

Docket Nos. UE-190529 and UG-190530  
(Consolidated) - Vol. III

WUTC v. Puget Sound Energy

January 22, 2020



1325 Fourth Avenue • Suite 1840 • Seattle, Washington 98101

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1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
 2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND. )DOCKETS UE-190529 and  
 5 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )UG-190530 (Consolidated)  
 6 Complainant, )  
 7 vs. )  
 8 PUGET SOUND ENERGY, )  
 9 Respondent. )  
 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
 11 PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING, VOLUME III  
 12 Pages 86 - 171  
 13 6:00 p.m. - 8:18 p.m.  
 14 January 22, 2020  
 15 Bellevue City Hall Council Chamber  
 16 Room 1E-126, 450 110th Avenue Northeast  
 17 Bellevue, WA 98004  
 18 Official Transcript of Recording  
 19  
 20 REPORTED BY: Bonnie Reed, CET  
 21 Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC  
 22 1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1840  
 23 Seattle, Washington 98101  
 24 (206) 287-9066 | Seattle  
 25 (360) 534-9066 | Olympia  
 (800) 846-6989 | National  
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1 PRESENT AT MEETING:  
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 3 Chair David W. Danner  
 4 Commissioner Ann Rendahl  
 5 Commissioner Jay Balasbas  
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 2 January 22, 2020  
 3  
 4 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Good evening, everyone. I would ask  
 5 you to please take your seat so that we can get started.  
 6 Okay, good evening. This is the second of two public  
 7 comment hearings in the Puget Sound Energy general rate  
 8 case. And these are dockets UE-190529 and UG-190530. My  
 9 name is Dave Danner, and I'm chair of the Utilities and  
 10 Transportation Commission. I'm joined here today by my  
 11 colleagues, Commissioner Ann Rendahl and Commissioner Jay  
 12 Balasbas.  
 13 On June 20th, 2019, Puget Sound Energy filed with the UTC  
 14 a request to raise its rates it charges for both electric  
 15 and natural gas service. For electric, the company proposed  
 16 an increase of 139.9 million or a 6.9 percent increase. For  
 17 the average customer, that would be about \$5.51 a month. On  
 18 the gas side, the company's proposing a revenue increase of  
 19 65 million or about a 7.5 percent increase. And for the  
 20 average customer, that's about \$2.45 a month. This case is  
 21 now before the commission.  
 22 There are various parties who are formal interveners in  
 23 the process and they have different positions on how they  
 24 believe that the commission should respond to the rate  
 25 increase, some are calling for smaller increases, others are

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1 actually calling for decreases, but this is a matter that  
 2 will come before us.  
 3 And general rate cases at the commission are generally  
 4 like trials. The commissioners sit as judges and we hear  
 5 testimony from the company, as well as the numerous formal  
 6 parties in the proceeding. And those are the UTC staff, who  
 7 sit as a separate party, as well as a public counsel office  
 8 of the attorney general, who represents the interests of the  
 9 public in our cases. And our state's public counsel, Lisa  
 10 Gafken is here with us tonight, raise your hand there. So  
 11 if you have questions about the case, she would be a good  
 12 person to go up to.  
 13 The Commissioners, because we are judges, we are -- we're  
 14 in listening mode tonight. So oftentimes people will be  
 15 coming up and making comments and asking us questions. We  
 16 will deal with those questions as rhetorical questions,  
 17 meaning, that we are not going to engage in a give and take  
 18 on any questions you may have because that's not our role in  
 19 this proceeding tonight.  
 20 Other parties are large industrial customers,  
 21 environmental groups and advocates for low income citizens.  
 22 By law, the proceedings with UTC for general rate cases take  
 23 up to 11 months. And we have thousands of pages of data,  
 24 spreadsheets and testimony that we must consider. But the  
 25 purpose of our public hearings tonight is to hear from

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<p>1 citizens about the proposed rate increases and what impact</p> <p>2 they will have on individual households or businesses and</p> <p>3 what changes you think might be warranted regarding not only</p> <p>4 the rates but also environmental issues, low income</p> <p>5 assistance or other issues. We take very seriously what you</p> <p>6 have to say and it does inform our consideration in the</p> <p>7 proceeding.</p> <p>8 We have a lot of people who are signed in tonight. So I</p> <p>9 would ask you to please keep your comments to around 3</p> <p>10 minutes. If we find we're running long, we will have to cut</p> <p>11 you off so that we can get everybody heard tonight and get</p> <p>12 home at a reasonable hour. If you have signed in but not</p> <p>13 legibly, I will probably butcher your names and I apologize</p> <p>14 in advance for doing that.</p> <p>15 So, we're going to get started. The general rate case</p> <p>16 evidentiary hearing is going to be held in Olympia on</p> <p>17 February 6th and 7th. We will be taking public comment not</p> <p>18 only tonight but also by email and mail at our address.</p> <p>19 I've got the information above us on how you can comment on</p> <p>20 our proceeding after today.</p> <p>21 For those wishing to testify tonight -- please put your</p> <p>22 phones in airplane mode. Now I've lost my train of thought.</p> <p>23 Oh, for those who will be making comments tonight, you will</p> <p>24 have to be sworn in. So what I would like to do, in the</p> <p>25 interest of efficiency, for those of you who wish to speak</p>	<p>1 we've been doing that for years. And I've noticed that the</p> <p>2 percentage of fossil fuels in the mix that PSE offers hasn't</p> <p>3 really changed. So I'm not sure what that's about because</p> <p>4 my hope was that we were helping.</p> <p>5 But as I said, we're paying extra for solar replacing the</p> <p>6 energy that we're getting from PSE. And I strongly object</p> <p>7 to now paying for the money that they're spending on the</p> <p>8 infrastructure for natural gas, which is actually mostly</p> <p>9 fracked gas.</p> <p>10 I don't want to pay. I should not have to pay when in</p> <p>11 fact I'm actually paying extra for green energy. And that's</p> <p>12 what we all know we need to have in the future. We should</p> <p>13 not be adding to our infrastructure of natural gas. We</p> <p>14 should be building on renewables. So we should be creating</p> <p>15 jobs in the renewable sector, and we should be providing the</p> <p>16 renewables.</p> <p>17 So I object to the rates being increased because of that.</p> <p>18 So as I said, I will give you this other stuff in another</p> <p>19 manner. But thank you very much.</p> <p>20 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Thank you very much. And if you</p> <p>21 would like to give it to our staff tonight, they will take</p> <p>22 it. So there's Andrew by the door there if you would like</p> <p>23 to hand it to him. All right. Thank you very much.</p> <p>24 Michael Foster, do you wish to speak? And Kathy Partida,</p> <p>25 you're up next.</p>
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<p>1 tonight, I would ask you to please stand, raise your right</p> <p>2 hand and let's let me swear you in. I'll do that as a</p> <p>3 group.</p> <p>4 Okay. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and</p> <p>5 nothing but the truth?</p> <p>6 AUDIENCE: I do.</p> <p>7 CHAIR DANNER: All right, thank you, you may be seated.</p> <p>8 Okay. And I already have a challenge with the first person</p> <p>9 signed in tonight. That would be Nancy Shimeall.</p> <p>10 MS. SHIMEALL: Shimeall.</p> <p>11 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. I'm 0 for 1. Go right ahead.</p> <p>12 MS. SHIMEALL: Thank you. Now, my name's Nancy Shimeall</p> <p>13 and I am a rate payer for PSE. So I am going to speak to</p> <p>14 you tonight as a rate payer. I have documents and</p> <p>15 information that are factual things that I'm going to turn</p> <p>16 in in another way, but tonight I just want to speak as a</p> <p>17 rate payer. I grew up in Washington State in the Puget</p> <p>18 Sound region and I've seen the changes that have happened.</p> <p>19 As a rate payer, I chose -- in our house, we don't have</p> <p>20 the kind of roof that allows for us to have solar. So we</p> <p>21 signed up right away, as soon as Puget Sound Energy offered</p> <p>22 the option to get solar replacement for our energy that we</p> <p>23 are getting for PSE. So we pay extra every month already</p> <p>24 and we are willing to do that because for us, it is</p> <p>25 absolutely essential that we don't use fossil fuels. Now</p>	<p>1 MR. FOSTER: So my name is Michael Foster, and I'm</p> <p>2 speaking as a citizen. My concern is that we're making any</p> <p>3 kind of right adjustment for one of the corporations that is</p> <p>4 responsible for ending life on the plant. It seems like we</p> <p>5 should be prosecuting them for crimes against humanity and</p> <p>6 nature and not paying them more to do their worst.</p> <p>7 I had the great pleasure about eight years ago of calling</p> <p>8 PSE to say I need you to close my account and remove the</p> <p>9 meter from outside my house. And I can't tell you how</p> <p>10 satisfying that was at the time, especially because, pardon</p> <p>11 my slang, they didn't know what the fuck to do.</p> <p>12 CHAIR DANNER: All right. So I am going to ask you to</p> <p>13 minimize your slang.</p> <p>14 MR. FOSTER: I apologize. I was on the phone for an hour</p> <p>15 waiting for somebody to figure out what do you do with a guy</p> <p>16 who says, I need you to remove the meter from my house</p> <p>17 because it's a hazard to my family and we don't use your</p> <p>18 service here any more. We spent a lot of money to get that</p> <p>19 out of our house. And they were going to leave the crusty</p> <p>20 old gas lines there. That was a serious problems there. In</p> <p>21 the end, they left the gas lines there.</p> <p>22 I don't think anybody should be paying PSE, a foreign</p> <p>23 owned private company, more money at a time when they are</p> <p>24 going to be losing revenue and losing rate payers. The last</p> <p>25 customer is going to have a heck of a bill. We should be</p>

