

WUTC v. Puget Sound Energy

Docket No. UG-230393 - Vol. II

November 1, 2023



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)
Complainant,))
vs.) Docket No. UG-230393
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,)
Respondent.))

PUBLIC HEARING - VIA ZOOM
VOLUME II | PAGES 30-96
CHAIR DAVID DANNER PRESIDING

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, Washington 98504

DATE TAKEN: November 1, 2023
TRANSCRIBED BY: ELIZABETH PATTERSON HARVEY,
FAPR, RPR, WA CCR 2731

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2
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15 ALSO PRESENT:
16 Andrew Roberts - Commission Staff
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1 November 1, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.
2 -o0o-
3
4 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you,
5 everyone. Good evening. This is a hearing of the
6 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to
7 hear comments from the public on a proposal filed by
8 Puget Sound Energy on May 25, 2022, for a new tariff
9 schedule to cover -- to recover costs associated with the
10 Tacoma liquefied natural gas facility in compliance with
11 the requirements of the commission's final order 24/10 of
12 its general -- recent general rate case in Dockets
13 UE-220066, UG-220067, and UG-210918.
14 My name is Dave Danner. I am chair of the
15 commission, and I am joined by my colleagues,
16 Commissioner Ann Rendahl and Commissioner Milt Doumit.
17 To give you a little background on what we're
18 going to be discussing tonight, in the petition that
19 Puget filed, they're seeking additional annual revenue of
20 47.6 million.
21 And again, by way of background, the Tacoma
22 LNG facility is a dual use project located at the Port of
23 Tacoma. And it liquefies natural gas that can be
24 vaporized and injected into PSE's gas distribution
25 service to serve as a peaking resource for regulated gas

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1 customers.

2 The LNG is also sold by Puget LNG, a wholly

3 owned subsidiary of PSE's parent company, Puget Energy,

4 to shipping customers on a nonregulated basis.

5 PSE states that at the end of 2022, the total

6 capital costs of the Tacoma LNG project were 489 million,

7 of which 243 million is proposed to be allocated to PSE's

8 regulated customers.

9 In the last general rate case, the commission

10 ruled that -- and I'm quoting -- PSE acted prudently in

11 developing and constructing the Tacoma LNG facility up

12 through the initial decision to authorize construction of

13 the facility on September 22, 2016.

14 But it also -- the commission made clear that

15 the parties may review and challenge the prudence of

16 later construction operating costs in a future

17 proceeding.

18 PSE seeks a determination from the commission

19 that the costs it incurred after September 22, 2016, were

20 prudent, and requests an additional 47.6 million in

21 annual revenue to recover depreciation expense, return on

22 their investment, and operations and maintenance expenses

23 associated with the regulated portion of the facility.

24 PSE is also requesting recovery of capital

25 costs, return on investment and operations and

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1 maintenance expenses, that were deferred through PSE's

2 accounting petition.

3 PSE proposes an annual filing to true up the

4 rates based on actual costs incurred and the revenues it

5 collects under this new tariff schedule.

6 PSE also proposes a new tariff schedule to

7 recover Puget LNG's allocated portion of the cost of a

8 four-mile distribution line which supplies the facility

9 with natural gas and allows the facility to serve as a

10 peaking resource for regulated gas customers.

11 The public counsel unit of the attorney

12 general's office represents the interests of the public

13 in rate proceedings before the UTC. Public counsel is in

14 attendance tonight, and if you have questions about the

15 case, you can reach out to public counsel at

16 utility@atg.wa.gov. That's utility@atg.wa.gov.

17 The commission will also accept comments in

18 writing.

19 I want to first recognize public counsel. I

20 believe Lisa Gafken is on the call this evening. Lisa,

21 would you identify yourself? There you are.

22 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: Yes. Good evening, Chair

23 Danner, and members of the public. I'm Lisa Gafken and

24 I'm an assistant attorney general that serves as public

25 counsel in this proceeding. And I'm very excited to see

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1 that we have a full room, and I'm looking forward to

2 hearing the comments this evening.

3 CHAIR DANNER: All right. And again, reaching

4 out at utility@atg.wa.gov; is that correct?

5 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: Yes, that is the correct

6 e-mail address.

7 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.

8 I will now recognize Andrew Roberts of the

9 commission staff, who will walk through the ground rules

10 of the hearing tonight and provide further information

11 about submitting comments to the commission.

12 Before I do that, Commissioner Rendahl and

13 Commissioner Doumit, do you have any remarks that you

14 would like to make before we get started?

15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I have nothing

16 additional to add. Thank you, Chair Danner.

17 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: I'm looking forward to

18 public comment. Thank you.

19 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you so much.

20 All right. Andrew Roberts, do you want to

21 give us the ground rules?

22 ANDREW ROBERTS: Absolutely. Good evening.

23 My name is Andrew Roberts, regulatory analyst with

24 commission staff.

25 We ask everybody to please mute their

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1 connection this evening unless they're called on to

2 speak. If you are participating via the Zoom

3 application, you can mute by clicking the microphone

4 icon. A slash will appear, indicating that the

5 microphone has been muted. If you called in, you can

6 press star 6 to mute yourself. When you're called on to

7 speak, you'll need to press star 6 to unmute yourself.

8 Please wait to be called on to comment, and do not

9 interrupt other speakers.

10 There are two options to report technical

11 difficulties tonight. You can use the chat feature in

12 Zoom, or you can call Ryan Smith at 360-664-1165. Once

13 again, to report technical difficulties, you can use the

14 chat feature or call Ryan Smith at 360-664-1165. The

15 chat feature should be used to report technical

16 difficulties and to ask to be added to the sign-in sheet.

17 We will not be accepting comments via the chat

18 feature. Please do not use the chat feature to provide

19 comments.

20 Closed captioning is available via the toolbar

21 at the bottom of the Zoom application.

22 Each speaker will be given two minutes to

23 provide comment. As you speak, we will display a timer

24 with the remaining time.

25 If you have questions about the case, please

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1 e-mail Comments@utc.wa.gov or call 888-333-9882.
 2 If you haven't provided your name yet and wish
 3 to speak, please put your first and last name into the
 4 chat bar. If you're calling in, please press star 9 to
 5 raise your hand and we'll call on you to provide your
 6 name and add you to the sign in sheet.
 7 Okay. I'm seeing a hand raised from a phone
 8 number ending in 6619.
 9 MR. SOVDE: Yes. This is Doug Sovde asking
 10 to be added to the list, please.
 11 ANDREW ROBERTS: Okay, Doug. Can you please
 12 spell your last name?
 13 THE WITNESS: Sure. S-O-V-D-E.
 14 ANDREW ROBERTS: All right. Thank you. I
 15 appreciate that.
 16 I don't see any more hands raised. If you're
 17 on the phone and would like to provide comment, please
 18 let us know now. If you're on the Zoom application,
 19 please type your name in the chat.
 20 CHAIR DANNER: All right, Andrew. It looks
 21 like you're getting a few more in the chat. What I would
 22 like to do -- I do not have a copy of the sign-in sheet.
 23 So I think we can get going today. I will just ask you
 24 to give me the names in the order that folks have signed
 25 up, and we will go forward.

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1 I want to make clear that this is a public
 2 comment hearing. The commissioners will be receiving
 3 comment. They will not be engaging the commenters in
 4 discussion. We will not be answering questions.
 5 If you have questions, again, I would ask you
 6 to speak with public counsel, Lisa Gafken, who just
 7 introduced herself, who is representing the interests of
 8 the public in this case.
 9 So with that, Andrew, do you want to basically
 10 give us the name of the first speaker tonight?
 11 ANDREW ROBERTS: Yes. Let me -- I'm working
 12 on pulling that up. I apologize for not sending that to
 13 you earlier. I will get that name for you and get that
 14 your way.
 15 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. If you want to send me
 16 the list, I can work from that as well.
 17 ANDREW ROBERTS: Okay. I believe Bridget
 18 just sent it your way. She was a little faster than me.
 19 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Thank you very much. I
 20 have received it, Bridget. Why don't we begin.
 21 Heather Jones, you have signed in. I'm not
 22 sure if you want to speak tonight. Have you decided?
 23 CHAIR DANNER: All right. I'm hearing
 24 nothing.
 25 Doug Sovde, would you like to speak?

