



**To: Puget Sound Energy CEO, Kimberly Harris**

**From: The Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship Board of Directors**

**RE: Retirement of Colstrip Generating Station and replacement with 100% renewable energy sources**

November 13, 2017

As a faith-based group, and also PSE rate payers, we write to encourage you to retire the two remaining coal-fired generating units at the Colstrip Generating Station.

We also encourage you to retire these units no later than 2025 (earlier if possible), and replace them with clean 100% renewable energy sources – not natural gas.

Our congregation is one of over 1000 Unitarian Universalist member congregations throughout the United States, and even more congregations worldwide.

As member congregations we affirm and promote seven principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides.

As the governing body of our congregation, we believe four of these principles can also be applied as values to guide your decision to retire the Colstrip facility. We ask that you and other decision-makers consider these values in the decision-making process:

**1. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part**

The effects of climate change are becoming increasingly more significant. As these scientifically undeniable effects continue to disrupt our environment and ecosystems, it becomes increasingly imperative that new and different decisions be made. Decisions that honestly, accurately, and responsibly reflect the fact that fossil fuels like coal and natural gas contribute to climate change, and that swift action is needed to transition into clean, 100% renewable energy sources.

**2. The inherent worth and dignity of every person**

We ask that your decisions consider both the short-term and long-term implications of what it means to choose 100% renewable energy. Out of respect for the inherent worth and dignity of future generations – and the environmental legacy we leave them – we encourage you to make decisions that establish a basis for energy resources that are clean, non-polluting, and sustainable over the long run.

### 3. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

Throughout the transition into 100% renewable energy, it will be important to minimize any short-term rate increases that may result. In particular, we believe it is important to take special steps to protect lower-income households from increasing energy costs during this transition. We also believe it is vital to craft a plan that secures equitable outcomes for the existing workers and community where the Colstrip power plant is located.

### 4. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

It is well documented that climate change can intensify and even lead to civil disruption and war. Access to water, food, and habitable land are basic human needs. As a de-stabilizing force, climate change imperils these basic human needs. This is why we believe it is imperative to work quickly and diligently to transition into 100% renewable energy in order to foster conditions for the wellbeing of our global community.

We commend your previous decision to retire two of the four Colstrip power plants.

Now we encourage you to take the next step toward healthy sustainable energy production by retiring the remaining two coal-fired units no later than 2025, and replacing them with energy sources that are 100% renewable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship Board of Directors:

<u>Behrwhite, President</u>	<u>11/20/17</u>
<u>Thompson, Vice President</u>	<u>11/26/17</u>
<u>Jay A. Pruton, TREASURER</u>	<u>11/26/17</u>
<u>Wendy S. Bessner</u>	<u>11.26.17</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>11.26.17</u>
<u>Forest</u>	<u>12/3/17</u>
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