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<p>1 paying them to get out. And that is all we should be paying</p> <p>2 them to do.</p> <p>3 Greta has been very clear at Davos this week. And I think</p> <p>4 anybody understands that PSE is a perfect example of why we</p> <p>5 don't have 100 percent clean energy in this country already.</p> <p>6 Thank you.</p> <p>7 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.</p> <p>8 Kathy Partida, please come forward. And Ivy Sigmon,</p> <p>9 you're next.</p> <p>10 MS. PARTIDA: Hi.</p> <p>11 CHAIR DANNER: Good evening.</p> <p>12 MS. PARTIDA: Actually, my legal name is Kathy Presiado</p> <p>13 Partida, but I figured it always gets mangled, so I would</p> <p>14 just give you my second last name and you did great, so</p> <p>15 thanks.</p> <p>16 CHAIR DANNER: You said Presiado?</p> <p>17 MS. PARTIDA: Presiado Partida, roll those Rs.</p> <p>18 CHAIR DANNER: I got it.</p> <p>19 MS. PARTIDA: You can do it, go David.</p> <p>20 CHAIR DANNER: That college Spanish comes in handy. All</p> <p>21 right.</p> <p>22 MS. PARTIDA: (Speaks Spanish).</p> <p>23 CHAIR DANNER: Si.</p> <p>24 MS. PARTIDA: So at any rate -- I'm just charmed, he's</p> <p>25 speaking Spanish to me, holy moly.</p>	<p>1 greedy, not needy. It is environmentally imprudent, and it</p> <p>2 is contrary to Washington State goals for energy as outlined</p> <p>3 by this flyer that is at the front as I come in. In order</p> <p>4 to meet our goals at 2045, and this is 2020, we cannot be</p> <p>5 supporting them investing in infrastructure, which they will</p> <p>6 be very unwilling to retire in the interest of then spending</p> <p>7 yet more money. And, again, it will be us that will be</p> <p>8 paying for that. Thank you for your attention.</p> <p>9 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>10 MS. PARTIDA: Gracias (inaudible).</p> <p>11 CHAIR DANNER: Gracias for your statement.</p> <p>12 All right. Ivy Sigmon, and Stacy Oaks, you are up next.</p> <p>13 MS. SIGMON: Hi.</p> <p>14 CHAIR DANNER: Good evening.</p> <p>15 MS. SIGMON: Good evening. She just mentioned what I was</p> <p>16 going to say that there's no reason for raising the gas rate</p> <p>17 because nationally the gas rate is going down and PSE have</p> <p>18 raised the gas rate over and over again.</p> <p>19 UNIDENTIFIABLE FEMALE: Excuse me, could you please speak</p> <p>20 into the microphone, we cannot hear you. Get real close to</p> <p>21 it.</p> <p>22 MS. SIGMON: And also, I would like this commission to</p> <p>23 check the billing system that PSE have because when they are</p> <p>24 requesting rate increases, they don't say or they don't</p> <p>25 explain why do we pay for others in our billing. And some</p>
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<p>1 Okay. So at any rate, I wrote this out. General persons,</p> <p>2 the private corporation that runs our access to this utility</p> <p>3 is charging the rate payers to guarantee the majority</p> <p>4 Canadian shareholder owned corporation a profit. Their</p> <p>5 target is 10 percent. I don't even get 1 percent when I</p> <p>6 save like a good citizen.</p> <p>7 Washington consumers are a captive audience, we have no</p> <p>8 other choices. Our only protection is your ability to</p> <p>9 refuse this rate hike as well as your ability to demand that</p> <p>10 this new plan is implemented by 2045 and that's not going to</p> <p>11 happen if we continue to invest in their infrastructure.</p> <p>12 It takes -- I'm sure they're taking their cost of doing</p> <p>13 business and spreading that over years. If we encourage</p> <p>14 them -- I'm going away from my little speech here, but it is</p> <p>15 particularly unfair to propose an increase in the gas rate</p> <p>16 when PSE has already raised their fracked gas rates by 14</p> <p>17 percent on November 1st, 2019, that's only a few months ago,</p> <p>18 despite a 50 percent reduction in market gas prices. This</p> <p>19 is just plain greed and abuse of their position as our only</p> <p>20 supplier for a necessary utility. Additionally, it is</p> <p>21 contra our State's goals to fight climate crisis, to</p> <p>22 continue to support. And by giving a rate hike in effect</p> <p>23 encouraging the continuing reliance upon dirty fossil fuels,</p> <p>24 and fracked gas is particularly harmful.</p> <p>25 I want you to refuse this rate hike. Temporally it is</p>	<p>1 time they go for 50 cents \$7 every month. And I would like</p> <p>2 to know -- I have requested to explain to us what these</p> <p>3 others are, but they won't -- they just give you a general</p> <p>4 explanation saying, oh, that includes your credit and your</p> <p>5 charges, whatever those are.</p> <p>6 And so please consider that before you do the rate</p> <p>7 increases because they are getting money by not making their</p> <p>8 billing very clear.</p> <p>9 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Thank you very much. Now we have</p> <p>10 some team members here from the UTC who can give you a</p> <p>11 number to call. And we can talk about the bill or we have</p> <p>12 people at our staff who will talk to you about the bill if</p> <p>13 you have questions about it. Thank you.</p> <p>14 Stacy Oaks and Kim Dobson you are up next.</p> <p>15 MS. OAKS: Hi, good evening. My name is Stacy Oaks. And</p> <p>16 it's a good day to be here with you on the land of the Coast</p> <p>17 Salish people. And I know I came before you in Lacey, and I</p> <p>18 spoke a lot about -- I spoke a lot about having moral</p> <p>19 objections to where my money went when we're paying PSE and</p> <p>20 I want to reiterate those things. And partly what I've done</p> <p>21 is I will be turning in a petition signed by over 1800</p> <p>22 people urging for that same consideration.</p> <p>23 So along with the idea that we're paying for stuff when</p> <p>24 PSE is already getting so much -- so many federal subsidies.</p> <p>25 PSE is not paying federal income taxes. Their CEO made,</p>

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<p>1 what, 7 and-a-half million dollars in 2018. So there's a                  2 lot of reasons just monetarily-wise that we shouldn't be                  3 giving money to this corporation because they don't need it.                  4 And they're choosing to spend it unwisely on PR campaigns,                  5 on greenwashing of fracked gas, on lobbying, on making sure                  6 that when other communities want to start banning gas in new                  7 buildings, they're there to try to hold that back.                  8 So along with that, we also want to make sure that when                  9 we're looking at the lowest cost, which is some of the terms                  10 used by the UTC, I invite you to think of cost as something                  11 more than a dollar sign. I invite you to think of all of                  12 the costs of continuing to use fracked gas. Those costs                  13 include kicking indigenous people off of their land. It's                  14 happening right now up in BC, Canada. BC is one of the main                  15 places where PSE proposes to get gas for some of its                  16 projects, including the Tacoma LNG project.                  17 Very recently, the Wet'suwet'en people were kicked off                  18 unseated land at gunpoint. That just happened for a gas                  19 pipeline. When we say okay to gas, we are complicit in this                  20 behavior. We're complicit in that poison water. We're                  21 complicit in Tacoma where a project is already                  22 three-quarters of the way constructed while that tribe                  23 argues that they weren't consulted and that it's not the                  24 Port's land to be building on. And somehow we're supposed                  25 to act like we don't see that or we don't know that when we</p>	<p>1 Okay, Kim Dobson.                  2 MR. DOBSON: Good evening hearing board members. I'm a                  3 rate payer and I have been for at least 40 to 50 years at                  4 6330 Eliason Drive Northwest, Olympia, Washington. I also                  5 object to the rate hikes and I also don't agree with the                  6 move towards fracked gas. I don't think we should have to                  7 pay for infrastructure that we are only going to use 2                  8 percent of the time with this LNG Plant. The Puyallup tribe                  9 has clearly stated that it does not want it.                  10 And, you know, the -- because of the City of Tacoma is the                  11 lead agency, it has eliminated itself from the governor's                  12 energy citing committee purview, which makes it kind of                  13 unaccountable. And I'm hoping that the Department of                  14 Ecology will do a better job than the ORCA or the Clean Air                  15 Agency that just said it had no significant inputs or                  16 significant affect on the environment.                  17 So with all of that, some of this rate hike, especially                  18 for gas, is going for the construction of this so called                  19 storage facility. And I object to that. It's -- it is a                  20 sneaker, and that is an export facility to the Pacific Rim,                  21 supposedly trying to be a storage facility for PSE customers                  22 and the Salish Sea. And I think they're not being honest                  23 with us about it.                  24 One of the other things that I object to is a couple of                  25 bills that are related to this gas pipeline business. HB</p>
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<p>1 okay these decisions. We have to stop giving money to                  2 things that are harming other people for one set of people                  3 to be more comfortable.                  4 And as a grandmother, what hurts me the most is knowing                  5 that when we continue to permit more fossil fuel projects in                  6 the face of what global scientists are telling us, it is                  7 upholding the genocide of future generations, it's nothing                  8 short of that. My granddaughter does not automatically get                  9 to have grandchildren of her own unless people in your types                  10 of seats make different decisions than we've been doing.                  11 These are life or death decisions. And I really invite you                  12 to think deeply about being in your seats in this moment in                  13 history, the opportunity before you to be a hero in your own                  14 grandchildren's story, in your own children's story. You're                  15 living that right now.                  16 We need you to make decisions on the side of the people,                  17 the people of Washington and all of the people of the globe                  18 that don't get a say in whether we continue fossil fuels or                  19 not. So please make your decision on the side of the                  20 people. Thank you.                  21 CHAIR DANNER: All right, thank you. Did you have a                  22 petition you say, have you given it to --                  23 MS. OAKS: I was going to electronically email in                  24 the -- all of the signers.                  25 CHAIR DANNER: Okay, that's great. Thank you very much.</p>	<p>1 2515 allows PSE and Williams pipeline to enlarge pipelines                  2 without the governor's energy citing committee purview as a                  3 so called green looking for leaks in the pipelines, which                  4 allows them to enlarge the pipeline to feed the distribution                  5 system into the storage tank.                  6 So I've already written to the legislators, Shewmake and                  7 Fitzgibbons, the two of the ones that are sponsoring the                  8 bill. And they are greenwashing the reason. And I think                  9 they need to be more transparent. And if I didn't know any                  10 better, I would say PSE's lobbyist, Paul Berrets (phonetic),                  11 had something to do with the loophole in that legislation.                  12 So at any rate, I don't think we need a rate hike for the                  13 electricity either. They just got a rate hike. And I too                  14 purchase green power and I object to the wind power being                  15 sold to Californians, that's how PSE makes its money. So                  16 technically we get very little of that wind power as the                  17 share of the dams on the Columbia, the power that we get in                  18 Tier 2, those public power groups of energy.                  19 And I want the coal plants, that coal strip shutdown                  20 immediately, faster, on a faster schedule. They are the                  21 most polluting, most polluting coal plants in the country                  22 and in the west.                  23 At any rate, thanks for listening to me and I probably                  24 used up my time and please do the right thing.                  25 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much, I appreciate it.</p>