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1 DOUG SOVDE: I'd actually like to not speak.
 2 I have questions, not straight comments. So I'll shoot
 3 an e-mail to the counsel. Thank you.
 4 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
 5 much.
 6 IRIS ANTMAN: Excuse me, Chair Danner. You're
 7 starting from the bottom of the last rather than the top
 8 of the list. I was the first one to sign in.
 9 CHAIR DANNER: I'm working from the list that
 10 was provided to me. If you were the first to sign in, I
 11 will take you at your word. And tell me your name,
 12 please.
 13 IRIS ANTMAN: Thank you so much. My name is
 14 Iris Antman, A-N-T-M-A-N.
 15 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. I'm sorry. I apologize.
 16 I do not have you on my list.
 17 ANDREW ROBERTS: Iris was the first to sign in
 18 during the meeting today, not the first to sign in in
 19 advance.
 20 CHAIR DANNER: Again, she's not on the list.
 21 But I would --
 22 IRIS ANTMAN: I signed in at 5:45.
 23 CHAIR DANNER: Instead of discussing it, why
 24 don't you go ahead and speak, and we'll make sure you're
 25 heard.

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1 COMMENTS BY IRIS ANTMAN
 2 IRIS ANTMAN: Thank you so much. I appreciate
 3 it. And I apologize for my impatience.
 4 Good evening. My name is Iris Antman. And
 5 I'm a PSE gas customer. I'm testifying against the rate
 6 increase proposed by PSE. PSE is a private for-profit
 7 utility, currently owned by a company based in Australia
 8 that favors shareholders over customers. We are being
 9 asked to pay for the Tacoma LNG facility.
 10 The Puyallup Tribe and Earthjustice are still
 11 appealing the permits for this controversial facility in
 12 court. The pollution from this facility will
 13 disproportionately impact already overburdened and
 14 already marginalized communities, namely the Puyallup
 15 Tribe and immigrants living in the Northwest Detention
 16 Center.
 17 PSE claims the facility will provide cleaner
 18 fuel for marine shipping, but this claim has been
 19 debunked. Studies show that LNG is just as (inaudible)
 20 for the climate as other marine bunker fuels when life
 21 cycle emissions are counted. The IMO, the International
 22 Maritime Organization, ruled a few years ago these life
 23 cycle emissions must be taken into account when measuring
 24 emissions. LNG is not a cleaner fossil fuel.
 25 In addition, the Tacoma LNG facility is

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1 predicated on PSE's false assertion that public demand
 2 for natural gas will increase. But this ignores the
 3 reality of growing demand for electric heat pumps instead
 4 of gas heating, as well as local and state regulations
 5 moving to curtail the use of gas in buildings.
 6 The Utilities and Transportation Commission
 7 can stop approving rate increases that force customers to
 8 pay for new or expanded fossil fuel structure. You have
 9 the power and the responsibility to act in the public
 10 interest.
 11 The time for fossil fuels is over. It goes
 12 against the consensus of scientists and public
 13 policymakers to expand fossil fuel infrastructure in this
 14 time of climate breakdown. Please do not favor,
 15 encourage, and reward dead-end energy products --
 16 projects and the companies that peddle them. Thank you
 17 so much.
 18 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you for your
 19 comments.
 20 All right. Now we're going to move back to
 21 the sign-in sheet. These are people who signed in before
 22 the hearing today.
 23 And I believe I was asking a Dahlia Harris
 24 (phonetic) if you had comments you wish to make
 25 tonight? Dahlia Harris?

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1 All right. Maria Gonzales (phonetic), do you
 2 wish to speak tonight?
 3 Tessa Zuthoff (phonetic)? Would you like to
 4 speak this evening?
 5 Abduk al Harasi (phonetic), are you there and
 6 wish to speak tonight?
 7 IAN STRINGER: My name is Ian Stringer. I was
 8 right behind Iris. So I'm calling on --
 9 CHAIR DANNER: I am working off of a list of
 10 people who signed up before the hearing. So they have
 11 signed up long ago. And we're going to go through that
 12 list first and we will get to you.
 13 IAN STRINGER: I'll do that.
 14 CHAIR DANNER: We'll get to everyone tonight.
 15 So thank you.
 16 Beverly Zimmerman (phonetic), do you wish to
 17 speak tonight?
 18 BEVERLY ZIMMERMAN: No. No. I would just
 19 like to thank you.
 20 CHAIR DANNER: Yeah. Thank you very much.
 21 Rosario Archer (phonetic), do you wish to
 22 comment tonight?
 23 Callie Palmer (phonetic), would you like to
 24 comment tonight? Callie Palmer?
 25 Jamie Vannoy (phonetic), would you like to

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1 comment tonight?
 2 Valerie Strickland (phonetic), would you like
 3 to comment tonight?
 4 All right. Anne Kroeker? Would you like to
 5 speak tonight?
 6
 7 COMMENTS BY ANNE KROEKER
 8 ANNE KROEKER: Yes, I would. It takes me a
 9 couple minutes here. Yes, please.
 10 One of my questions is I don't know how --
 11 that the commission figures the rate hikes, but I am --
 12 would urge that if they don't consider the difference
 13 between the investor-owned, which is really not
 14 consumer-owned -- it sounds great, but it's really for
 15 pension funds who are expecting a certain rate of return
 16 no matter what -- versus the actual public utilities,
 17 which are consumer-owned, because the investor-owned do
 18 not have any responsibility for the -- what they -- what
 19 they start, such as a fossil fuel infrastructure and
 20 whether that's the right thing to do, and whether it
 21 makes money for them, and whether they follow through.
 22 They have no responsibility because they can just send on
 23 all of the costs to the consumers, no questions asked,
 24 except for the UTC. And so in this case this is exactly
 25 what is happening.

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1 And while there are Washington state
 2 investments in fossil fuels for their pension funds, who
 3 are trying to get out of it, trying to change that way,
 4 and that will be different in the future. And we hope
 5 that if we can put off having to pay for this egregious
 6 plant that PSE has put in and passed on the cost, no
 7 matter what, that in the future we will not have to pay
 8 for this when we know it is wrong, and that this will be
 9 a difference between what we all will be able to accept
 10 for the future or not. So thank you very much for
 11 listening to my comments tonight.
 12 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you. And thank you for
 13 participating in our hearing this evening.
 14 All right. Pat Montgomery, do you have
 15 comments you wish to make this evening?
 16 PAT MONTGOMERY: No, I don't. Not here.
 17 CHAIR DANNER: All right.
 18 PAT MONTGOMERY: (Inaudible).
 19 CHAIR DANNER: I'm sorry. All right. That's
 20 fine.
 21 So other names we have on the list, Brad
 22 Barton?
 23 BRAD BARTON: Yes, I'm here.
 24 CHAIR DANNER: Yes, go ahead, sir.
 25

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1 COMMENTS BY BRAD BARTON
2 BRAD BARTON: Thank you. So I'm a middle
3 school science teacher. I teach children. And the
4 reason I'm here today is I'm concerned about all the
5 elementary and middle schools in the blast zone
6 I realize it's built on landfill. There's an
7 earthquake fault right near there. And there's a good,
8 you know, chance -- and also, it's right in the line of
9 flight for like, somebody like the barefoot bandit to fly
10 into the thing. You know, it's in the middle of a huge
11 city rather than out in the middle of nowhere where it
12 should be.
13 So I'm really just thinking that a rate
14 increase is basically condoning that kind of unjust and
15 safety issue. And I don't think it's good to have people
16 start paying towards something that really shouldn't be
17 there in the first place. I mean, we can't lose all
18 these children if this thing, you know, ends up being
19 compromised.
20 And I also teach chemistry, so I know what
21 methane can do when it spreads out in liquid form, you
22 know, over a large area and finally gets ignited.
23 It just makes no sense, then, to have people,
24 you know, poor people and everything start paying to fund
25 this thing that shouldn't be there. And it's dangerous

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1 in the first place, should never be in major metropolitan
2 area. As a teacher, it just makes me, you know -- and as
3 a chemistry teacher, it just makes me wonder what's going
4 on.
5 And also that they -- you know, they don't
6 even have to pay for any damages. They have, like, a way
7 to get out of paying for it if anything does happen, you
8 know, which is what -- PSE basically gets out of any
9 responsibility for anything they do. And, you know, this
10 is just another example, you know.
11 They haven't even -- they built it without any
12 regulations. They didn't care what the Puyallup people
13 said. They just went ahead. And that's just how they
14 operate. And it should be stopped.
15 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you for your
16 comments, Brad Barton.
17 All right. Penny Rowe, do you wish to speak
18 this evening? Penny Rowe?
19 All right. Ian Stringer?
20 IAN STRINGER: Yes. Thank you for the
21 invitation. Can you hear me?
22 CHAIR DANNER: Yes, we can hear you. Thank
23 you.
24 COMMENTS BY IAN STRINGER
25 IAN STRINGER: Yes. I've been working in the

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1 utilities industry for 13 years. And, you know, I don't
2 quite understand what you guys are trying to do, but I've
3 worked over in the Eastern Washington sector, you know,
4 with Douglas County, you know. And anything that they do
5 within their own county, they don't pass it off to other
6 counties just because, you know, they have the
7 stranglehold that it seems that PSE has in King County,
8 Pierce County, Snohomish County, et cetera.
9 Anything that you guys should -- are doing
10 should really be, you know, handled within the county
11 that you're working in. And to raise the rates on other
12 individuals, you know, up north on a project that you're
13 working down south just doesn't seem fair. And, you
14 know, maybe I'm not, you know, educated enough to know
15 exactly what you're doing; however, it's just a matter of
16 why should I be paying for something that you're building
17 in Tacoma when I live, you know, north of that, you know,
18 in the city of Kent?
19 And you know, if I'm off base, then I
20 apologize. But that's my point for this evening. Thank
21 you so much.
22 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you for your
23 comments. Appreciate it.
24 Howard Harrison?
25 HOWARD HARRISON: Yes, I'm here.

