



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
*1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250*  
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December 27, 2018

Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
P. O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: Colstrip Transmission System Operational Study  
**Dockets UE-170033 and UG-170034**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On December 5, 2017, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered Order 08, its Final Order Rejecting Tariff Sheets; Approving and Adopting Settlement Stipulation; Resolving Contested Issues; and Authorizing and Requiring Compliance Filing (Order 08) in Dockets UE-170033 and UG-170034. Order 08, among other things, required Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to complete and submit to this docket a Colstrip Transmission System Operational Study.<sup>1</sup>

On November 30, 2018, PSE filed with the Commission NorthWestern Energy's Colstrip Operational Study Report, Shutdown of Colstrip Units 1 & 2 (Report). The Report looked at the potential impact to the Colstrip transmission system of shutting down Colstrip Units 1 and 2. The Report examined potential issues at 12 locations on the transmission system regarding power flow transients, stability during a transient event, and short circuit analyses on the Colstrip transmission system with and without the operation of Colstrip units 1 and 2. The Report concluded that the Colstrip transmission system can support up to 2,200 MW of east-to-west power under many operating conditions including when units 1 and 2 are shut down.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 120 of Settlement Stipulation adopted by Order 08.

Compliance Letter  
December 27, 2018  
Page 2

Finally, the Report examined the Colstrip-to-Townsend part of the transmission system including the potential to add 610 MW of wind resources in place of Colstrip generation and found no transient stability issues.

Commission Staff (Staff) reviewed the compliance filing provided by PSE dated November 30, 2018, and finds that the filing complies with the Commission's Order 08, entered December 5, 2017.

Sincerely,

Deborah Reynolds  
Assistant Director, Conservation and Energy Planning