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<p>1 All right. Don Marsh and Victoria Leistman, you are on                  2 deck. Okay. Mr. Marsh.                  3 MR. MARSH: Good evening. My name is Don Marsh. I'm the                  4 president of the non-profit citizen's organization CENSE,                  5 the Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy.                  6 I've served on PSE's integrated resource plan advisory group                  7 for several years. And I'm now a member of the company's                  8 technical advisory group. These volunteer roles have                  9 provided some insight regarding PSE's future plans.                  10 The Eastside community is deeply concerned with two local                  11 transmission projects. Energize Eastside and the Lake Hills                  12 Transmission Line. The commission has stated that these                  13 projects do not follow Washington Administrative Code                  14 480-100-238, which requires PSE to submit a biannual                  15 integrated resource plan describing future generation and                  16 transmission needs. PSE has violated this code by                  17 repeatedly omitting transmission planning from the IRP.                  18 This is important because these transmission lines would not                  19 significantly improve reliability yet would destroy                  20 thousands of valuable urban trees, increase safety risks and                  21 raise electricity bills by hundreds of millions of dollars                  22 throughout PSE service territory.                  23 The primary benefit factors of these projects are not rate                  24 payers, but PSE's foreign investors. For example, PSE has                  25 spent over 70 million dollars on studies and advertising for</p>	<p>1 reject the company's requested rate increase. Thank you                  2 very much.                  3 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.                  4 All right. Victoria Leistman and Rich Voget, you are                  5 next. Good evening.                  6 MS. LEISTMAN: Good evening. My name is Victoria                  7 Leistman, I'm an organizer with the Sierra Club. Thank you                  8 so much for taking the time to listen to people this                  9 evening. Sierra Club represents thousands of members across                  10 Washington State who are Puget Sound Energy rate payers.                  11 And I am speaking on behalf of them tonight to ask you to                  12 deny these rate increases.                  13 And I want to be really frank, too, I've heard a few                  14 people start by mentioning Puget Sound Energy is a foreign                  15 owned corporation. I would go as far as to also say that                  16 they're a fossil fuel company. All of their actions up to                  17 date have demonstrated that they are first and foremost                  18 interested in their bottom line of continuing to pop up                  19 fossil fuel plants, whether that be coal or natural gas, and                  20 their integrated resource planning and their public                  21 engagement process and the misinformation campaigns that                  22 they've put out there reflect that. And it is time that we                  23 stop treating them like a utility that is actually                  24 participating in public process and abiding by your                  25 regulatory requirements because that's absolutely not what</p>
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<p>1 it's Energize Eastside project, yet refuses to provide data                  2 demonstrating the company's assertion that peak demand for                  3 electricity is growing rapidly on the Eastside. PSE's                  4 annual reports to the federal energy regulatory commission                  5 show peak demand has been falling throughout PSE's territory                  6 over the last 15 years.                  7 As we speak here tonight, PSE is preparing to cut down 300                  8 trees in East Bellevue to build the new Lake Hills                  9 Transmission Line. Although PSE claims this project will                  10 improve the liability, the fact is that it would have                  11 prevented only one or two outages during the 13 years since                  12 it was proposed. The cost to our community and our natural                  13 resources is simply too high. The project was unanimously                  14 rejected by the East Bellevue Community Council and is                  15 strongly opposed by the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association.                  16 It is also opposed by CENSE and ten other neighborhood and                  17 environmental groups, as well as over a thousand residents                  18 who signed a petition asking PSE for a better solution.                  19 Given the current statutes for regulated utilities, you                  20 may not be able to stop these projects. The commissioners                  21 do have the power to deny a rate increase. We urge you to                  22 exercise your authority, enforce the Washington                  23 Administrative Code and for PSE's own sake, encourage the                  24 company to listen to its customers and engage with community                  25 leaders. Until PSE takes corrective steps, we ask you to</p>	<p>1 has happened.                  2 In Tacoma, they have built an LNG facility before they                  3 received all the proper permits. An LNG facility that you                  4 pointed out in your 2017 acknowledgement letter needed to be                  5 counted for if it didn't go on line at all because it was                  6 such a falsely cited project and the environmental review                  7 process was such a sham. That facility -- rate payers will                  8 be paying for more than 40 percent of that project when less                  9 than 2 percent of it is going for peak shaving means. And                  10 it's absolutely unacceptable that we continue to allow PSE                  11 to come back and get rate hikes approved in this way.                  12 To echo some of the folks ahead of me, too, the time to                  13 act was yesterday. And I feel inspired by elected officials                  14 who are willing to stretch the bounds of what their                  15 processes are and to take action that maybe hasn't been                  16 taken in the past, recognizing the dire times that we're in.                  17 And I believe in each of you to listen to the folks that you                  18 are taking the time to engage with this evening and apply                  19 that to your decision on this rate case. Thank you.                  20 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.                  21 All right. Rich Voget, did I get that right? All right.                  22 And Steven Storms, you are up next.                  23 MR. VOGET: Good evening, sir. When the airlines were a                  24 fledgling industry, railroads had all the money. But the                  25 railroads didn't consider broadening their business model</p>

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<p>1 and say, we're in the business of moving people and freight                  2 in general. They said only on rails. And then subsequently                  3 basically the airline industry pretty well bankrupted the                  4 railroads. And now we're in a similar situation where                  5 renewable energy is a fledgling industry, and the fossil                  6 fuel companies have all the money. And it's time for them                  7 to wake up and realize that they need to broaden their                  8 outlook and say we're energy companies providing energy to                  9 the public and all the climate science proves that. You                  10 know, we cannot afford to continue to be using fossil fuels.                  11 So I object to this idea that we have to keep funding                  12 their projects. In their little handout here they say that                  13 it's capital investment and the expenses are growing at a                  14 faster pace. Well, they're investing in more fossil fuel                  15 projects. That LNG facility that Victoria just told you all                  16 about in Tacoma, you know, they did it without the proper                  17 permits. And, you know, why should we be forced to pay for                  18 something we ought to be pushing -- applauding all their                  19 efforts to get into renewable energy. The bill that was                  20 passed last session in Olympia said we got to get to 100                  21 percent clean by 2045. And investing in more fossil fuel at                  22 this juncture isn't going to get them there, but they'll                  23 keep on using rate payer money for lobbyist to tell                  24 legislators to slowdown their legally required things they                  25 have to do with that law. They'll say, oh, sorry, you know,</p>	<p>1 retirement, I've become active in fighting to prevent a                  2 climate catastrophe. I do believe that we must stop using                  3 fossil fuels and prevent further carbon emissions. To be                  4 open, I do live within the safety zone of the LNG plant. I                  5 am planning on selling my house due to proximity. Both of                  6 my adult children and their families have already moved.                  7 I could speak on many different issues with the LNG plant,                  8 this would include safety, ownership, process, need, tribal                  9 rights and many more. Since this is a UTC, I will target                  10 mostly the financial misrepresentation. The LNG plant being                  11 built in Tacoma by Puget Sound Energy is a fraud for the                  12 rate paying public on many different levels. The public is                  13 being forced to pay 43 percent of the capital. This is                  14 estimated to be \$133,000,000 of the \$310,000,000 the plant                  15 cost. Besides the use for the TOTE Ship, the project was                  16 presented is a peak shaving plant that would provide the                  17 public with natural gas on the coldest days when the uses                  18 was extremely high. Originally, the public was going to use                  19 about 7 percent of the total production.                  20 PSE has now changed their plans and are now projecting a                  21 need for vaporizing LNG from the plant for ten years. This                  22 reduces a total public consumption from the plant to about 2                  23 percent. It appears that PSE is using the peak shaving                  24 function to obtain extra \$133,000,000 from the rate payers.                  25 This contribution from the public makes this one of the</p>
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<p>1 we couldn't -- it was too expensive to do it or something                  2 like that.                  3 So just tell them they've got to get off the fossil fuels.                  4 Thank you.                  5 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.                  6 All right. Steven Storms, and Barbara Church you had a                  7 question mark about whether you wanted to speak tonight.                  8 All right, come on up. Mr. Storms, good evening.                  9 MR. STORMS: Yes, my name is Steven Storms. I'm a rate                  10 payer and resident in northeast Tacoma. I have a degree in                  11 chemical engineering from the United States Military Academy                  12 at West Point and the University of Arkansas, past Chairman                  13 of Puget Sound Institute of Chemical Engineers. I was a                  14 licensed PE. I have over 40 years experience in the energy                  15 and environmental field. I retired from Weyerhaeuser as                  16 project director of process evaluation, which did                  17 benchmarking and cost comparison. I'm a member of the                  18 Pierce County Local Emergency Planning Committee. I'm a                  19 board member of the Northeast Tacoma Neighborhood Council,                  20 vice chairman of ACT, which is Advocates for a Cleaner                  21 Tacoma. Chairman of the board for several large, non-profit                  22 retirement communities, a father and a grandfather. And I                  23 also play tennis, which means I breathe a lot of the air.                  24 I never protested anything before, never marched for                  25 anything except when I was at West Point. Now after</p>	<p>1 most attractive projects that PSE could make. Depending on                  2 how you want to determine a return on investment, there are                  3 two views that show this extremely profitable project for                  4 PSE. The rate payers contribute 133,000,000 of the                  5 \$310,000,000 project. This would give PSE's project an                  6 extra return on investment of 43 percent.                  7 If you look at it a different way, the rate payers                  8 contribute 133 million towards the project and PSE                  9 contributes 177. This would give PSE a 75 percent return on                  10 their investment, that's 133 over 177. No matter how you                  11 calculate the profit for PSE, they will continue to use the                  12 peak shaving argument in order to receive extra ordinary                  13 windfall.                  14 There also appears to be a bait and switch scam proposed                  15 for the peak shaving need. While the need was originally                  16 described as a need for customer, the latest iteration                  17 indicates that the revaporized natural gas from the LNG                  18 Plant will actually be used for electric generation at power                  19 plants.                  20 The permit recently issued by Puget Sound and Clean Air                  21 stipulates that only natural gas from British Columbia and                  22 Alberta that can be used to supply the LNG facility. PSCAA                  23 used some PSE published numbers that indicate the natural                  24 gas leakage from British Columbia were much lower than                  25 anywhere else in the world. And that could be challenged.</p>

