

**From:** [Linda Lotus](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** UE-160918 and UG-160919  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 24, 2018 9:48:28 PM

---

Barbara Smith RN, MN  
17310- 97<sup>th</sup> Place SW  
Vashon, WA 98070  
[barbarasmith98070@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasmith98070@gmail.com)

To the Members of the Washington State Utilities Commission:

I am writing to you to express my recommendation that you close the two remaining coal fired electrical generating plants in Colstrip, Montana as soon as is possible and replace this generating capacity with renewable, non-CO2 emitting alternatives.

As a Registered Nurse of 40 years, a melanoma survivor, a grandmother, and a life-long citizen of the state of Washington, I am deeply committed to the health of our population, now and into the future. There is no question, despite statements to the contrary from the other Washington, that the burning of fossil fuels, and particularly of coal, contributes to the excess of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere which causes loss of the ozone layer and global warming. "Natural" gas is no better, in fact the way in which it is currently extracted creates additional threats to health. There is also no question that the time to make changes to slow this loss is now. As the years pass without positive action, the trend will accelerate and it will be impossible to stop it.

Washington has the opportunity to show the rest of the country that this can be done and done cost-effectively. It is too costly to delay, both in terms of the financial impact of investing in the power sources of the past and the impact to the health and livability of our world.

Please vote to replace coal-fired power plants with those powered by the renewable and non-polluting energy of the future.

Sincerely,

Barbara Smith RN MN