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1 CHAIR DANNER: Go ahead, sir.
2
3 COMMENTS BY HOWARD HARRISON
4 HOWARD HARRISON: I would like to speak.
5 Okay. I'm Howard Harrison. I live in Redmond
6 and I'm a PSE customer.
7 I'm here to strongly urge the UTC denying
8 PSE's request for a rate increase to pay for the
9 construction of the illegally built LNG plant. It was
10 built on tidal flats on Puyallup land without their
11 permission, which is a violation of their treaty rights.
12 PSE built the LNG plant on a hazardous waste
13 Superfund site without a required permit and with the
14 overwhelming objections of Tacoma residents and PSE
15 customers.
16 Only two percent of the fracked gas would be
17 used for PSE customers, and yet PSE is asking ratepayers
18 to pay for it. This is outrageous on so many levels.
19 This fossil fuel plant adds to greenhouse
20 emissions at a time when we should be shutting down these
21 plants. Our planet is burning while PSE is adding fuel
22 to the fire. This plant should be permanently shut down,
23 and PSE should be held accountable for this boondoggle.
24 No rate increase. Thank you.
25 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very

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1 much.

2 HOWARD HARRISON: -- (inaudible).

3 CHAIR DANNER: Kathe Smith? Are you there?

4 Did I pronounce your name correctly?

5 KATHE SMITH: I am here.

6 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Please go ahead.

7

8 COMMENTS BY KATHE SMITH

9 KATHE SMITH: I'm Kathe Smith. I'm a resident

10 of Thurston County, a PSE customer. I'm active with

11 Washington Interfaith Power and Light, and I work

12 nationwide with faith communities to utilize the

13 Inflation Reduction Act and to decrease carbon emissions.

14 My comment transcends the rate effect of the

15 proposal before the commission, and asks the commission

16 to look at our responsibilities as stewards of the gift

17 of creation. While science clearly points out that we

18 need to stop our carbon emissions now, the faith

19 community also seeks to preserve life -- earth's

20 life-sustaining ability as we know it. We have a

21 Biblical mandate to care for and protect our God-given

22 creation.

23 The Tacoma LNG facility development flies in

24 the face of voter-mandated legislation to lead our

25 country in decreasing carbon emissions. It has no place

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1 in Washington state. Thank you for this opportunity to

2 comment.

3 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much, Kathe

4 Smith, for your comments tonight.

5 Lynn Fitz-Hugh?

6

7 COMMENTS OF LYNN FITZ-HUGH

8 LYNN FITZ-HUGH: Yes. Before you start the

9 timer, is it possible to show my camera as was the case

10 before the meeting started?

11 CHAIR DANNER: Show your camera meaning you

12 wish to show a document to us?

13 LYNN FITZ-HUGH: No, I just wish to be visible

14 instead of a white box.

15 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Yeah. This is not my

16 department here, but I can see your face. You are on the

17 side. So I do see you.

18 I also see, though, that your white sheet is

19 much larger than your video.

20 LYNN FITZ-HUGH: I haven't seen anybody else

21 who testified. But okay. That's good to know. Thank

22 you for letting me know that.

23 And now I'll start. My name is Lynn

24 Fitz-Hugh. I am testifying tonight as one of PSE's

25 hostage customers, by which I mean that they are the only

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1 utility in my county, and I have no choice but to be

2 their customer.

3 And I am outraged that they are asking for

4 this rate increase. I have testified before you at least

5 three other times, perhaps four, opposing the building of

6 the LNG plant without permit. And so it's a complete

7 moral offense to me that I would be asked to pay more for

8 something that I have opposed from the beginning. I have

9 opposed it because of its negative greenhouse gas effects

10 and because of the potential of it exploding and

11 polluting all of Puget Sound. But those are only my

12 reasons Number 2 and 3.

13 The most important reason to me is because it

14 is on Puyallup land, and they have asked for it not to be

15 built there. To me, this is the continuation of

16 colonization in the United States. To take and to defile

17 and extract from native lands, to make me pay them to do

18 something I oppose, heart, mind and soul, feels immoral.

19 You have stated before that you do not have

20 the power to stop PSE from doing certain things, but that

21 you do have the power to regulate their rates. Do not

22 reward them for this -- doing this thing against the

23 tribe's will. Make them bear the cost of this immoral

24 behavior.

25 And by the way, why have I already received a

Page 53

1 notice from them saying that my rates will go up? Just

2 putting in my heat pump now. Time to get free.

3 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much

4 for your comments.

5 Dakota Rash (phonetic), are you there?

6 DAKOTA RASH: Good evening. Can you hear

7 me?

8 CHAIR DANNER: Yes, we can. We cannot see

9 you, so if you wish to turn your video on, you may. You

10 don't have to.

11

12 COMMENTS BY DAKOTA RASH

13 THE WITNESS: That's okay. I'm taking a

14 walk. So I'm not (inaudible) for now.

15 Good evening, all. Thank you for the

16 opportunity to comment. My name is Dakota Rash.

17 I'm absolutely aghast at what PSE is asking

18 for. I and other people in my generation and generations

19 to come deal with daily severe climate anxiety because we

20 see the trajectory we are on, and it's a trajectory

21 towards a planet that is not livable.

22 And so now, here comes PSE. And it's squaring

23 this up, looking us dead in the eye, and it's saying pay

24 us. Pay us for doing this to you. And it's horrendous.

25 PSE will sing its song and dance. They will say no,

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1 we're green. We're doing renewable energy credits. We
 2 are -- you know, we're doing all this great stuff.
 3 It's an absolute lie. Their internal
 4 documents reveal that if they were not state mandated to
 5 be switching to cleaner energy sources, their emissions
 6 would go right back up. And it's terrifying.
 7 They don't care about me. They don't care
 8 about generations to come. They don't care about any of
 9 us. They care about money. That's all.
 10 And so now, I turn to you all. You all are
 11 leaders. You all are in positions of responsibility.
 12 And so it is now your calling to please stand between us
 13 and this monster that wants to consume us all for its own
 14 short-sighted gratification. Please do that. Please be
 15 the historic turning point that we need to stand up to
 16 these bullies. Thank you.
 17 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
 18 much, Dakota Rash.
 19 Katherine Barlow (phonetic)?
 20 KATHERINE BARLOW: Yes, I'm here.
 21 CHAIR DANNER: Are you there? Yes, go ahead.
 22
 23 COMMENTS BY KATHERINE BARLOW
 24 KATHERINE BARLOW: My name is Katherine
 25 Barlow. I am a PSE customer. Like previous commenters,

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1 I don't have a choice in my area on what utility to use.
 2 I'm forced to use PSE if I want any electricity in my
 3 home.
 4 I have been opposed to the LNG facility since
 5 before it was built. I really wish I didn't have to be a
 6 PSE customer, but unfortunately, I do. I am very against
 7 having to pay a rate increase to pay for the LNG plant
 8 that I am extremely opposed to.
 9 I'm an environmental science major in school
 10 right now. And the effects of methane on our system is
 11 something I don't think is talked about enough. Methane
 12 is an extremely potent natural gas and greenhouse gas,
 13 and we should be doing everything in our power to stop
 14 any of it getting into our atmosphere, compounding on to
 15 the carbon that we're already putting in there.
 16 The LNG plant is also built on Puyallup land.
 17 It's still in appeal from the Puyallup Tribe and
 18 Earthjustice because it's controversial and they didn't
 19 have the proper permits for it. So I think that's a huge
 20 reason that I shouldn't have to pay for it, shouldn't
 21 have to pay for continuing colonization.
 22 And like I said before, I wouldn't have a
 23 choice in paying it. It's not like I can get Tacoma
 24 Power or anything else out here. So I would have no
 25 choice but supporting this if I want electricity.

