

VE - 170033

UG - 170034

David Perk
Resident of Seattle
PSE rate payer for gas service

July 31, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement before the Commission. My comment is related to PSE's coal fired power plant in Colstrip, Montana.

This Commission has an opportunity to show the rest of the nation what a "Just Transition" looks like. You should make the most of it.

PSE should start working on a plan to shut down Colstrip boilers 3 and 4 by 2025.

We need to decarbonize our energy system, much faster than we currently are. New research gives us only a 5% chance of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, with median warming likely to be 3.2 degrees. Two degrees is considered the threshold for "dangerous" climate change. (1, 2)

I am concerned that PSE's majority shareholders favor fracked gas infrastructure and will seek to transition Colstrip to gas at precisely the time when we should be moving to a 100% renewable energy system.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 7th Conservation and Electric Power Plan clearly indicates that our region can meet its growing energy needs with efficiencies alone until 2030 (3).

Investing in gas infrastructure now would be a grievous mistake.

I am concerned that by focusing on profits rather than climate stability PSE will fail to act in a timely manner and when forced to act will pass along a rate shock to rate payers.

Thank you.

(1) ["We only have a 5 percent chance of avoiding 'dangerous' global warming, a study finds,"](#) Chis Mooney, Washington Post, July 31, 2017.

(2) ["Less than 2 °C warming by 2100 unlikely,"](#) Adrian E. Raftery, et al., Nature Climate Change, July 31, 2017.

(3) ["Seventh Northwest Conservation and Electric Power Plan,"](#) Northwest Council, February 25, 2016.