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<p>1 The thing I wanted to point out, a single source agreement</p> <p>2 leads to non-competitive pricing. There is no incentive to</p> <p>3 keep the prices low and it is known that there is no other</p> <p>4 suppliers that will be competing against you. A single</p> <p>5 source agreement is unwise due to the fact that any problems</p> <p>6 apply could curtail the LNG plant. Things such as strikes</p> <p>7 or accidents could completely shutdown the supply to the LNG</p> <p>8 facility. A perfect example is the Enbridge pipeline</p> <p>9 explosion that recently forced a curtailment of supply.</p> <p>10 While natural gas prices have reached extremely low price</p> <p>11 every in the US, PSE is requesting rate increases due to</p> <p>12 their single sourcing. The rate paying customer in the</p> <p>13 Pacific Northwest are paying for this single source plant.</p> <p>14 The new British Columbia majority ownership of Puget Sound</p> <p>15 Energy is a definite problem. When British Columbia is the</p> <p>16 major owner of PSE and they also have a contract that says</p> <p>17 all natural gas must come from British Columbia, they cannot</p> <p>18 be an impartial transaction. It can only lead to at least</p> <p>19 an appearance, if not actual conflict of interest.</p> <p>20 The recent collapse of the fracking industry financial</p> <p>21 viability has been well documented. Many companies have</p> <p>22 lost billions of dollars. The right (inaudible) have just</p> <p>23 begun. Projects are now being canceled. Most projects do</p> <p>24 not have a captive customer that they can pass through all</p> <p>25 their losses. And the fracking industry in BC will have PSE</p>	<p>1 CHAIR DANNER: Okay, you will be up next, I'll be calling</p> <p>2 on you. Thank you Ms. Church, go ahead.</p> <p>3 MS. CHURCH: Thank you. My name is Barbara Church. I am</p> <p>4 a retired educator and a member of the conversation of</p> <p>5 social justice group in the City of Tacoma.</p> <p>6 Over 60 percent of Puget Sound Energy comes from -- PSE's</p> <p>7 energy comes from fossil fuels. This corporation fits into</p> <p>8 a pattern of systemic racism where Puget Sound Energy puts</p> <p>9 its economic gain above the health, welfare and safety of</p> <p>10 residents and especially indigenous communities and</p> <p>11 communities of color. This is the case in Tacoma where I</p> <p>12 live only two miles from the LNG facility.</p> <p>13 These industries have encroached on the Puyallup tribe's</p> <p>14 lands, waters and diminished their salmon runs and limited</p> <p>15 their ability to practice traditional ways.</p> <p>16 So I'm really actually pretty scared that this project is</p> <p>17 so close to me because after Osama bin Laden was killed and</p> <p>18 they got intel from Al-Qaeda. There's a Richard Clark</p> <p>19 report that says don't build an LNG facility like this in an</p> <p>20 urban area, which is exactly what we have. And I won't get</p> <p>21 into that right now, but it's pretty scary for me. It's</p> <p>22 pretty scary for the communities and Kwakwaka'wakw</p> <p>23 reservation.</p> <p>24 I grew up poor. And so quite often we have our</p> <p>25 electricity turned off. Now, I listen to people talk before</p>
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<p>1 LNG to cover any losses.</p> <p>2 PSE can legitimately go to the UTC and request rate hikes</p> <p>3 because of the increased cost of natural gas coming from BC.</p> <p>4 Well, at the same time, natural gas is at an extremely low</p> <p>5 price everywhere. In some cases it is being given away to</p> <p>6 get rid of it.</p> <p>7 CHAIR DANNER: Mr. Storm, do you have much longer?</p> <p>8 MR. STORM: I can quit any time.</p> <p>9 CHAIR DANNER: You've gone way over 3 minutes.</p> <p>10 MR. STORM: Okay.</p> <p>11 CHAIR DANNER: So if you have written comments that you</p> <p>12 would like to give to staff, we can get them into the</p> <p>13 record.</p> <p>14 MR. STORM: So please do not be an enabler, do not allow</p> <p>15 PSE to increase prices. Do not give PSE any governmental</p> <p>16 incentives to build a contributor to global warming. Your</p> <p>17 goal should be to find ways to reduce fossil fuels, thank</p> <p>18 you.</p> <p>19 CHAIR DANNER: All right, thank you very much.</p> <p>20 All right, Barbara Church, come forward. I want to</p> <p>21 check -- I see we have a number of people who are here from</p> <p>22 Vashon and I want to make sure, I know you have ferries to</p> <p>23 catch. Are you pressed for time? Shall I take you out of</p> <p>24 order?</p> <p>25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We appreciate that.</p>	<p>1 me and talk about the huge rates that Puget Sound Energy</p> <p>2 charged to just restart. I mean I lived through a blizzard</p> <p>3 with no energy in my house. We had a fire place, but you</p> <p>4 know how that works, the heat goes up.</p> <p>5 So the other thing that worries me is that I heard last</p> <p>6 week on the news that China -- that the China trade project</p> <p>7 that our president put together is requiring that China buy</p> <p>8 LNG from the United States. And if you look on the map</p> <p>9 where we are situated and where Tacoma is, it's pretty scary</p> <p>10 that there's going to be a lot of pressure. And I know</p> <p>11 there's a lot of promotion because I see commercials all the</p> <p>12 time promoting liquified natural gas.</p> <p>13 But I want to end with -- because it was -- you know, we</p> <p>14 just celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. And</p> <p>15 I want to end with some of his vision and some of his words.</p> <p>16 The time is always right to do what is right. Don't raise</p> <p>17 those rates and don't allow the expansion of the fossil fuel</p> <p>18 industry. Thank you.</p> <p>19 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much, Ms.</p> <p>20 Church.</p> <p>21 Okay. Kevin Jones and Noah Roselander, you are up next.</p> <p>22 Good evening.</p> <p>23 MR. JONES: Good evening. Thank you, Chair Danner and</p> <p>24 Commissioner Rendahl and Balasbas. I am Kevin Jones, I am a</p> <p>25 technical advisor group member for Puget Sound Energy and a</p>



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<p>1 Puget Sound customer for pretty much my entire life here in 2 the Northwest. 3 PSE is requesting a 7.7 increase in residential 4 electricity rates. One point of their justification, as I 5 received from the mailer that they sent me, is technology 6 systems that allow customers to interact with PSE at their 7 convenience. You should reject this portion of the rate 8 request. 9 During the 2017 IRP hearing and during the entirety of the 10 2019 PSE IRP process which includes 125 inputs to PSE during 11 the May 2019 listening session, no customers asked for a 12 better interface to Puget Sound Energy. These are the 13 things that companies do to increase their efficiency and 14 sometimes to actually reduce their work force. 15 What customers have asked for and, as you well know, 16 they've asked over and over again is for Puget Sound Energy 17 to use current science and up to date data in the IRP 18 process. Incorporating these requests would enable Puget 19 Sound Energy to acquire assets that are truly -- represent 20 least reasonable costs and particularly now with renewable 21 energy rates being so much more cost effective than fossil 22 fuel rates. Basically, lower cost energy, electricity 23 generation assets would contribute to a lower most 24 reasonable cost than Puget Sound Energy currently sees in 25 their planning right now.</p>	<p>1 those, and they need to clearly define when input is being 2 used and when it is not and why is it not being used. 3 The letters that you're seeing are an attempt to get a 4 dialogue started so that we can get to the bottom of what 5 PSE's options are. And our goals are to find a way to get 6 to, not only renewable energy, but to the lowest reasonable 7 cost in doing so. 8 Hundreds of PSE customers are asking the utility to 9 include items in the IRP analysis that would reduce cost and 10 allow the utility to reduce their carbon pollution. It is 11 critical that you send PSE a message as the state 12 legislature clarified in the Clean Energy Transformation Act 13 that they get on with it. 14 I urge you to hold the utility accountable at this rate 15 case hearing and make sure you do not allow any rate 16 recovery unless these are things customers have asked for or 17 that comply with the (inaudible). I appreciate your time. 18 Thank you. 19 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much. 20 Okay. Noah Roselander, and John Williams, you're up next. 21 MR. ROSELANDER: Good evening, my name is Noah Roselander 22 from Vashon, a member of Vashon Climate Action Group and PSE 23 rate payer. 24 We're in the climate crisis and regulatory bodies like the 25 UTC are on the front lines. You have leverage and power</p>
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<p>1 There's a number of things that customers asked for in the 2 listening session, specifically using sufficient technical 3 justification for capital projects, Don Marsh referred to 4 Energize Eastside as one example; using current renewable 5 energy costs; using current demand forecast, as Don 6 mentioned, sometimes we see increased demand when in fact 7 the data shows that it's decreasing; and to incorporate a 8 demand response so that they could actually manage that 9 load. 10 The PSE response to those types of listening session 11 inputs, and I'll quote, "stakeholders do not always agree 12 with PSE's decision related to the modelling inputs. 13 Stakeholders will have an opportunity to revisit many of the 14 technical topics discussed during the 2021 IRP process." 15 PSE is basically saying stakeholders can try again in 16 another year to have us address these technical issues, but 17 they're ignoring the opportunity to do so right now. 18 So, you're basically going to get another letter from me. 19 Thank you for recognizing those letters about PSE's 20 accountability regarding the public input process. But PSE 21 is failing to address these very specific, technical inputs 22 means they're also ignoring the legislative demand in the 23 Clean Energy Transformation Act. The utilities have an 24 important role to play in this transformation. They need to 25 listen to the technical inputs. They need to incorporate</p>	<p>1 that most of us do not. Everything the UTC does must start 2 with the priority of working to end the burning of fossil 3 fuels because the future of life on the planet requires it. 4 That said, I understand this is a rate case hearing so 5 I'll make an economic point. Carbon Tracker is an 6 organization that advises institutional investors. They 7 introduce the concept of stranded assets to speak to the 8 economic risk of climate change. They define stranded 9 assets as "fossil fuel supply generation resources, which at 10 so many times prior to the end of their economic life are no 11 longer able to earn an economic return as a result of 12 changes associated with the transition to a low carbon 13 economy." 14 Their research shows that there are literally trillions of 15 dollars of investment in fossil fuel infrastructure will be 16 rendered worthless. PSE has not done what they can and 17 should do to advance the transition from fossil fuels to 18 renewable energy. And now, again, they're asking for rate 19 increases to support their fossil fuel infrastructure which 20 is destined to become stranded assets and a huge financial 21 liability. Who's going to get stuck with the financial 22 burden resulting from PSE's poor decision making. The UTC 23 must ensure it is not the rate payers. The financial hole 24 that PSE is digging itself into is the result of PSE's 25 failure to make the changes that many other utility</p>

