

## Puget Sound Energy's Rate Increase Request

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2017 August 31

I join with others in opposing any increase in Puget Sound Energy electricity rates for expenses and past capital investments to keep its remaining coal-fired power plants at Colstrip open beyond 2025. Rather PSE should close down its coal-fired power plants by 2025 as planned, and not pass on its costs to customers for continued use of these coal-fired plants. PSE should start planning to phase out its coal-fired plants now to ensure an orderly and successful transition. Nor should PSE substitute gas from fracking to generate electricity, but should use wind, solar, and energy-efficiency instead.

There are many reasons for PSE stopping using Colstrip by 2025. This would allow PSE communities to reach climate goals by 2025 and avoid expanding in an environmentally-damaging way the coal mine used to supply coal for Colstrip. Most importantly, it would contribute – symbolically and actually – to slowing climate change. We need look no further than the horrendous damage to physical structures and to human lives in Texas and Louisiana from the storm Harvey or to the forest fires, drought, and exceptional heat in the Pacific Northwest this year – all of which have been exacerbated by additional carbon in our atmosphere from burning coal and gas. No rate increase should be permitted for PSE to continue to affect people's lives adversely, even if indirectly.

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