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1 So I am very against having a rate increase.
 2 I know that the cost of projects is often what the UTC
 3 looks at. And I just want you to consider that it's not
 4 always a financial cost that comes with these things.
 5 There is, like I said, the methane emissions; there's the
 6 violations on indigenous sovereignty; there's rates of
 7 cancer and birth defects; there's dangers of explosions.
 8 All these things are costs that should be considered.
 9 Thank you.
 10 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.
 11 Appreciate your comments.
 12 Aife Pasquale? Are you there?
 13
 14 COMMENTS BY AIFE PASQUALE
 15 AIFE PASQUALE: Hello. My name is Aife
 16 Pasquale. And I'm a resident of South End Tacoma, and
 17 also a customer of PSE. I'm also a member of Climate
 18 Alliance of the South Sound.
 19 And I urge you to oppose letting them increase
 20 rates. I think that families are already struggling to
 21 pay their bills, and shouldn't have to pay for PSE's --
 22 you know, their poor investment choices.
 23 I think they should be divesting from fossil
 24 fuels and replacing them with infrastructure projects
 25 that you have, you know, true green energy. I'm sick of

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1 this greenwashing, and also then putting the pressure on
 2 their customers to pay for what greedy companies want to
 3 take from us.
 4 I also think that by approving reimbursement
 5 for this infrastructure, it's a violation of indigenous
 6 sovereignty. We have a treaty in place that we should be
 7 observing.
 8 And there's also health impacts to nearby
 9 communities; not only the indigenous people, but also
 10 many people being detained within the Northwest Detention
 11 Center who will be impacted by this.
 12 And -- yeah. Thank you.
 13 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you for your
 14 comments. Appreciate it.
 15 John Davis (phonetic), are you there?
 16
 17 COMMENTS BY JOHN DAVIS
 18 JOHN DAVIS: Yes. Yes. This is John Davis.
 19 I'm a Puyallup resident, a Puget Sound Energy user.
 20 And just quickly commenting that there's a lot
 21 of factors here. Obviously some people have noted
 22 already they feel it's an environmental issue. It's a
 23 serious one. But I'm not in the same camp as them
 24 because there's a lot of scientists that would refute
 25 their rhetoric.

1 But anyway, my point is that Puget Sound
2 Energy has been and always will be at this point, to my
3 knowledge, a for-profit company. And during the time
4 we're in now, where all of our societies are just being
5 bled due to taxes and inflation, this is absolutely the
6 worst time to even consider adding a rate. There's a lot
7 of folks that barely can make their energy bills monthly
8 or bimonthly for either gas and/or electric.

9 And also, this structure, I have to question
10 the actual need for it at this point. Maybe I don't
11 understand all the workings of the facility you built.
12 But it just appalls me that without permits you were able
13 -- Puget Sound Energy was able to put this thing together
14 and force it into play.

15 But what bothers me more is that the tax --
16 the individual end user has to pay for -- such a great
17 sum for something that will profit Puget Sound Energy in
18 the end. And I think it's just -- you guys need to
19 really rethink about your funding and how you came about
20 to just arbitrarily start charging great sums of money to
21 those who -- many of who can't afford it.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you for your
24 comments. I appreciate it.
25 Joseph Sellers (phonetic)?

1 33 years on this earth, I still hold faith that you might
2 just do it. Thank you.

3 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
4 much. Appreciate it. Kathy Webb, are you there?

5 KATHY WEBB: Yes. But I don't --

6 CHAIR DANNER: Please go -- I'm sorry. You
7 don't wish to speak?

8 KATHY WEBB: Yes, mm-hm.

9 CHAIR DANNER: Okay.

10 KATHY WEBB: Thank you.

11 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you.
12 Bob Vadas -- I don't know if I pronounced that
13 right. Are you there?

14 BOB VADAS: Yes I'm here. Do you hear me?

15 CHAIR DANNER: Yes.

16
17 COMMENTS BY BOB VADAS

18 BOB VADAS: Yes. I wish to speak. So anyway,
19 I'll put my camera on as well temporarily.

20 I wish to point out that -- well, first of
21 all, for the speaker who called scientific data
22 "rhetoric," data is not rhetoric. It is actual people
23 seeing what's actually happening with their eyes and
24 their instruments and everything else. And climate
25 change is real.

1 JOSEPH SELLERS: Yeah, I'm here.
2 CHAIR DANNER: Yeah. Go ahead, sir.

3
4 COMMENTS BY JOSEPH SELLERS

5 JOSEPH SELLERS: All right. My name is Joseph
6 Sellers. I'm speaking to you from the land of varying
7 Coast Salish tribes.

8 And I'm here implore you not to raise or allow
9 the rate hike. And I mean, it's for really every reason
10 under the sun. There's still -- so people are already
11 struggling. Right now is a terrible moment for a rate
12 hike.

13 There are appeals in the courts over the
14 permits of the facility.

15 They're not a company that is investing here
16 the way that they should be. They're -- everything about
17 this is kind of ridiculous. I mean, I just want to echo
18 everything that has been said before me.

19 But did anyone have any doubt that every
20 person speaking tonight would be speaking in opposition
21 to this? Like the fact that we even have to spend our
22 time on this is disappointing. And it -- yeah, I just --
23 I'm disappointed in the current state of things.

24 And I hope you all know -- I mean, I know you
25 know what the right thing to do is. And I still, after

1 And so that, in addition to the people's
2 financial concerns, keep in mind that methane is a gas
3 that is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide, even
4 though it has an order of magnitude shorter half life.
5 So overall, it is not a good deal, okay?

6 And for somebody like myself, who tries to
7 walk the talk, I did switch to renewable natural gas. I
8 didn't want to have the LNG anymore. And I have solar
9 power.

10 So we're in a world where things are rapidly
11 changing climate-wise. I mean, this year, I do work,
12 research on the Olympic Peninsula. The water deficit
13 there is amazingly bad. And these are things that lead
14 to extinctions of trout and salmon populations if they go
15 long enough.

16 So you -- and the other factor is, you know, I
17 live in Thurston County, so I'm not that close to Tacoma.
18 And a lot of us, you know, want to do the right thing.
19 And this is not the right thing. And I don't want there
20 done in my name. Why should we be paying for something
21 we don't even agree with, and are trying to do the things
22 that we need to do as individuals to reduce our carbon
23 footprint.

24 So definitely oppose the rate increase, and as
25 it were, down under, they've got major climate change

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1 problems. So they should know better. So I'll leave it
 2 at that. Thank you. Yeah.
 3 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much
 4 for your comments.
 5 Gemini Knoll (phonetic), are you there?
 6 THE WITNESS: Yes, it's Gemini. Thank you.
 7 CHAIR DANNER: Gemini, thank you. Okay.
 8
 9 COMMENTS BY GEMINI KNOLL
 10 GEMINI KNOLL: Yeah. Thank you. And I just
 11 want to say, like, thank you for being here. I don't
 12 know -- you can start the timer.
 13 My name is Gemini. I'm with Climate Alliance
 14 of the South Sound. I live in Tacoma, in the South End.
 15 That's in Pierce County.
 16 And I wanted to say thank you guys for being
 17 here. I don't know if you're, like, on the clock or if
 18 this is part of your job or something. I know it's
 19 probably just like another Wednesday for you, like
 20 another call.
 21 So I want to, like, try to ground us and
 22 appeal to you as a fellow person, that, like, this stuff
 23 really impacts us. You know what I mean? It really
 24 messes with us. It makes the quality of life for us
 25 worse down here. It puts our lives in danger, you know.