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<p>1 companies, public and private, are making today.                  2 PSE spends millions annually on lobbying political                  3 contributions, marketing, greenwashing. They are not doing                  4 it to get more customers, they have the customers, they're                  5 doing it to increase their own profits on the backs of rate                  6 payers, thank you.</p>	<p>1 Okay. Ana Jamborcic, did I get that right?                  2 MS. JAMBORCIC: Close enough. So I am a resident and a                  3 rate payer. I live in King County in Seattle and I also own                  4 a small business. I've been in the energy industry for                  5 almost ten years and I've worked in software for longer than                  6 that. And I've been -- last time I was in this building was</p>
<p>7 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you, sir. John Williams.                  8 And Ana Jamborcic, you are next. Good evening, sir.</p>	<p>7 actually about three years ago when I also talked at a                  8 similar rate increase request. And I just remember there                  9 was a lot of, you know, question about, you know, is this</p>
<p>9 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Hi, my name is John Williams. And I                  10 am a rate payer and I oppose this rate increase.</p>	<p>9 going to be good for fossil fuel versus renewable energy.                  10 And I made the point that they should really invest heavily</p>
<p>11 Puget Sound Energy is asking the UTC for an additional 6.9                  12 percent in electrical revenue and 7.9 percent increase in                  13 natural gas revenue. This is after raising gas rates by 14                  14 percent in November despite a 50 percent reduction in the                  15 market for gas -- market price for gas.</p>	<p>11 into renewable energy. And since then, in the three years                  12 since then, I haven't seen that happen. I've seen an                  13 incredible amount of money go into lots of fossil fuel and                  14 other kind of projects.</p>
<p>16 Unlike publicly owned utilities, Puget Sound Energy gets                  17 more than 60 percent of it's energy from dirty fossil fuel                  18 such as coal and fracked gas and are only now reluctantly                  19 getting off coal. To meet our climate goals requires                  20 phasing out fracked gas. PSE is not doing that and the UTC                  21 approving huge rate increases sends the wrong message to                  22 them.</p>	<p>16 And so even this kind of paper smart meters and get to                  17 zero initiative as well operate and maintain electric and                  18 natural gas systems, even I think they're proposing from                  19 expert opinion don't really make sense. Smart meters alone                  20 aren't really an effective way to invest money at this                  21 point. And then the whole goal of like we will review your                  22 total financial plans for closing fossil fuel resources</p>
<p>23 This rate hike is really because of a huge pipeline                  24 explosion in British Columbia that led to rationing and                  25 almost caused power outages. This shows that their gas</p>	<p>23 through the established rate hike process.                  24 So I would -- to me it's a clear case that this rate                  25 increase is completely crazy. They have the money and they</p>
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<p>1 infrastructure, as it's setup now, is not reliable. Why                  2 should Washington consumers be forced to pay more for it                  3 when cleaner and safer electricity is available.</p>	<p>1 are not investing it correctly. And it is all of our jobs                  2 to make sure that we hold them accountable. But in addition                  3 to that, I think we should say no more rate increases until</p>
<p>4 CEO Kimberly Harris made 7.6 million in compensation in                  5 2018. Over the last ten years, PSE's total political                  6 spending in Washington has been 7,000,000 compared to                  7 2,000,000 for Amazon. PSE is part of a \$1,000,000 PR                  8 campaign to fight any initiatives that curb fossil fuels.                  9 From 2016 to 2018 PSE spent over \$1,700,000 in lobbyists in                  10 Olympia. That's almost \$400,000 more than Amazon spent                  11 during the same time period.</p>	<p>4 all of your investment is just into fossil-free                  5 investment -- fossil fuel free investment.                  6 So that would be my recommendation. Thank you for your                  7 time.                  8 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.                  9 Okay. Jordan VanVoast, did I get that right? And then                  10 Nicholas Bonazza, you're on deck. Go ahead, sir.</p>
<p>12 And as stated in your own info sheet, this increase is                  13 primarily for shareholder profit. To me, it appears that                  14 PSE is being used as a revenue stream for Canadian                  15 retirement funds. And they are milking this cash cow until                  16 it dies without putting any thought into it's part in the                  17 future.</p>	<p>11 MR. VANVOAST: Good evening, thanks for taking the time to                  12 listen.                  13 So I just want to start by echoing the recognition that                  14 standing on the coast Salish land. My name is Jordan                  15 VanVoast, I'm a medical professional, a faith leader, a PSE                  16 rate payer in Seattle and a parent.</p>
<p>18 Why should we as rate payers be expected to pay for poor                  19 management? If they need to cover increased cost, they                  20 should be reducing their payments to shareholders and                  21 salaries to executives and lobbying and not asking rate                  22 payers to cover the loss.</p>	<p>17 PSE's rate increase should be denied for several reasons.                  18 We live in a country where socialism is labeled an evil and                  19 by the political establishment and where bankruptcies, due                  20 to the high cost of medical care, are at an all time high                  21 because people can't afford to see a doctor. But a foreign                  22 owned, private utility corporation pushing its toxic fossil                  23 fuel products expects us to pay more while the executives</p>
<p>23 I urge the UTC to reject this request for an increased                  24 rate. Thank you.</p>	<p>22 with their seven figure salaries and bonuses launch                  23 greenwashed PR campaigns to convince us that fracked gas is</p>
<p>25 CHAIR DANNER: All right, thank you very much.</p>	<p>24 greenwashed PR campaigns to convince us that fracked gas is                  25</p>

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<p>1 safe and clean.</p> <p>2 At a time when a climate apocalypse limbs over our world</p> <p>3 or arguably is already here, we shouldn't be rewarding</p> <p>4 companies that show little interest in renewable energy but</p> <p>5 keep on promoting dangerous fracked gas releasing methane</p> <p>6 into the atmosphere, feeling the climate emergency as well</p> <p>7 as death and destruction due to the implicit dangers</p> <p>8 involved in fossil fuel extraction and transportation and</p> <p>9 the erasure of indigenous tribes.</p> <p>10 The proposed rate hike isn't even a cost of business</p> <p>11 connected to services provided, it's a brazen attempt at a</p> <p>12 profit grab, which is criminal, at least in an ethical</p> <p>13 sense.</p> <p>14 Please consider these adverse impacts of PSE's business.</p> <p>15 I urge you to deny the proposed rate hike by Puget Sound</p> <p>16 Energy, thank you.</p> <p>17 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>18 All right. Nicholas Bonazza and Jerry Ball, you signed</p> <p>19 up. I don't know if you wish to testify or not. Did you?</p> <p>20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.</p> <p>21 CHAIR DANNER: No, okay. Then Neal Anderson, you are up</p> <p>22 next. Go ahead, sir.</p> <p>23 MR. BONAZZA: Hi there. You've mentioned some of these,</p> <p>24 actually in your opening statements, David, you mentioned</p> <p>25 some of these figures yourself. So I'll go quickly, it's</p>	<p>1 two months ago. And there's been a 50 percent reduction in</p> <p>2 market gas prices. Approving 6.9 percent in electricity</p> <p>3 revenue and 7.9 percent in additional gas revenue translates</p> <p>4 to more than \$200,000,000 annually for the majority Canadian</p> <p>5 shareholder owned corporation.</p> <p>6 PSE is building a controversial Tacoma LNG plant. And</p> <p>7 although less than 2 percent of this infrastructure is</p> <p>8 designed for residential customers. They plan to pass 43</p> <p>9 percent of the construction costs through higher utility</p> <p>10 rates.</p> <p>11 I ask you, we ask you, to please deny this requested rate</p> <p>12 height, thanks.</p> <p>13 CHAIR DANNER: All right, thank you. All right. I am</p> <p>14 sensitive that folks who need to catch ferries need to catch</p> <p>15 ferries. Is there anyone else here from Vashon who needs to</p> <p>16 speak and run? Okay. Thank you all for being truthful.</p> <p>17 Neal Anderson come forward. And Jessica Scalzo, you are on</p> <p>18 deck.</p> <p>19 MR. ANDERSON: Thanks. I'm here because I'm concerned</p> <p>20 that the LNG facility in Tacoma could become a stranded</p> <p>21 asset. Four months ago, the International Maritime</p> <p>22 Organization created a working group to study the climate</p> <p>23 impacts of different fuel options. In their final summary</p> <p>24 statement, they concluded that LNG is not a climate solution</p> <p>25 for shipping. If the IMO is casting doubt on the future of</p>
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<p>1 just a statement that I have and I have to catch a boat.</p> <p>2 This is a request that the state utilities and</p> <p>3 transportation commission stop approving rate hikes for a</p> <p>4 privately held Puget Sound Energy. I live on Vashon Island,</p> <p>5 which is served by Puget Sound Energy, which, as we've been</p> <p>6 listening, is a for-profit gas and electric utility</p> <p>7 provider.</p> <p>8 Our community and our state support climate change goals</p> <p>9 that require phasing out these fossil fuels. The company</p> <p>10 has made no investments -- has made few investments in</p> <p>11 alternative energy sourcing but continue to force dependents</p> <p>12 on these fossil fuels. We all know -- we've heard this just</p> <p>13 now, Puget Sound Energy gets over 60 percent of it's</p> <p>14 electrical power from dirty fossil fuels still coal, oil and</p> <p>15 fracked gas. In it's most recent 20-year plan, they intend</p> <p>16 to expand it's natural gas infrastructure, a methane</p> <p>17 potential heat trapping greenhouse gas, mostly sourced from</p> <p>18 fracking.</p> <p>19 PSE is owned by a foreign investment company that includes</p> <p>20 a pension fund that's heavily invested in oil and fracked</p> <p>21 gas. As a public and regulatory agency, the WUTC is tasked</p> <p>22 with ensuring energy rates that are reasonable for customers</p> <p>23 while allowing a company a fair profit.</p> <p>24 PSE just filed for another rate increase for residential</p> <p>25 customers even though they just raised rates by 14 percent</p>	<p>1 LNG for fuelling ships, this seems like a pretty</p> <p>2 irresponsible investment. But it's worse than just a bad</p> <p>3 idea financially.</p> <p>4 Climate change isn't a distant threat that we still have</p> <p>5 time to prevent. The midwest just had the worse flooding in</p> <p>6 their history with 14 million people affected. And we all</p> <p>7 know what's happening here in Australia.</p> <p>8 We have known this was coming for more than 40 years. But</p> <p>9 instead of working on solutions, we've allowed more and more</p> <p>10 fossil fuel projects to go forward. We can't bring the</p> <p>11 temperatures down now. We've committed ourselves to this</p> <p>12 level of ongoing disaster. We'll keep reading stories like</p> <p>13 this because we failed to act in time. All we can do now is</p> <p>14 limit how bad it gets. But it won't stop getting worse</p> <p>15 until all fossil fuel emissions stop.</p> <p>16 We need to be doing everything we can to phase out gas and</p> <p>17 this is an attempt to lock us into even more of it.</p> <p>18 Doubling down on more fossil fuels means intentionally</p> <p>19 harming the next generation in pursuit of greater profit.</p> <p>20 These projects are designed to last decades and they only</p> <p>21 make financial sense if they operate long enough. By</p> <p>22 investing in this facility, PSE is betting that the fossil</p> <p>23 fuel era will last another 20 to 30 years. But at this</p> <p>24 point, that's betting against humanity. This is not a bet</p> <p>25 the PSE rate payers should be required to fund. Thank you.</p>

