

Hello,

I am a PSE customer being provided with both electricity and natural gas on Vashon island. Generally, I am both satisfied with the PSE service and their per unit rate charged for both these utilities. I am concerned however about the external costs associated with some of the power generated by PSE and I appreciate this opportunity to discuss my concerns with this board of regulators.

I understand that PSE has proposed to continue the coal-fired operation of their Colstrip plants, Units 3 and 4, up to and perhaps beyond 2025. I understand also that PSE has considered plans to continue the use of these plants and perhaps even extend their life into the future with natural gas-fired boilers. I object to the use of any carbon-based, electric power generation beyond the year 2025, and I'd like to explain why.

As I'm sure this board would admit, there are environmental cost associated with any carbon-based power generation. The most obvious are the air and water pollution—common externalities which power companies make every attempt to mitigate but, in the end, a cost that is not included in their rate-based accounting. Costs picked up by society and thereby borne by all of us.

Recently, the most obvious externality ignored by industry and consumers alike is the excessive carbon dioxide that results from the burning of fossil fuels and ~~that~~ ^{These are} has rapidly accumulated in our atmosphere. Our scientific community predicts dire consequences related with this air pollutant—global warming, increased ~~the~~ forest fires, the damaging of ~~ocean~~ marine life and rising sea-levels—that many of us feel can no longer be ignored. It seems obvious that the full cost (and threat) of burning of fossil fuels should be internalized and accounted for in the regulation and rate-determination process.

With the potential of these negative consequence in mind, many of us are requesting the following:

- I.) That the use of carbon-based fuels in PSE's generation of electricity be eliminated as soon as possible (and no later than 2025),
- II.) That PSE redirects their planning towards a future of power generation without the use of carbon-based fuels.
- III.) That PSE open up their planning process so that their customers are apprised of the unit cost rate of a carbon-free power generation system.

On this last point: PSE and the board of regulators should be transparent about the full cost of an electric utility that operated in a sustainable manner which no longer ignores the cost of carbon dioxide-loading our atmosphere to the detriment of our progeny.

In summary, there are many of us who want to avoid the well-known, detrimental effects of PSE's fossil fuel-based power generation. Please help us attain these goals. *Thank you*

Sincerely,

Ward Carson
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