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1 I don't know what county you live in, but,
 2 like, us working class people, like, you know, we make
 3 your coffee in the morning; we cook your food for you; we
 4 make all your stuff. Like, I appeal to you to think
 5 about us when making these kinds of decisions, you know.
 6 Hiking our bills is one thing.
 7 And I don't know how much you can do to,
 8 like, appeal the building of this thing, but, I mean,
 9 it's illegal. This is a breach of treaty rights. This
 10 is an affront to the ongoing genocide of Puyallup people.
 11 This is -- this is -- it's bad on so many
 12 myriad fronts that, like, you know, I can't even say in
 13 two minutes. And I'm really impressed and proud of
 14 everybody else on this call who brought, like, such
 15 powerful and personal messages to this. So I want to
 16 thank everybody on this call. I know there was, like, 81
 17 of us in here a minute ago.
 18 And I don't know. I hope this resonates with
 19 you. And it means a lot to us. It means a lot to the
 20 people who are forcibly detained in the Northwest
 21 Detention Center; it means a lot to the Puyallup people,
 22 the people who live in Tacoma. As people mentioned, the
 23 kids, the families, and everybody who's going to have to
 24 bear the brunt of this for profit for LNG.
 25 We already make them all the profit they'll

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1 ever have, right? It is working class people who are
 2 making the gas and building the facility and doing this.
 3 Everything they have is because of us. And they want to
 4 screw us over. Come on, man. Thank you.
 5 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.
 6 Toby Joseph Sr.?
 7 TOBY JOSEPH SR.: Yes.
 8 CHAIR DANNER: Yes, go ahead.
 9 TOBY JOSEPH SR.: Okay. One second here.
 10 Can you hear me?
 11 CHAIR DANNER: Yes, I can.
 12
 13 COMMENTS BY TOBY JOSEPH SR.
 14 TOBY JOSEPH SR.: Okay. So my name is Toby
 15 Joseph Sr. I am the executive director of Consultants
 16 for Indian Progress, a native-led nonprofit that -- I too
 17 would like to say thank you and gratitude to all of the
 18 people that have shown up tonight, because for me, these
 19 are more than talking points.
 20 I'll start with I've lived here since the
 21 early '70s because of forced relocation with the Indian
 22 relocation program that I didn't have a choice in coming
 23 here.
 24 But coming here, this place has become home.
 25 I grew up on the streets. The Hilltop has been my home.

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1 I watched Hilltop be gentrified in a decade and go from
 2 80 percent people of color to 70 percent white people.
 3 That there's a system of extraction that is the
 4 colonization of not just Indian country, but of every
 5 place that has been a resource on this planet.
 6 What frustrates me is that these things that
 7 are identified as talking points, how they play out, I
 8 have had to work hard so that in 30 years of marriage,
 9 the 42 foster kids, the 11 kids that are the her, mine,
 10 and ours, and my own three biological children have never
 11 known homelessness; not like I did. They didn't live in
 12 the streets under bridges. They don't know what it's
 13 like to go without like that.
 14 And it has been harder and harder and harder
 15 that this September was the first time I ever came home
 16 and my lights were out.
 17 I cannot express to you what these rate hikes
 18 are doing in a tangible way that it seems the oligarchy
 19 that run the systems of Tacoma/Pierce County -- I don't
 20 know how to say it so that they'll understand, because I
 21 remember giving testimony at some of the very first
 22 hearings. And in that space as well, people didn't want
 23 this to happen, yet it still happened.
 24 Referencing the new movie that just came out,
 25 Killing [sic] of the Flower Moon, there is an extractive

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1 piece that isn't just about the Puyallup Tribe, but
 2 indigenous people in this region. And we'd hope that you
 3 guys do something that's better. This is --
 4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Agreed.
 5 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
 6 much.
 7 I am going to -- Kathy Webb (phonetic), have
 8 you spoken yet?
 9 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Chair Danner, I think
 10 she already spoke.
 11 CHAIR DANNER: I think so too. I'm sorry. I
 12 saw her name twice.
 13 Let me go back. Doug Sovde, are you
 14 there? Have you spoken?
 15 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: I think he was going to
 16 write his questions in a comment, if I recall correctly.
 17 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Esther Day?
 18 ESTHER DAY: Yes, I'm here.
 19 CHAIR DANNER: Yes, would you like to speak
 20 this evening?
 21 ESTHER DAY: Yes, I would.
 22 CHAIR DANNER: Go right ahead.
 23
 24 COMMENTS BY ESTHER DAY
 25 ESTHER DAY: Thank you so much. The first

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1 speaker that spoke was very succinct and spot on, and I
 2 really can't add to her comments.
 3 However, I will say this: We are living in
 4 a dangerous time. The Pacific Rim is on fire. We have
 5 lost four glaciers on Mount Rainier that provide water to
 6 Mount Rainier -- Green River, I should say. Our aquifers
 7 are drying up. And the drying of water is happening all
 8 over the world and all over our country. And we need to
 9 protect our water resources.
 10 But also, the other thing is that I'm so glad
 11 that they never put that methanol plant in because of the
 12 dangers that it posed to our port, and -- as well as the
 13 community above the port.
 14 And putting something as volatile as this on
 15 our port, and if it explodes -- have you ever watched the
 16 Beirut, Lebanon, explosion? That is what we will have,
 17 and that is dangerous. We should have put this LNG plant
 18 out in the water on top of an oil field-type derrick and
 19 away from land.
 20 But also, I'm opposed to the rate increase
 21 because we were fine without having to grow the plant
 22 just to make more money for Australia, so, you know --
 23 and for ourselves too.
 24 So I appreciate everything that everyone is
 25 doing and saying. And you're spot on.

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1 But we need to watch the climate. We have
 2 five volcanoes in this state. The Pacific Rim is on
 3 fire. That means magma is moving underneath our very
 4 earth. It's just like Yellowstone. And so we need to be
 5 watchful of that and start preparing for that. Nobody's
 6 done it.
 7 We have no science in the state that is
 8 working with our government. And I know that because
 9 people in Olympia sued the state Department of Ecology
 10 and EPA. And they -- and U.S. District Judge Pechman
 11 told the EPA and Ecology, you do not defer science to
 12 local government. Thank you.
 13 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Thank you very much.
 14 Wendy Pantoja? Wendy Pantoja? Are you there?
 15 WENDY PANTOJA: Yes, I am here. Yes, I am
 16 here.
 17 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. So if you'd like to
 18 make comments, go right ahead.
 19
 20 COMMENTS BY WENDY PANTOJA
 21 WENDY PANTOJA: Good evening, everybody. My
 22 name is Wendy Pantoja. I'm part of an (inaudible)
 23 organization who work with the detainees in the detention
 24 center in Tacoma.
 25 And I would like to say I am really opposed

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1 to the PSE request to support LNG, who is a profiteering
 2 organization who make -- who have really a long history
 3 of leaking and exploitation history. They have a history
 4 of washing their hands during disaster.
 5 So we're PSE customers. We pay taxes. We
 6 decide. We have the power of decide. So we didn't
 7 decide to have LNG. We know it's profiting organizations
 8 that want this LNG over Puyallup land, which is sacred
 9 for us.
 10 So please be respectful with the decision of
 11 the people, because we are the residents and citizens who
 12 pay taxes. And we decide. Thank you so much.
 13 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.
 14 Maia Sfers (phonetic), are you there, and did
 15 I pronounce your name correctly?
 16 MAIA SYFERS: Maia Syfers. Thank you very
 17 much.
 18 CHAIR DANNER: Can you spell that for us,
 19 please?
 20 MAIA SYFERS: M-A-I-A, and S-Y-F-E-R-S.
 21 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Thank you. I had it
 22 S-V-F-E-R-S on my sheet, so thank you for clarifying. Go
 23 right ahead.
 24
 25 COMMENTS BY MAIA SYFERS

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1 MAIA SYFERS: I've seen every possible
 2 spelling.
 3 Well, I'm also a hostage PSE customer. And
 4 I've been before the UTC multiple times in the past
 5 during the whole evolution of this plant, which sadly,
 6 the construction has proceeded.
 7 I really am thankful to the many people so far
 8 tonight who have elegantly stated all the different
 9 reasons why this plant is a complete disaster. I'm not
 10 going to reiterate them.
 11 I'm just going to say I'm disappointed to be
 12 here yet again, speaking out yet again, on a subject like
 13 this that should have been resolved a long time ago in
 14 the interests of our planet and people and ratepayers.
 15 The PSE -- we all know it's a private,
 16 for-profit company. It's concerned about its investors,
 17 dividends, and profits. It is not a publicly owned
 18 utility. It is not serving its ratepayers. Instead, it
 19 is planning its projects based on their capacity for
 20 profit. It should not be asking ratepayers to pay for
 21 the disaster that this plant is.
 22 I'm very concerned that vulnerable people who
 23 cannot afford rate hikes are going to be asked to pay for
 24 something that never should have happened and that will
 25 just make other people richer who do not need to be

