



August 25, 2017

Mr. Steven V. King
Executive Director
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Dear Mr. King:

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Energy Tariff Revision – Dockets UE-170033

The City of Olympia would like to take the opportunity to comment on Puget Sound Energy's ("PSE") upcoming Tariff Revision case referenced above. This letter and enclosed resolution, passed unanimously by the Olympia City Council on August 22, 2017, urges the Commission to establish a timeline for PSE to retire coal generated electricity from the Colstrip power plant and replace it with 100 percent renewable electricity.

Confronting climate change is a top priority for the City of Olympia. The City has established an emission reduction target of eighty percent by the year 2050. The City has demonstrated this commitment by passing several resolutions regarding emissions reductions, both locally and regionally. The City is committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors and will embark on a Climate Strategy later this year. This commitment will strengthen the community and economy by creating clean energy jobs and reducing utility bills. Earlier this year, the City also entered into a 20-year agreement with PSE to purchase 100 percent renewable energy from their Green Direct Program.

In order to meet Olympia's climate change goals, it is imperative that PSE retire the coal plant in Colstrip, Montana. The City of Olympia strongly urges the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission to establish a timeline for closure of Colstrip coal power plants 3 and 4 by, on or before 2025. The City further urges that the coal power be replaced with 100 percent renewable generation. This will substantially reduce environmental and public health risks associated with Colstrip operations and help our community reach their emission reduction goals.

Olympia thanks the Utilities and Transportation Commission for the opportunity to provide comments on the current PSE rate case.

Sincerely,

NATHANIEL JONES
Mayor Pro Tem

CS:dm
Enclosure

RESOLUTION NO. M-1898

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, AFFIRMING OLYMPIA'S COMMITMENT TO A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE, VOICING ITS FERVENT ENTREATY THAT THE COLSTRIP COAL PLANT IN ROSEBUD COUNTY, MONTANA BE RETIRED BY 2025, AND THAT COLSTRIP POWER BE REPLACED WITH RENEWABLE GENERATION, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, STORAGE, AND DEMAND RESPONSIVE GRID MANAGEMENT.

WHEREAS, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is the largest energy utility in Washington State with 1.1 million electric customers and 760,000 natural gas customers in Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties, and an electrical power generating capacity of about 3,000 megawatts; and

WHEREAS, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) continues to own and operate the Colstrip power plant, a coal-fired power plant in Montana that in 2015 released greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the annual emissions of approximately 3.5 million passenger cars; and

WHEREAS, PSE's sources of power are diversified to include, hydroelectric, natural gas, coal, wind and nuclear, with coal accounting for 32% of PSE's electricity fuel mix; and

WHEREAS, coal power production results in large quantities of air pollutants which are linked to asthma, lung disease and premature death, including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, mercury and fine particulates that lodge deep in the lungs; and

WHEREAS, ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that carbon pollution from coal, oil, and natural gas is warming our planet and creating extreme droughts, flooding, wildfires, and super storms; and

WHEREAS, all 16 years of the twenty-first century rank among the 17 warmest years on record; and

WHEREAS, global, human-caused climate change poses a grave threat to all life on Earth, already killing some 150,000 people every year around the world; and

WHEREAS, sea levels around the world have risen nearly 20cm since 1901, threatening the Olympia community with flood events of growing frequency and intensity; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the Olympia City Council passed Resolution M-1550, launching initiatives to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions, and establish goals for the reduction of total community greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Olympia City Council 1) adopted the City's Comprehensive Plan, establishing goals for community greenhouse gas emissions, 2) joined with numerous other Washington organizations to petition Puget Sound Energy to move away from coal-based power production, and 3) passed Resolution M-1803 expressing the Council's wish to collaborate with other municipalities within Thurston County to develop and implement actions which reduce community greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Olympia City Council passed Resolution M-1816, urging the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to account for the full economic, environmental and public health costs of coal-fired power generation, and urging PSE to promptly and efficiently move away from coal-based energy; and

WHEREAS, in April of this year, the City of Olympia agreed to enter into a 20-year agreement with Puget Sound Energy to purchase renewable energy through the Green Direct Program, purchasing 100% renewable energy for municipal operations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has signed on to the global Compact of Mayors, the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, and will soon adopt a local Climate Action Plan and complete a Sea Level Rise Response Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement has been signed by 195 nations, including the United States, with the goal of limiting global warming to less than 2° C above pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, the United States, as a signatory to the 2016 Paris Agreement, committed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council's most recent projections demonstrate that new natural gas infrastructure is unnecessary to meet the region's energy demands for at least a decade. The Conservation Council has instead called on northwest utilities to invest in 4,500 MW of conservation and 600 MW of demand response in its 20-year plan; and

WHEREAS, climate action strengthens our community and economy by creating clean energy jobs, reducing utility bills, and creating a laboratory for innovation; and

WHEREAS, two of the four boilers at Colstrip are now on a path to retirement, but PSE has indicated interest continuing to operate the two remaining boilers until at least 2035;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

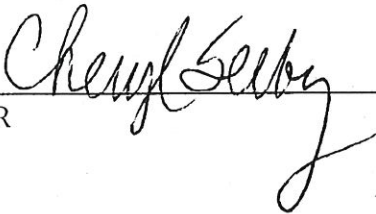
Section 1. The City of Olympia reaffirms its on-going commitment to partnering to create a clean energy future for the health, safety, and survival of our community and the greater

natural environment, and commits to strategies that will mitigate the pollution of the atmosphere with heat-trapping emissions.

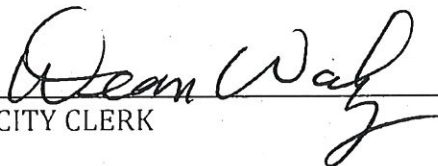
Section 2. The City of Olympia urges Puget Sound Energy to retire the Colstrip coal plant in Rosebud County, Montana, by 2025 and to replace Colstrip with 100 percent renewable generation, energy efficiency, storage, and demand responsive grid management.

Section 3. The City of Olympia urges the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission to establish a timeline for closure of Colstrip coal power units 3 and 4, by or before 2025, thereby reducing the financial, environmental, and public health risks associated with Colstrip operations.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this 22ND day of AUGUST 2017.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


CITY ATTORNEY