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<p>1 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>2 Okay. Ms. Scalzo.</p> <p>3 MS. SCALZO: Hi, thank you. My name is Jessica Scalzo and</p> <p>4 I am a resident of Seattle. I grew up on the Eastside, so</p> <p>5 I'm familiar with PSE. But I also just heard a few people</p> <p>6 from Seattle say they pay PSE. I was under the impression</p> <p>7 that I'm paying Seattle Public Utilities, I could be</p> <p>8 incorrect about that.</p> <p>9 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Gas.</p> <p>10 MS. SCALZO: Oh, okay, thank you. I'm here today because</p> <p>11 I am very concerned about the LNG facility and the fact that</p> <p>12 these rate increases are helping to profit up, especially</p> <p>13 most recently with what has happened in Australia. I'm very</p> <p>14 concerned that we would be continuing to support fossil</p> <p>15 fuels. And at this point it seems like something that's</p> <p>16 quite archaic. So I'm really concerned that we are still</p> <p>17 pushing that.</p> <p>18 And I just wanted to come and make my voice heard about</p> <p>19 that. If we are going to continue to push it, which I</p> <p>20 really hope that we don't, that rate payers are not required</p> <p>21 to fund our own planet destruction. So thank you for the</p> <p>22 time, I appreciate it.</p> <p>23 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>24 All right. Warren Halverson and Peter Fink, you're on</p> <p>25 deck.</p>	<p>1 believe it or not, weather. Very important ingredients in</p> <p>2 those models that they're using today. I'd like to have you</p> <p>3 examine them, maybe they need to be refreshed.</p> <p>4 Clearly, after ten years of dialogue about Energize</p> <p>5 Eastside, some of the most significant questions still</p> <p>6 remain unanswered. For rate making purposes, my concerns</p> <p>7 here is how much is it going to cost? Will it be</p> <p>8 200,000,000 - 300,000,000 or even more in out-of-pocket</p> <p>9 expense? Then, will it be a billion or even more over the</p> <p>10 40 year life of the Energized Eastside project?</p> <p>11 This is a huge expense for what is basically an off the</p> <p>12 shelf, brick and mortar product. It seems to me that we</p> <p>13 should know those projected cost as part of any prudence</p> <p>14 determination. Who knows, there may be even better</p> <p>15 solutions.</p> <p>16 We do know, though, from the FERC reports the PSE has</p> <p>17 already spent 70, 7-0, million dollars. That's a lot of</p> <p>18 money. I've been told that this is categorized as ongoing</p> <p>19 product development expense, expense on an ongoing basis for</p> <p>20 an age old solution like transmission lines off the shelf,</p> <p>21 so to speak. This all seems really odd to me. The WTC</p> <p>22 needs to take a closer look and perhaps even an audit of all</p> <p>23 expenses associated with this one project to determine if</p> <p>24 this is a prudent use of rate payers' moneys.</p> <p>25 Finally, I would like to share with you an article from</p>
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<p>1 MR. HALVERSON: Good evening, Commissioners Danner,</p> <p>2 Rendahl and Balasbas. My name is Warren Halverson, a</p> <p>3 40-year resident and rate payer in Bellevue. Both my</p> <p>4 daughters and their families live here. I'm a retired</p> <p>5 business executive formerly with US West, a regulated</p> <p>6 telecommunications company. Most recently I've been very</p> <p>7 involved in electrical reliability issues and currently</p> <p>8 serve on Puget Sound Energy's technical advisory committee</p> <p>9 for the Integrated Resources Plan.</p> <p>10 I know rate making is a very complex issue and I do not</p> <p>11 pretend to be an expert. But I would like to share with you</p> <p>12 a few concerns about the proposed rate increases. The</p> <p>13 electrical industry, as we all know, is going through</p> <p>14 dramatic changes today, really dramatic changes that have</p> <p>15 changed the whole landscape.</p> <p>16 In that vein, my concerns are this. PSE's request for a 7</p> <p>17 percent hike seems really high in relation to economic</p> <p>18 growth and inflation. Having developed budgets and manage</p> <p>19 large organization, I would hope that you would review in</p> <p>20 detail that line by line, the assumptions and actual</p> <p>21 statistics that require this huge rate increase.</p> <p>22 A second concern, and maybe the overriding one, is whether</p> <p>23 the models being used adequately take into consideration</p> <p>24 macro trends and impacts like wind, solar power, batteries,</p> <p>25 micro grids, conservation, clean energy initiatives and</p>	<p>1 today's Wall Street Journal entitled Glut Pushes Natural Gas</p> <p>2 Prices Below \$2. You've heard a little bit about this from</p> <p>3 my colleagues here in terms of gas prices. Since</p> <p>4 19 -- since 2018, it's dropped 61 percent. You can't see</p> <p>5 this chart, I'm going to give you a copy of it. It is truly</p> <p>6 dramatic, truly dramatic. And yet, we're asking for</p> <p>7 increases in natural gas prices.</p> <p>8 How can natural gas go up so much when the expense</p> <p>9 associated with the product is dramatically falling? It</p> <p>10 just doesn't make sense to me. The author also suggests</p> <p>11 here that warmer than expected weather this season has</p> <p>12 helped drive prices down. The applicability of this warmer</p> <p>13 weather has a lot to do with the modelling and it also has a</p> <p>14 lot to do with why you should take a look at peak demand and</p> <p>15 where peak demand is.</p> <p>16 I might just simply add that Kevin Jones is also, who</p> <p>17 spoke a little earlier, is on the IRP committee, so am I and</p> <p>18 so are several other people. And we are very disappointed</p> <p>19 to have it cut short. And for five years, since we talked</p> <p>20 to Phillip Jones and instructed to get involved in the IRP</p> <p>21 process, have never gotten an answer to some very basic</p> <p>22 questions on Energize Eastside. Very basic, still not to be</p> <p>23 answered. Why? Why won't PSE produce those results, those</p> <p>24 statistics? We would like your help on that, thank you.</p> <p>25 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.</p>