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1 richer.
 2 So I think I would just ask the UTC to please
 3 act in the interests of the public and not corporate
 4 America. We should just be beyond this at this point,
 5 and not have to keep appealing something that science,
 6 common sense, and decency has already given us a
 7 resolution. It should not be happening.
 8 Thanks. I appreciate the time.
 9 CHAIR DANNER: Thanks. I appreciate you
 10 being here this evening.
 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wait.
 12 CHAIR DANNER: So let's see. I saw in the
 13 chat Barbara Church. We called your name earlier, but if
 14 you would like to go now, this is an opportunity.
 15
 16 COMMENTS BY BARBARA CHURCH
 17 BARBARA CHURCH: Yes, I'd like to go now.
 18 And thank you. I didn't hear it. I didn't think other
 19 people did either. But thank you.
 20 So my name is Barbara Church. I live in
 21 Northeast Tacoma within a two-mile radius of the LNG
 22 refinery.
 23 So for years, I've actually been at these
 24 meetings with the Utilities and Transportation, letting
 25 you know that we as ratepayers don't want to pay more for

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1 the building costs of this LNG facility.
 2 Puget Sound Energy asked for more money from
 3 ratepayers when they didn't do a good job of their own
 4 budgeting.
 5 You know the other thing is that ratepayers
 6 are -- this was to be for ratepayers for energy during
 7 peak shaving times for only the first ten years of its
 8 operation. And in the past two years, we haven't had to
 9 use it. And during -- with climate change, we likely
 10 won't because the climate will be warming. So I don't
 11 know if people know that.
 12 The other thing is that my Neighbor app, Puget
 13 Sound Energy is advertising daily. They've spent
 14 millions of dollars advertising and paying lobbyists to
 15 try and convince the public and government that natural
 16 gas, which is a fossil fuel, is a solution to heating.
 17 Washington State's own building code asks for
 18 new construction to use electric for heating energy, not
 19 natural gas.
 20 We've already talked about the Puyallup Tribe
 21 and Earthjustice still fighting for the -- fighting the
 22 permits for this facility in court.
 23 So the one other thing I would say about
 24 safety is that since I live only two miles from that
 25 refinery, the fire department only put in their safety

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1 report one day after the city's final environmental
 2 impact statement.
 3 I still see it as a very unsafe facility. It
 4 still needs to be reviewed. Thank you.
 5 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
 6 much.
 7 Okay. Still Hildreth (phonetic), are you
 8 there?
 9 STILL HILDRETH: Yes, I am. Yes, I am here.
 10 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Go ahead, please.
 11
 12 COMMENTS BY STILL HILDRETH
 13 STILL HILDRETH: Great. Thank you very much
 14 for having me here tonight.
 15 I am requesting that the UTC deny the rate
 16 increase. People have already spoken to the devastating
 17 climate impacts and reckless safety risks of this
 18 facility. I don't understand that to be your purview,
 19 the UTC.
 20 So I'm going to speak to the aspect that I
 21 think is more directly in your control. People have
 22 spoken to the permits being appealed, the fact that it
 23 shouldn't be there at all; that it's adding fuel to the
 24 fire as dirty -- by creating a fuel that is as dirty on a
 25 life cycle basis as bunker fuel. So climate, very bad

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1 situation.

2 I am also a customer of PSE. PSE is a

3 regulated monopoly. The UTC's job is to reward PSE with

4 profit when it serves the customers. In this case, an

5 investment was made that was clearly reckless on all

6 counts. And people have already gone into that. And

7 they did -- they made this investment to make profit for

8 others, and now they're in a jam, aren't they? It is

9 clearly a mistake from start to finish.

10 And I cannot believe they have the nerve to

11 ask PSE customers to bail them out. And if there has

12 ever been a rate increase request that was unjustified

13 and that should be denied, this is it.

14 So thank you very much for your

15 consideration.

16 CHAIR DANNER: You thank you very much for

17 your comments. Appreciate it.

18 Richard Leeds (phonetic)?

19 RICHARD LEEDS: Hi, Richard Leeds here.

20 CHAIR DANNER: Go ahead, sir.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Speaking from Anne

22 Kroeker's phone.

23

24 COMMENTS BY RICHARD LEEDS

25 RICHARD LEEDS: Thank you for being here this

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1 evening and thank you for starting this hearing and

2 having all these people that you've listened to.

3 I'm in agreement that I oppose allowing PSE to

4 increase rates and to get subsidies for the following

5 reasons: First, don't reward PSE for fossil fuel

6 infrastructure capital expenditures. Yes, dangerous, in

7 the wrong place, damaging, all the things that have been

8 said.

9 Second, I ask that rate decreases be

10 instantiated [sic] to make the power maximum the cost of

11 solar power, because we need to incentivize PSE not to

12 waste our money, but to be able to feel like there is no

13 choice except to do solar power.

14 Third, I think PSE should have to buy solar

15 and renewable power from all sources at retail rates, not

16 limited to the offsetting that is currently being allowed

17 because they have failed to put in solar power. And we

18 need more -- we need a lot more solar power.

19 And fourth, I would like to have PSE required

20 to install battery and electrical energy storage

21 facilities. And I think if we don't put those facilities

22 in and we don't require our -- what should be a public

23 services organization to put in these safety elements and

24 probably locate them in the area of fire departments and

25 hospitals, we're missing out on this big opportunity to

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1 modernize America.

2 Thanks very much for listening. And if we

3 don't do solar, I think our children will be very

4 disappointed in us. Thank you.

5 CHAIR DANNER: All right. thank you very

6 much.

7 Philipp Michel? I don't know if I pronounced

8 that right. Are you here?

9 PHILIPP MICHEL: It's all right. I've heard

10 everything under the sun.

11 CHAIR DANNER: I'm sure you have. What's the

12 correct pronunciation, sir?

13 PHILIPP MICHEL: Michel works, yes.

14 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Go ahead.

15

16 COMMENTS BY PHILIPP MICHEL

17 PHILIPP MICHEL: Thank you, Commissioner

18 Danner, for giving me the opportunity to speak.

19 I'm a resident of Redmond, Washington, and

20 also a reluctant PSE customer. I would like to say that

21 of course I agree with all the climate issues raised

22 earlier so I will not be speaking to them.

23 I would like to briefly point out the

24 absurdity, though, that we live in a state rich with

25 natural energy, hydroelectric, wind energy, potentially

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1 solar energy, yet PSE just continues to peddle natural

2 gas sourced from Alberta, sourced from British Columbia,

3 sourced from Montana, very little to none of it from our

4 state. That needs to stop. And yeah, it should no

5 longer go on.

6 My main point, however, is simply the

7 following: This specific facility benefits PSE

8 residential customers not at all. It benefits only

9 shipping companies for shipping routes to Asia; and

10 therefore, a rate hike for residential customers is

11 completely unacceptable for making up for any shortfall

12 that PSE might have had.

13 If they have such a shortfall, they should

14 simply charge their commercial shipping customers more.

15 If they cannot do that because they lose business, then

16 obviously they've miscalculated in constructing this

17 facility.

18 All of these costs should simply be passed on

19 through their LNG pricing to shipping companies and

20 others. Why we, the customers as residential customers,

21 should bail them out for a strictly commercial shipping

22 project where we will never see any benefit at all or

23 only very marginal indirect benefits is beyond me. And

24 therefore, I strongly encourage you to not allow this

25 rate increase.

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1 Thank you very much.
 2 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
 3 much.
 4 Patrick McKee?
 5 PATRICK MCKEE: Yes. I'm here. Thanks.
 6 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Go ahead.
 7
 8 COMMENTS BY PATRICK MCKEE
 9 PATRICK MCKEE: We're hearing a lot of talk
 10 about PSE tonight, but it's really the UTC that's facing
 11 a moral choice here. And contrary to the earlier caller,
 12 I think externalized climate costs are absolutely in your
 13 purview.
 14 You've got to tell PSE no on this. We, the
 15 residential ratepayers, are being asked to pay for PSE's
 16 unpermitted installation of an LNG marine fuel storage
 17 facility on the Tacoma tidflats against the will of the
 18 Puyallup people and the best interests of the health of
 19 near Port of Tacoma communities.
 20 And how does it make sense? Clearly, it's a
 21 risky financial investment if they need us to cover it.
 22 And there's no question it's a catastrophic
 23 climate-killing move for citizens of the state and
 24 inhabitants of the planet. You know, LNG's marine fuel
 25 is a step backward. The IMO -- and they are not

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1 environmental champions -- the International Marine
 2 Organization says it's not a cleaner fuel.
 3 PSE is the dirtiest utility in the state. And
 4 they're choosing to invest not in cleaning up and
 5 transitioning their grid, but just, you know, making more
 6 profit.
 7 So that's got to be the UTC's role. Why don't
 8 we explore replacing PSE with a PUD and at least remove
 9 shareholder profit from, you know, the incentive chain of
 10 cooking the planet. Thanks.
 11 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you.
 12 Appreciate your comments.
 13 And hang on a second. I'm juggling various
 14 lists here.
 15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Holy crap.
 16 CHAIR DANNER: Be patient, sir. We'll be
 17 there in a moment.
 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Maybe the Puyallup
 19 Tribe will raise your lease rates.
 20 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Pat Montgomery, we
 21 did call your name earlier, but please go ahead.
 22
 23 COMMENTS BY PAT MONTGOMERY
 24 PAT MONTGOMERY: Yes, thank you for giving me
 25 this opportunity.

