

TESTIMONY ON PUGET SOUND ENERGY'S 2017 RATE CASE

UTC Dockets UE-170033 & UG-170034

July 31, 2017

My name is Ronald Snell and I am a resident of Kirkland, WA. I want to thank the Commission for holding this hearing in Bellevue and making it easier for PSE rate payers to testify before you on this important rate case.

I am speaking to you first as a grandfather and second as a rate payer. My granddaughter lives here in Bellevue and attends Sacred Heart Elementary School. In the winter she snowboards with her dad and me and plays soccer during other parts of the year. She is a pretty typical Northwest kid. But I worry about the world we are leaving her and all of her classmates at Sacred Heart along with all the other kids of her generation. Will they have a world in which they can thrive or will they be forced to cope as best they can with a world that is degraded because of climate change. The single most important thing we can do for them today is to demand that PSE shut down its coal plant at Colstrip as soon as possible. The latest date for this shutdown should be 2025 when the Rosebud coal mine from which Colstrip receives its coal, is expected to exhaust the coal in the area it currently mines.

I also have concerns as a ratepayer. As long PSE continues to operate the plant at Colstrip, it will continue to accumulate toxic waste in its coal ash ponds, waste which will have to be cleaned up. If PSE insists on continuing to operate Colstrip ~~past 2025~~, ratepayers such as myself should not be responsible for the cleanup. Instead, PSE shareholders should pay the bill. I urge the UTC to build incentives into the rate structure what will force PSE to shut down Colstrip no later than 2025.

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