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<p>1 Mr. Fink. Okay. And Laura Gibbons, you're on deck. Go 2 ahead, sir. 3 MR. FINK: Hi, I am not a rate payer, but I am a cost 4 payer, a toll payer, someone who has to pay the toll of 5 climate change, much like everyone on this planet who will 6 have to pay toll of climate change. I'm not from Seattle 7 either. I'm from somewhere close to the Columbia Gorge. 8 That area there are a lot of wind turbines and quite a few 9 dams as well. These are two examples of renewable energy. 10 Renewable energy has a very bright future ahead of it. And 11 any rational entity would see that. But unfortunately this 12 is a case where we are lacking rational entities. Rational 13 entities would look at the situation and see this, that the 14 fossil fuel industry is going to cost them more long term 15 than renewables. If they switch now, they can save a lot of 16 money. 17 Rational beings would see that they only have ten years to 18 meet the guidelines set here. And that if they delay their 19 action, they're going to have to work a lot faster if they 20 don't want to face heavy, heavy consequences. Rational 21 beings would recognize that the heavy, heavy consequences 22 aren't economic but are consequences of the welfare of their 23 customers. 24 But the people in question, PSE, are not rational, they're 25 not rational entity, they're a cunning entity. They are</p>	<p>1 MS. FAITH: Yes, I'm Amy Faith and I live on Northeast 8th 2 Street. I'm against the payment increase, the rate increase 3 of Puget Sound Energy because my home is on the path of 4 Puget Sound Energy soon to be built Phantom Lake, lake 5 transmission line. And putting this line will destroy 300 6 mature trees, including those along 148th Avenue and 7 Northeast 8th Street. It is these trees that have given 8 Bellevue, the city in a park moniker. 9 PSE refuses to consider any other options despite public 10 outcry from Bellevue residents, homeowners and environmental 11 groups. Instead, these -- the chainsaws are coming. They 12 are so close now you can see their teeth clinching from 13 here. 14 Please don't let PSE do this to our city, stop them now. 15 We shouldn't be paying higher rates for these people, they 16 need to get out. Thank you. 17 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much. 18 Mr. Engelson, I am getting down to -- did you swear in? 19 MR. ENGELSON: Yes. 20 CHAIR DANNER: You were one -- okay because we are at some 21 point we are going to have to take the next batch of people 22 and swear them in as well. So we'll get to that. Go ahead, 23 sir. 24 MR. ENGELSON: Thank you. First of all, I wanted to say 25 thank you for giving us this opportunity to voice our</p>
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<p>1 cunning because they spent almost a million dollars on 2 lobbying. We know they are cunning because they have spent 3 half a million dollars on political campaigns and that was 4 over a two-year period, \$7,000,000 total in their campaign 5 to advertise and push a greenwashing agenda built on this 6 irrational fossil fuel ideal. 7 So I'm asking you to make the rational decision here, not 8 the cunning -- not to listen to the cunning group that 9 exploits their workers, their citizens, their customers. 10 Thank you. 11 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much, sir. Laura Gibbons, 12 and then Amy Faith is up next. Good evening. 13 MS. GIBBONS: Hello, Commissioners. I don't have much to 14 say that hasn't been said already here. I just, you know, 15 maybe I should have made myself the public utility because 16 it seems like a pretty good way to make money, get 17 guaranteed 9. something percent return. And I would have 18 used clean energy if I were running that utility. 19 I don't think -- I'm particularly unhappy with what PSE 20 has done with respect to the Tacoma LNG Plant. And I just 21 don't think we should be giving any more money to investing 22 in any sort of fossil fuel, in particularly that. Thank 23 you. 24 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much. 25 All right. Amy Faith, and Don Engelson, you're on deck.</p>	<p>1 concerns, we appreciate it. I grew up here in Bellevue and 2 I have lived here in the northwest for all but three of my 3 years of my life. So this area of the country is very 4 important to me. 5 I have worked at my job in aerospace for over 20 years in 6 Renton and never once have I gotten a 6 percent raise or a 7 7 percent raise or a 14 percent raise. I think I got a raise 8 last year and it was 2 percent. I don't know how Puget 9 Sound Energy expects people, tax payers, to continually be 10 paying 6 percent more, 7 percent more, 14 percent more when 11 we're not making those kind of wages to make up for that. 12 This is the first time that I've actually attended one of 13 these meetings, but I finally got tired of hearing that 14 Puget Sound Energy is once again, asking for a rate hike. 15 And so here I am. I'm just a middle class, working guy and 16 I have other bills to pay and they keep going up too. My 17 water bill is atrocious. My cable bill has gone up \$10 in 18 the last few years a month. And it may seem like nickeling 19 and diming us, but it all adds up and comes out of our 20 bottom line. 21 So I understand that Puget Sound Energy has projects that 22 they need to put money into, but I have projects at home 23 too. And I have to save money from every paycheck in order 24 to pay for my projects. So the bottom line is, I believe 25 that Puget Sound Energy needs to manage their money more</p>

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<p>1 responsibly instead of continually coming to the rate payers</p> <p>2 and asking for another handout. Thank you very much.</p> <p>3 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>4 All right. Court Olson and then Doug Howell, you're on</p> <p>5 deck.</p> <p>6 MR. OLSON: I'll start with a thanks for being here</p> <p>7 tonight and listening to us. It's just a voice. Court</p> <p>8 Olson is my name. I live here in Bellevue. I could talk</p> <p>9 for a long time because my path and the work that I do</p> <p>10 crosses with Puget Sound Energy fairly frequently. I too am</p> <p>11 one of the members of the Puget Sound Energy Integrated</p> <p>12 Resource Planning Technical Advisory Group. I've been doing</p> <p>13 that for four years now, so I've been through two IRP</p> <p>14 cycles. I'm also an engineer by training and a construction</p> <p>15 manager, degrees in those areas. And I work with a couple</p> <p>16 of different groups related to the building industry that</p> <p>17 I've been working in all my life. And commercial building</p> <p>18 and commercial building technology I'm pretty familiar with.</p> <p>19 One of the groups that I participate in is called Shift Zero</p> <p>20 and it's a group of organizations, non-profit and for-profit</p> <p>21 and government agencies collectively trying to push our</p> <p>22 transition away from the use of fossil fuels in our building</p> <p>23 sector.</p> <p>24 So between the design and construction work that I've been</p> <p>25 overseeing for over 40 years now, the work in those</p>	<p>1 respond to detailed questions over and over and over. And</p> <p>2 because they're not doing what they say they're doing, I</p> <p>3 would submit that they're not honest.</p> <p>4 So we've got a real problem on our hands, those of us that</p> <p>5 are rate payers and you as commissioners. I don't know how</p> <p>6 we're going to solve it, but we need to stop fueling this</p> <p>7 kind of behavior. And one way to stop that is to not give</p> <p>8 them a rate increase.</p> <p>9 Thank you for your time.</p> <p>10 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>11 All right. Doug Howell and up next, Peter Talbot. Good</p> <p>12 evening.</p> <p>13 MR. HOWELL: Good evening. So nice to see you, thanks for</p> <p>14 being here, Commissioner Balasbas, Commissioner Rendahl,</p> <p>15 Chairman Danner. I just wanted to say -- well, first of all</p> <p>16 I should say I am Doug Howell with the Sierra Club, senior</p> <p>17 campaign representative. And I have been working on climate</p> <p>18 change policy for 30 years. And back in the US Senate in</p> <p>19 the late '80s, we were doing the run up for the Clean Air</p> <p>20 Act Amendments of 1990. At that point we wanted to, you</p> <p>21 know, just get an accounting of CO2. And I've had the</p> <p>22 opportunity to work on most federal legislation and a great</p> <p>23 deal and probably majority of state legislation. I've</p> <p>24 worked with a ton of agencies.</p> <p>25 And I just want to say for the record, that I know you</p>
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<p>1 organizations, sitting on the Puget Sound Energy IRP Board,</p> <p>2 being a resident of Lake Hills here in Bellevue where PSE</p> <p>3 says we need new transmission lines, even though I've not</p> <p>4 had an interruption problem in the 30 years I've been living</p> <p>5 a half mile from the substation that they say needs to be</p> <p>6 upgraded. And, well, you can hear that I have many things</p> <p>7 that I could be talking to you about. And I would just</p> <p>8 offer to you, if you ever would like me to come down and</p> <p>9 chat with you for an hour or more about my experiences with</p> <p>10 Puget Sound Energy, then I could explain the summarizing</p> <p>11 comments I'm going to make.</p> <p>12 And I've listened to the Senior Vice President, David</p> <p>13 Mills, for Puget Sound Energy several times say that they're</p> <p>14 trying to do the right thing and they're wanting to</p> <p>15 transition off of fossil fuels. And then I see what they</p> <p>16 actually do over and over and over again. And I come to</p> <p>17 these conclusions, which I can support with facts, but you</p> <p>18 don't have the time and I don't have the time tonight to</p> <p>19 give you all those facts.</p> <p>20 Puget Sound Energy is a self-serving group of profit</p> <p>21 making organization. They have very nice people, seemingly</p> <p>22 convincingly voicing arguments all of the time. But when</p> <p>23 you ask them to go into details, and I have many times, they</p> <p>24 can't support what they assert. They're running on</p> <p>25 antiquated data. They're not transparent. They don't</p>	<p>1 three care. And I know that your policy staff and the</p> <p>2 regulatory staff at the agency is really outstanding. And</p> <p>3 so while you're hearing a lot of angst tonight and anger,</p> <p>4 which is very justified, it's really about Puget Sound</p> <p>5 Energy. And while I like a lot of the staff at Puget, I am</p> <p>6 deeply disappointed and concerned.</p> <p>7 And so I wanted to just make some comments that I hope can</p> <p>8 guide your consideration around the rate case tonight. But</p> <p>9 I want to reference something I heard earlier about Puget</p> <p>10 being a fossil fuel company and just give a perspective. We</p> <p>11 did a calculation of all the coal and gas and their</p> <p>12 electricity. And all the gas on the gas side of the house.</p> <p>13 We added on the upstream emissions. We think it's about a</p> <p>14 90 percent increase on emissions profile for gas.</p> <p>15 When you do an accurate accounting, Puget comes in at</p> <p>16 around 14 percent. When we did that calculation, by the</p> <p>17 way, I don't remember the number, I'll get you the</p> <p>18 calculation our technical staff did at our headquarters in</p> <p>19 Oakland. I think it was about 15 million tons a year. You</p> <p>20 know, that puts them on the par with BP. It could be that</p> <p>21 Puget Sound Energy is the number one fossil fuel polluter in</p> <p>22 the state as a company. And if not, they're damn close to</p> <p>23 number one. They're certainly in the top three. So when</p> <p>24 you all think that Puget is a fossil fuel company, they are</p> <p>25 a fossil fuel company.</p>

