



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503**

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April 13, 2021

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO REQUEST  
TO INITIATE INVESTIGATION  
(Responses due by May 4, 2021)**

RE: Request to Initiate Investigation into Prudency of Colstrip Operations, Docket UE-210241

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On February 3, 2021, the Commission received a letter submitted jointly on behalf of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs): NW Energy Coalition, Climate Solutions, Washington Environmental Council, Western Grid Group, David Perk, Vashon Climate Action Group, Rebecca MacMullan, Climate Action Bainbridge, Sierra Club, and Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy (collectively, NGOs).

The letter requests the Commission “initiate a proceeding to investigate Colstrip’s ongoing expenses” resulting in a “clear order or determination from the Commission that continued funding to maintain and operate Colstrip is not consistent with prudent utility practice.”

The Commission is aware that Colstrip co-owners Puget Sound Energy, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, and PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power and Light Company are currently involved in arbitration to resolve disputes related to Colstrip’s maintenance costs.<sup>1</sup> As such, we are concerned whether a complex investigation is appropriate at this juncture. The Commission thus seeks feedback and comments from the affected utilities and other interested persons on this matter.

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<sup>1</sup> See [Lawmakers take up fight over Colstrip repairs | 406 Politics | billingsgazette.com](#). Last accessed on April 12, 2021.

**Docket UE-210241**

By this notice, we establish a 20-day period for submitting responses to the NGOs' letter.<sup>2</sup> Any person wishing to file comments must do so no later than 5 p.m. on May 4, 2021. Comments should be filed with the Commission and should reference Docket UE-210241.

**THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That any person who wishes to file comments in response to the letter filed in Docket UE-210241 must do so by 5 p.m. on May 4, 2021.**

Sincerely,

MARK L. JOHNSON  
Executive Director and Secretary

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<sup>2</sup> Under the Administrative Procedure Act (codified at RCW 34.05) and the Commission's procedural rules, interested persons have 20 days to respond to petitions filed with the Commission. Although we do not construe the NGOs' letter as a petition at this juncture, we adopt that timeframe for interested persons to respond.