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1 My name is Pat Montgomery. And I am a PSE
 2 customer in Federal Way, Washington.
 3 We have a very simple decision before us: Do
 4 we make it easier or harder for large organizations to
 5 emit carbon into the air.
 6 In 2099, my grandchildren will be 81, 79 and
 7 77 years old. Their children will be in their 50's.
 8 Their grandchildren will be in their 20's. What will
 9 their futures look like based on our actions over the
 10 next weeks and months?
 11 Your actions will directly affect the futures
 12 of my children through my great-great-grandchildren. We
 13 must take action now to protect our climate for future
 14 generations.
 15 I urge you to make it harder for large
 16 organizations and their owners to emit carbon into our
 17 air. Thank you.
 18 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.
 19 Appreciate your comments.
 20 Gloria Baughman, are you there?
 21 GLORIA BAUGHMAN: Yes, I'm here.
 22 CHAIR DANNER: Go ahead.
 23
 24 COMMENTS BY GLORIA BAUGHMAN
 25 GLORIA BAUGHMAN: Okay. Thank you.

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1 First, my name is Gloria Baughman. I live in
 2 Tacoma. And I just want to say thank you for being here
 3 and hearing us.
 4 I also want to say that I agree with what
 5 many people have been calling out about the environmental
 6 risks.
 7 I also agree with what they have been calling
 8 out of the violations of the tribal agreements, and as
 9 well as concerns for the health and safety of the people
 10 who are being detained in the Northwest Detention Center.
 11 I want to say that LNG and other corporations
 12 should not offload their business expenses on the working
 13 class. They stand to make enormous profits off of this,
 14 and they should absorb the costs, not us. We didn't ask
 15 for it.
 16 And in fact, this project was wildly
 17 unpopular with the people who live here since the
 18 beginning, and people have been fighting it since the
 19 beginning. And now we are having to also pay more money
 20 to bail this company out that holds us hostage. Really,
 21 like someone said before me, that holds us hostage
 22 because they are some of the only providers here.
 23 So, yeah. Basically, this is not a good
 24 thing for the people who live here who are already
 25 struggling to pay their bills, and we're asking you to do

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1 all you can to stop it. Thank you.
 2 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
 3 much.
 4 Irfan Muhammad Soomro (phonetic)?
 5 IRFAN MUHAMMAD SOOMRO: Yes, sorry. I was
 6 trying to figure out my unmute button.
 7 CHAIR DANNER: No problem.
 8
 9 COMMENTS BY IRFAN MUHAMMAD SOOMRO:
 10 IRFAN MUHAMMAD SOOMRO: Thank you for this
 11 opportunity. You know, I really enjoyed the passion and
 12 the feedback that everybody has given. So I won't take
 13 too much time.
 14 I'll just speak on four points very quickly.
 15 The first one is that I definitely want everybody to know
 16 that I'm opposing any kind of rate increase, and not only
 17 the rate increase, but actually the project itself. That
 18 is my first point.
 19 The second point is regarding how is it
 20 impacting the residents who are not local. So even if
 21 they're considering any kind of increase, why does it
 22 have to expand statewide, almost, it seems like. I live
 23 in Redmond. That is my second point.
 24 Third point is that some of the participants
 25 here have mentioned they're already receiving increased

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1 rate notices from Puget Sound Energy. So I am
 2 questioning the value of this discussion we are having
 3 today. Is there a window where we can actually make an
 4 impact, or this will become an exercise in academia? I
 5 don't know if anybody has an answer, but I just want to
 6 bring it up front.
 7 And fourth and the last point is that I -- not
 8 a point, but it's really my observation or my feeling
 9 that so many of us are being hijacked by a foreign
 10 entity. I read in the notes that initially it was
 11 Australian. Now it is Canadian. It doesn't really
 12 matter as far as if it's North American ownership. All
 13 the loyalty lies somewhere else, and we are just the cog
 14 in the wheel to make the profits more and more.
 15 That's all my four points.
 16 And I would strongly urge the right
 17 authorities to consider bringing the ownership back
 18 within the U.S. so that there is an imperative local
 19 customers, local consumers, and local environment over
 20 everything else. Canada, Australia, Japan, none of those
 21 countries have got any -- you know, any feeling for our
 22 environment. We have to care for it ourselves.
 23 So those are all my points. Thank you.
 24 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
 25 much.

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1 Andrew Roberts, I saw a text that flashed by
 2 my screen, but I did not get the name. McKay?
 3 ANDREW ROBERTS: Yeah, I believe there's an
 4 Angela McKay on the line who would like to speak.
 5 CHAIR DANNER: Angela McKay?
 6
 7 COMMENTS BY ANGELA MCKAY:
 8 ANGELA MCKAY: Thank you. I appreciate the
 9 opportunity. My preferred name is actually Angie. My
 10 full name is Angela.
 11 I'm speaking as a PSE customer from unceded
 12 tribal lands in King County. I reside on the island of
 13 Vashon. And as many others before me have mentioned, PSE
 14 is the only opportunity for electricity to my home. I
 15 have not lived in Puyallup or worked in Tacoma in about
 16 25 years, but I loved my time there.
 17 And I will try to keep this short. I strongly
 18 oppose a rate hike for PSE residential consumers to fund
 19 this project. Thank you for the opportunity.
 20 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you for your comments.
 21 All right. Andrew, can you tell me if there
 22 are any names on the sign-in sheet that we did not get to
 23 tonight.
 24 ANDREW ROBERTS: I believe we've gotten
 25 through everybody on the sign-in sheet so far. I've been

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1 watching the participant list, and there's been quite a
 2 bit of -- quite a number of new folks come in. So it may
 3 be beneficial to try to get more names and continue.
 4 CHAIR DANNER: All right. So why don't we do
 5 that.
 6 Are there others who have -- would like to
 7 speak tonight?
 8 It looks like Chad Rissick Knight
 9 (phonetic)? Did I get that right?
 10 T. CHADRISSE KNIGHT; yes, that would be me,
 11 T. Chadrisse Knight.
 12 CHAIR DANNER: T. Chadrisse Knight?
 13 T. CHADRISSE KNIGHT: Yes.
 14 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you for
 15 clarifying that. Go right ahead.
 16
 17 COMMENTS BY T. CHADRISSE KNIGHT
 18 T. CHADRISSE KNIGHT: I would like to echo
 19 everything that has been stated very eloquently.
 20 And I also oppose the rate hike due to the
 21 environmental concerns, as well as all the other listed
 22 and stated concerns. I don't think that it would be
 23 beneficial at this particular time in the concerns for
 24 the indigenous people and for our environment.
 25 Thank you so much for this opportunity to

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1 speak.
 2 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.
 3 Lester's phone? Could you identify yourself?
 4 Lester?
 5 LESTER BOGUE: Can you hear me now?
 6 CHAIR DANNER: Yes, we can hear you now.
 7 What is your name, sir?
 8
 9 COMMENTS BY LESTER BOGUE
 10 LESTER BOGUE: My name is Lester Bogue,
 11 B-O-G-U-E. I am a Tacoma resident in the Hilltop
 12 neighborhood.
 13 I have opposed this project since its start
 14 several years ago.
 15 And I oppose any rate increase for PSE
 16 customers.
 17 And I oppose the ability for PSE to bunker
 18 their LNG fuel anywhere on the waters of the Salish Sea.
 19 I also oppose them to ship this LNG by rail
 20 or diesel truck. This is a volatile material that does
 21 not belong in an urban area. It's a danger to us all.
 22 So we should not pay a dime towards the construction of
 23 this project.
 24 Thank you for the opportunity to hopefully
 25 influence some right-minded thinking around this LNG

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1 danger that is a threat to us all. Thank you.
 2 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
 3 much for your comments.
 4 All right. Matt P?
 5 MATT PRIMMER: My name is Matt Primmer. I
 6 live in Mountlake Terrace, north of Seattle.
 7 CHAIR DANNER: Can you spell your last name
 8 for us, please.
 9 MATT PRIMMER: P-R-I-M-M-E-R.
 10 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. And I'm sorry, you said
 11 you live where?
 12 MATT PRIMMER: Mountlake Terrace.
 13 CHAIR DANNER: Mountlake Terrace. Thank you.
 14
 15 COMMENTS BY MATT PRIMMER
 16 MATT PRIMMER: Yeah, absolutely.
 17 Yeah, I appreciate the UTC holding this
 18 forum. I'm just adding my comments in what I hear as
 19 pretty consistent feedback across this group of community
 20 members.
 21 I hope that the UTC can help folks who don't
 22 have any power in this situation to help make sure that
 23 our safety and our economic security is safeguarded. And
 24 I guess I just appeal myself to this group to do what you
 25 feel is right with all the information that you have

