million or 2.4
21 overall rate decrease for natural gas customers.

22 There's a significant difference in those
23 numbers, and so any financial person looking at just
24 those significant inconsistencies understands that Staff
25 really did look into it and really did go into the

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1 minutiae. So I would like to take the opportunity to
2 thank the Utilities and Transportation Commission Staff
3 for all the work they did in support of the people and
4 in support of you. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you very
6 much.

7 All right. Once again, is there anyone else
8 in the room who has not commented tonight who would like
9 to comment? All right. That brings us to the end of
10 this public comment hearing. I really do want to thank
11 everybody who took time out tonight. It's late and many
12 of you have been very patient, and I understand that we
13 started at 6 o'clock and some people got to speak at
14 6:05 and other people got to speak at 10:50. It's -- I
15 think it's really important, though, that we have the
16 benefit of your comments and observations and many of
17 them were very heartfelt and compelling.

18 I am -- we are -- we are going to continue
19 with this proceeding. We have had hearings. We have a
20 very large administrative record in this case, and we're
21 going to pore over all of it and do our best to make the
22 right decision. And so that's all I can say. If my
23 colleagues have any other comments they'd like to make.
24 If not...

25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Just thank you for

1 being here and your comments.

2 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Then we will be adjourned
3 for the evening. So thanks again for coming out.

4 (Hearing adjourned at 10:49 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Russell, a Certified Shorthand Reporter
in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify
that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to
the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

Tayler Russell



Tayler Russell, CCR 3358