

Chiles, Pam (UTC)

From: Karen Crum (hepzibahh2002@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<automail@knowwho.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:56 AM
To: Records Management (UTC)
Subject: Protect Our Climate Future (Docket #200304 and #200305)
Categories: PC

External Email

Dear Washington UTC,

I emphatically oppose PSE plans to make Washington state a locus of continuing/expanding investment in fossil-fuel infrastructure. More natural gas is a net carbon input into the climate crisis at a time when we must be actively, urgently, and creatively cutting our carbon emissions and emphasizing the health of both existing carbon sinks (ensuring we protect and expand healthy forest and ocean ecosystems) and investing in creative new solutions to slow the accelerating climate impacts we're already seeing. Furthermore, I absolutely oppose the obscene environmental destruction and poisonous ecosystem impacts of fracking itself. I demand that the Utilities and Transportation Commission require PSE to follow Washington's State Energy Strategy's mandate to act urgently to revise current and future energy planning away from more fossil fuel investment. PSE cannot delay transitioning away from carbon-fuels, or else they are choosing to make Washington state complicit in contributing to the no-longer theoretical, already accelerating, increasing unstable and inhospitable climate for the whole world. Now, and not a minute later than now, is the time for Washington to lead.

I am writing to ask the Utilities and Transportation Commission to not allow Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to build new gas power plants for their long-range electricity plan and to reduce their use of gas for the long-range gas plan.

According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), natural gas is far more damaging to the climate than previously thought. Gas may be as bad as coal for the climate. And natural gas certainly is not "natural" when the impacts of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" to extract gas is poisoning groundwater in communities across the country.

Our new 100% clean electricity law -- the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) -- requires all utilities to be 80% fossil fuel free by 2030 and 100% by 2045. The last thing we need to do is build new gas power plants that would be around for decades. The intent of CETA is to wind down on gas power in our electricity, not ramp it up.

Our new state law that establishes science-based fossil fuel reductions that come from the IPCC, call for 95% reductions by 2050 and 70% reductions by 2040. Yet PSE's long-range plan for its gas utility shows virtually no reductions for the next 20 years. PSE fails to follow recommendations in Washington's new State Energy Strategy that identifies moving buildings from gas to electricity as a key strategy for climate protection.

Enough is enough. PSE must take climate change seriously before it is too late. Please reject PSE's electricity and gas plans.

Sincerely,

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This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.