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1 access to.
 2 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you for your
 3 comments.
 4 I don't see anyone else who is either signed
 5 up or raised their hand to speak. Is there anyone on the
 6 call tonight who has not spoken who wishes to do so?
 7 Jeff Sullivan, go ahead, sir.
 8
 9 COMMENTS BY JEFF SULLIVAN
 10 JEFF SULLIVAN: Hi. Jeff Sullivan. I'm here
 11 in Redmond. I don't have a whole lot to add on top of
 12 what people have already said today.
 13 I just want to point out that this is my son
 14 Aric (phonetic) here. For his benefit and the rest of
 15 ours, I would strongly encourage us to not move forward
 16 with this project. Thank you.
 17 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you both. I
 18 appreciate that.
 19 Another call out. Anyone who has not signed
 20 up and has not spoken tonight who wishes to speak, could
 21 you raise your hand?
 22 All right. It appears that we have heard
 23 from everyone on the call.
 24 And I want to say again how much I appreciate
 25 your comments.

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1 And thank you, Jeff Sullivan. That -- I
 2 don't know how we can add that to the record unless you
 3 submit that in writing to us.
 4 So let me just go back to Andrew -- well,
 5 first of all, let me go to the commissioners and public
 6 counsel. We are still going to accept written comments,
 7 but I would like to know what date we should agree on for
 8 the deadline for written comments in this docket.
 9 Lisa Gafken, are you still there?
 10 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: Yes, I am. I'm trying to
 11 find my video button. And there it is.
 12 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. We can hear you,
 13 though, so that's fine.
 14 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: Perfect. So the
 15 evidentiary hearing happens on Monday. And, you know, I
 16 certainly think we should accept comments through the end
 17 of the day on Monday.
 18 As for when public counsel -- do we want to
 19 talk about when public counsel will submit the public
 20 comment exhibits?
 21 So for the public's benefit, public counsel
 22 follows the written comments that come in either through
 23 the utility@atg.wa.gov address or through the commission
 24 itself. And we compile that and that becomes part of the
 25 record, as does the hearing tonight.

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1 So, you know, I think we usually talk about a
 2 week after the hearing for that exhibit to come in. So
 3 if folks can get written comments in by the 6th, then
 4 we'll compile and submit it to the commission by the
 5 13th.
 6 CHAIR DANNER: So I think that would --
 7 speaking for me personally, and not for the other
 8 commissioners, I think if we were to accept written
 9 comments through the close of business on Monday the 6th,
 10 and then we would give public counsel until Monday the
 11 13th to compile those and get them in the record.
 12 (Overlapping speech.)
 13 ANDREW ROBERTS: I'm sorry, Commissioner.
 14 This is Andrew Roberts with staff. I don't
 15 normally speak up during this part, but we're very
 16 short-staffed in consumer protection. It would be hard
 17 for us to get the comments to public counsel before the
 18 week of Thanksgiving. Would it be possible to have the
 19 exhibit due the week following Thanksgiving?
 20 CHAIR DANNER: Which is the 22nd -- 23rd, the
 21 week after. So we're talking about the last week of
 22 November.
 23 (Overlapping speech)
 24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are these comments ever
 25 going to be used?

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1 CHAIR DANNER: They are part of the record,
 2 and we consider them with all of the other evidence in
 3 the case.
 4 So if the commissioners and public counsel
 5 agree to that date, I would be okay with that.
 6 So Commissioners, let's hear from you.
 7 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I'm supportive of that
 8 in order to compile all the comments from the commission
 9 and also for public counsel.
 10 So I think we're talking about the 27th. Is
 11 that the date you're thinking of, Andrew?
 12 ANDREW ROBERTS: We could have our -- we
 13 could have the comments to public counsel the week of
 14 Thanksgiving. So if --
 15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: That would be --
 16 ANDREW ROBERTS: -- the 27th is okay for
 17 public counsel, that works for us.
 18 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: -- 28th?
 19 CHAIR DANNER: So would you be able to get
 20 them to public counsel by the 22nd -- well, by the 20th?
 21 ANDREW ROBERTS: The 20th would be difficult.
 22 We have another public comment hearing that day for
 23 another case, I believe, or the 21st. It's right in
 24 there.
 25 We could get it to public counsel by the

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1 22nd.
 2 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Well, I don't want to
 3 make public counsel work over the weekend there either.
 4 So I would want to give them some time the following
 5 week.
 6 And Lisa Gafken, how long does it take public
 7 counsel to turn that around once you get them from staff?
 8 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: Andrew Roberts is really
 9 good about compiling things and making our life a lot
 10 simpler. And he usually does work with us really well in
 11 that regard.
 12 So, you know, I don't want to push this out
 13 too far because it is important to get everything in the
 14 record quickly.
 15 CHAIR DANNER: Yeah.
 16 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: The 27th would certainly be
 17 too quick. I know that I'll --
 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Lisa, when will I have
 19 the transcripts of the call of this conversation?
 20 CHAIR DANNER: I'm sorry, sir. We're having
 21 a conversation here, so let us finish.
 22 Okay. Lisa Gafken?
 23 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: I know I'm going to have
 24 some staff shortages as well the week of Thanksgiving.
 25 But I think I can commit to the 29th.

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1 CHAIR DANNER: That's Wednesday the 29th?
 2 Okay.
 3 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: Yes.
 4 CHAIR DANNER: Commissioners, is that okay
 5 with you?
 6 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Yes, okay here.
 7 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes.
 8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, crap.
 9 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Chair Danner, you're
 10 on mute.
 11 CHAIR DANNER: I'm on mute, I know.
 12 That takes us to the end of our hearing
 13 tonight. If -- we're getting a request.
 14 Andrew, again, could you give an e-mail for
 15 submission of comments, which would be due by the close
 16 of business on November 6?
 17 ANDREW ROBERTS: Absolutely.
 18 So comments can be emailed to
 19 Comments@utc.wa.gov.
 20 They can also be mailed to PO Box 47250,
 21 Olympia, Washington, 98054.
 22 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
 23 much.
 24 All right. So we are going to adjourn.
 25 Lisa, you have your hand up? Lisa Gafken?

1 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: Yes. I just have a
2 question in terms of the mailing. That is absolutely a
3 valid way for folks to send in comments. But you know, I
4 think if folks mailed them on Friday, I don't know that
5 they would necessarily get there by Monday.

6 And so like voting ballots, I'm wondering if
7 the standard is if they mail their comments postmarked by
8 Monday, that that would be included in the record,
9 especially since we do have a little bit of time to
10 gather those comments. If that's not the rule, I would
11 recommend that that be the case here.

12 CHAIR DANNER: I don't know if that's the
13 rule, but I think that if I can get one commissioner to
14 agree with me, we can make that applicable for this
15 proceeding. And it looks like it's unanimous.

16 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: Thank you very much.

17 CHAIR DANNER: So yes, if it's postmarked on
18 Monday, it will be in the record.

19 ATTORNEY GAFKEN: Thank you.

20 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you.

21 So thank you very much. Now, these comments
22 are part of the record. They will be considered in this
23 case along with the other evidence.

24 And so we will go forth. Thank you all for
25 your participation tonight. Again, we have already

1 CERTIFICATE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
3) ss
4 COUNTY OF KING)

5 I, Elizabeth Patterson Harvey, a Certified
6 Court Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter
7 within and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify
8 under penalty of perjury that the foregoing court
9 proceedings or legal recordings were transcribed under my
10 direction; and that the transcript is true and accurate
11 to the best of my knowledge and ability, including
12 changes, if any, made by the trial judge reviewing the
13 transcript; that I received the electronic recording in
14 the proprietary court format; that I am not a relative or
15 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the
16 parties hereto, nor financially interested in its
17 outcome.

18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
19 hand this 14th day of November, 2023.

20
21 
22 ELIZABETH PATTERSON HARVEY,
23 FAPR, RPR, WA CCR 2731
24
25



1 received a number of written comments, and we will
2 welcome any others that come in by the 6th. So thank
3 you.

4 Unless there's anything else with
5 commissioners or public counsel this evening, we will be
6 adjourned. All right. Thank you much.

7 (Hearing adjourned.)
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