



League of Women Voters of Thurston County

PO Box 2203

Olympia, Washington 98507

August 31, 2017

TESTIMONY AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON PUGET SOUND ENERGY'S 2017 RATE CASE Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Dockets UE-170033 & UG-170034

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County does not support allowing the Puget Sound Energy rate request that would pass expenses associated with the Colstrip Montana plant on to customers past 2025. By way of background, the League is a non-profit membership organization which neither supports nor opposes candidates or parties; League works to strengthen election systems. League also develops positions in multiple public policy areas, using them to advocate for public policy outcomes.

League positions support policies to assure the safety of communities, protect public health, maintain environmental quality, protect streams and estuaries, and reduce ambient and trans-boundary toxic air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. Based on these positions, we are opposed to this PSE request.

Instead, League wants the UTC to shorten the payment schedule for Units 3 and 4 at Colstrip to 2025. Making sure the units are paid for by 2025 is an important step in facilitating retirement of the units by 2025. This would help all communities in the PSE service territory with their electric generation emissions reduction targets. PSE needs to replace this dirty coal plant with renewable energy resources and more energy efficiency, but not with new gas plants that would use fracked natural gas. This would be congruent with the goals of the US Climate Alliance Coalition led by WA, California and New York states that are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We suggest that policymakers at all levels of government need to be aware of the ever more urgent warnings of atmospheric scientists that there is no time to waste in reducing the carbon footprint if there is to be any hope of avoiding the most serious consequences of global climate change -- that is, an earth that can no longer support human civilization.

Given these and the other well-founded concerns about the PSE rate request, the Thurston League urges that the requested permits be denied. The risks are simply too high.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Patricia Dickason, President

League of Women Voters of Thurston County
p.dickason@comcast.net



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