

January 18, 2018

RE: Docket Numbers **UE-160918** and **UG-160919** – **PSE Needs Guidance**

Dear WUTC Commissioners:

PSE recently made a big announcement about reducing its carbon footprint. I applaud the sentiment. I want my utility to reduce its carbon footprint. Reading their proposed plan, however, clearly shows they do not understand the crisis at hand or the need for dramatic action well beyond tweaks to business as usual. For example, in their announcement, they said "clean," but then clarified that they actually meant "non-coal generation." Generating plants that use fracked gas are not "clean" except in the outdated world of PSE. Clean energy sources don't leak polluting methane or other greenhouse gases into our air. I am a customer who wants clean energy that is really clean: renewable and without greenhouse gases.

The deaths from fires in California, followed by deaths from mudslides in the same areas, are examples of the horrors that already befall us from greenhouse gases we have been spewing into the air. We need to stop burning ALL fossil fuels as quickly as possible. There are proven alternatives now available. We need to move to these as quickly as possible to have any hope of saving our culture.

Gas is NOT a bridge fuel to cleaner energy. Gas, like coal, is a path to more runaway climate change. We need fossil fuel-free energy. Gas is bad, because of the release of carbon dioxide when it is burned, AND from the methane leakage associated with gas extraction. This added problem makes gas as bad as coal. Research shows that methane leakage is much greater than the gas industry says, and it is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. It is unconscionable to promote new uses of gas, to propose building gas peaker plants, or to build storage facilities for LNG. Fossil fuels must be left in the ground.

PSE also promotes the conversion of electric appliances and furnaces to gas among both residential and commercial customers (up to \$3,500, in some cases). While they recently decided to end the residential conversion promotion, it should never have existed, given what is known about greenhouse gases and the need to curtail them immediately. PSE's promotions should be for energy *conservation*, not for *conversion*.

PSE must not be allowed to continue outdated ways of generating energy (e.g. building gas peaker plants or keeping coal plants open), because they are set in their ways and not ready to adapt and change to what is currently available, proven to work in other states and countries, and critically needed. Do not allow another WPPSS (Whoops), requiring ratepayers to pay and pay for decades for nothing because of poor planning and timing.

As a customer of PSE, I should not be asked to pay for my own destruction, let alone for the destruction of the ecosystem I love. I want to be proud of my utility. While they may be moving in the right direction, they are not moving far enough or fast enough. Their actions do not back up their words. Please help them actually DO the right thing. We are depending on you.

Thank-you for your hard work under such challenging conditions.

Respectfully,



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