

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Dockets UE-170033 & UG-170034  
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Judy Twedt  
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Dear Commissioners Rendahl, Danner, and Balasbas,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today, and for hearing our concerns. My name is Judy Twedt. I am a doctoral student in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington, and my partner and I are PSE customers on Vashon Island.

Until last winter, I was conducting research in climate science, using supercomputers to study complex interactions between the atmosphere and sea ice in Antarctica. But when it became apparent that our national leader did not recognize the immense threats we face from global warming, I changed the course of my career and now work primarily on science communication. Climate change is the defining problem of our time, it calls on us to make difficult choices, and it brings me here today.

The externalized costs of coal are everywhere — in lowered air quality, contaminated drinking water, sea level rise and the thawing Arctic. Solving this problem requires a careful and concerted transition to clean energy as soon as possible.

King County signed onto a bold and forward-looking strategic climate action plan that commits to phasing out all coal-powered electricity by 2025. This plan is responsible, conservative, and in the best interests of PSE rate-payers. More smoky-hot summers, more deadly wildfires, more Hurricane Harveys -- these risks are urgent and costly. As a scientist and a citizen, I do not want us to pay the dangerous and expensive price of unchecked climate change.

We must keep our commitments to ambitious and hopeful climate action plans. To meet these goals, PSE must pay off and close its remaining 2 units in Colstrip by 2025. The decisions it makes now should reflect that goal. As Washingtonians, we can't allow PSE to kick the can down the road any further.

Thank you.

Judy Twedt