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<p>1 But I want to now just go to some technical comments that</p> <p>2 I think are going to be important as you consider it because</p> <p>3 when you're thinking about gas, whether it's on the gas side</p> <p>4 of the house or gas on the electrical side of the house, we</p> <p>5 know there are costs now that need to be incorporated. When</p> <p>6 the legislature passed last year the Clean Energy</p> <p>7 Transformation Act, they passed social cost of carbon, which</p> <p>8 you pegged at 74 bucks a ton. We don't need to wait for the</p> <p>9 rules to be finalized on the social cost of carbon to know</p> <p>10 that that cost is real now. And so as you're doing the</p> <p>11 calculation on the rates, that needs to be incorporated now.</p> <p>12 In addition to that, you have upstream and, you know, the</p> <p>13 agencies are already start to go look at that in the Kalama</p> <p>14 Methanol case and the case of LNG in Tacoma and Puget has</p> <p>15 done the calculation. As I said, I think they came in at</p> <p>16 around 14 percent. And in reality, we believe it's closer</p> <p>17 to 90. You don't need to wait until the governor's</p> <p>18 executive order and directive that has now been promulgated</p> <p>19 last month goes into effect to know that that cost is real.</p> <p>20 That impact is real. We can't afford to wait.</p> <p>21 And I want to give you a perspective as you think about</p> <p>22 some of the analysis you see about upstream, which I think</p> <p>23 is deeply flawed because it's going to come back to you,</p> <p>24 whether you use it in the rate case now or when you have to</p> <p>25 weigh in on the governors rule making. And that is how you</p>	<p>1 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you.</p> <p>2 MR. HOWELL: When Puget did a calculation of these costs,</p> <p>3 they used 350 for the wholesale rate. They added in social</p> <p>4 cost of carbon and then they added in their carbonator and</p> <p>5 we did a more realistic calculation. They come up with 11</p> <p>6 bucks comes up with what is. We came up with 15. You know,</p> <p>7 when you take that whole cell rate of 15 bucks per gas and</p> <p>8 you turn that into what it means for megawatt hour, \$108 a</p> <p>9 megawatt hour for gas in an efficient turbine just for fuel</p> <p>10 cost alone.</p> <p>11 Gas is not worth it. Thank you.</p> <p>12 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.</p> <p>13 All right. Peter Talbot, and Marilyn Mayers is on</p> <p>14 deck -- Marilyn Mayers. Go ahead.</p> <p>15 MR. TALBOT: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My</p> <p>16 name is Peter Talbot. I'm a rate payer. I live in Redmond.</p> <p>17 I've become something of a climate activist lately simply</p> <p>18 because not to try to do something to change the utter</p> <p>19 degradation of the environment seems unconscionable,</p> <p>20 especially in the fact that I'm in the line -- in light of</p> <p>21 the fact that I'm a parent and a grandparent. So my wife</p> <p>22 and a neighbor have been standing out on a corner of a busy</p> <p>23 street on Friday mornings with signs during rush hour trying</p> <p>24 to wave to people. We have quotes from Greta Thundberg that</p> <p>25 say our house is on fire. We're trying to raise awareness</p>
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<p>1 think about the gas calculation that goes into upstream.</p> <p>2 Puget had said it comes from BC. Well, first of all, if you</p> <p>3 have a facility for 30 or 40 years, you don't know that it's</p> <p>4 going to come from BC. Second of all, the calculation that</p> <p>5 we believe they did about the BC gas is deeply flawed.</p> <p>6 But third and most important, any analysis about gas</p> <p>7 supply has to be done on a regional basis so you are</p> <p>8 addressing a fundamental climate concern and</p> <p>9 climate -- accounting called climate leakage. If in fact</p> <p>10 they did buy the gas from BC, they are simply pushing other</p> <p>11 buyers off to other regions of North America, whether it was</p> <p>12 the Rockies or the Southwest and the emissions are the same.</p> <p>13 It makes no difference. The only analysis that can be done</p> <p>14 about fuel supply is a regional fuel analysis. The attorney</p> <p>15 general came to that same conclusion when looking at the LNG</p> <p>16 project in Tacoma.</p> <p>17 So please think about that as you're reviewing it so that</p> <p>18 we get an accurate accounting of the climate impact, which</p> <p>19 has a very real cost being under represented in this rate</p> <p>20 case.</p> <p>21 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Mr. Howell, you've gone over your</p> <p>22 time.</p> <p>23 MR. HOWELL: Okay. We'll leave it at that.</p> <p>24 CHAIR DANNER: Can you finish up?</p> <p>25 MR. HOWELL: Yes, I can, I'll make it quick.</p>	<p>1 about the climate crisis, which we think it is every bit</p> <p>2 that.</p> <p>3 And then along comes PSE and asks me as a rate payer to</p> <p>4 subsidize their investment in further fossil fuel</p> <p>5 infrastructure. And I essentially want to express a sense</p> <p>6 of outrage that I am being expected to pay for what</p> <p>7 essentially is the cause for this crisis that we're facing.</p> <p>8 That's basically all I wanted to say, thank you for your</p> <p>9 time.</p> <p>10 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>11 All right. Marilyn Mayors, and on deck Paul Wagner. Good</p> <p>12 evening.</p> <p>13 MS. MAYERS: Hello. My name is Marilyn Mayors and I have</p> <p>14 been a resident of Bellevue and a rate payer for the last 33</p> <p>15 years. And I would like to thank Puget Sound Energy for two</p> <p>16 little seedlings they gave me some years ago as trees to</p> <p>17 plant in my garden, which I gladly did. However, it pales</p> <p>18 in comparison to what damage they are doing with the LNG</p> <p>19 plant.</p> <p>20 And I want to say, just take a moment to recognize what is</p> <p>21 happening in the country, generally, where we are. I think</p> <p>22 the kind of thing that we're talking about right now is</p> <p>23 having, a number of people have already addressed this.</p> <p>24 There is a long term cost to the environment and to faith</p> <p>25 and the capacity of government to protect our people, our</p>

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<p>1 society and our environment for short term gain.</p> <p>2 A number of people have already spoken about the level of</p> <p>3 funds that PSE has dedicated to lobbying. And I just want</p> <p>4 to bring up one example of citizen effort in the case of</p> <p>5 Thurston County back in 2012 when there was an effort to</p> <p>6 have a public owned utility as an alternative and it turned</p> <p>7 into the most expensive election in Thurston County at the</p> <p>8 time. And PSE spent over 400,000 against the measure, which</p> <p>9 ultimately wasn't approved by voters.</p> <p>10 I think when the level of lobbying we're talking about,</p> <p>11 literally millions of dollars, it is -- and the failure to</p> <p>12 act on the part of government to, again, support the</p> <p>13 community in falling through on what we need, which is clean</p> <p>14 energy, it's a reflection of corruption by another name.</p> <p>15 And I think it's important that you think in terms of long</p> <p>16 term, what it does to our state, our society, our community,</p> <p>17 but at minimally deny the rate increase.</p> <p>18 I will say one other thing. I would gladly pay for a rate</p> <p>19 increase if that went towards reparations to the Puyallup as</p> <p>20 opposed to building an LNG plant. Thank you very much. Do</p> <p>21 the right thing.</p> <p>22 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>23 All right. Paul Wagner, and then on deck Aedan McCall.</p> <p>24 MR. WAGNER: (Speaks in Native language) I am</p> <p>25 Chilten (phonetic) from Samish, I'm house leader people.</p>	<p>1 I am a PSE customer, regrettably. I, from day one, put</p> <p>2 money into their green energy, and it's a lie. They built</p> <p>3 that bomb on my people's land. They put up a flag, they got</p> <p>4 the permit from Tacoma City Council and put that on our</p> <p>5 territory, it's just the truth. If you look at the map,</p> <p>6 that's not Tacoma's land. That's Puyallup territory and</p> <p>7 they said no. They said no over and over and over again.</p> <p>8 We have said no. How many times do we have to say that?</p> <p>9 How many times do we have to speak for our Mother Earth</p> <p>10 and have it fall on deaf ears without a heart? The colonial</p> <p>11 decisionmaking system only knows its intellect. Could you</p> <p>12 once think your heart, I'm pleading with you. Our people</p> <p>13 are pleading with you to open your heart and take a look at</p> <p>14 what's going on in this world. Be part of this world and be</p> <p>15 part of the circle of life and make a decision for your</p> <p>16 grandchildren. Stand up for them, fight for them with a</p> <p>17 prayer, fight for them with a prayer that they will have a</p> <p>18 world worth living in. They will have a future because</p> <p>19 these guys are robbing it. They're robbing it right in</p> <p>20 front of us, each and every one of us. And we need to stand</p> <p>21 up and say, no, you're not going to rob the future, let</p> <p>22 alone rob the money from the common citizen and the person</p> <p>23 who's locked into their lie of green energy or even if you</p> <p>24 didn't buy into it.</p> <p>25 We need to make the right decision. So do not allow that</p>
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<p>1 We've been here since time of memorial. We've loved every</p> <p>2 single thing here as we would love our own child. And the</p> <p>3 decision makings of colonialism has pretty much killed</p> <p>4 everything we've loved. And now we're sitting here talking</p> <p>5 about should we let basically a fossil fuel company increase</p> <p>6 their rates for moving onto our lands illegally, it's been</p> <p>7 proven in court. It's Puyallup's land, and that's just what</p> <p>8 it is.</p> <p>9 And so I would ask you how that would feel to you? Would</p> <p>10 it feel good if a corporation moved onto your property and</p> <p>11 built an 8 million gallon fracked gas bomb and it had a 13</p> <p>12 mile blast zone on your property, illegally? So we're</p> <p>13 talking about an illegal facility there and an illegal</p> <p>14 company.</p> <p>15 These guys are not even from here. They're from Canada</p> <p>16 and Australia, which by the way have been on fire recently</p> <p>17 if you guys haven't noticed that. A billion animals have</p> <p>18 been burned to death. And we're talking about allowing a</p> <p>19 company who wants to expand fossil fuel as millions of youth</p> <p>20 rise up around the world fighting for their very lives.</p> <p>21 We're sitting here having this absurd discussion. It's</p> <p>22 amazing. It's absolutely amazing that we could be in this</p> <p>23 room talking about allowing a company who's basically going</p> <p>24 to eat the future of our children, whether we should allow</p> <p>25 them to reap more money from us.</p>	<p>1 to happen. Do not allow this rate increase. Thank you.</p> <p>2 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>3 All right, Aedan McCall come forward. Roni Vyeda, you</p> <p>4 signed up maybe. Do you wish to come forward?</p> <p>5 MR. MCCALL: Hi.</p> <p>6 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Go ahead, sir.</p> <p>7 MR. MCCALL: My name is Aedan McCall and I'm 18 years old.</p> <p>8 That makes me one of the youth that Paul was just talking</p> <p>9 about right now. So that means I'm not yet a rate payer,</p> <p>10 but I will be relatively soon. I speak for myself, but I</p> <p>11 wouldn't be here with out 350 Seattle and the protectors of</p> <p>12 the Salish Sea telling me about this event and encouraging</p> <p>13 me to show up and speak about it.</p> <p>14 And I'm confident that my personal future is at stake in</p> <p>15 the coming 10 years and that's kind of shocking to hear. So</p> <p>16 I think that means we all have to take action in accordance</p> <p>17 with the intergovernmental panel on climate change, maybe</p> <p>18 you've all heard of it. So, essentially, some of the</p> <p>19 conclusions from their most recent press releases discussed</p> <p>20 how there are some regions that are better able to account</p> <p>21 for climate change than others. And Washington State</p> <p>22 happens to be, at least in my opinion, one of those regions.</p> <p>23 And so in that case, there is the opportunity -- well,</p> <p>24 actually, let me backup a bit. I wanted to acknowledge that</p> <p>25 we're on stolen land as some people have said before. So I</p>



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<p>1 wanted to express my gratitude for that. But getting back</p> <p>2 to what I was saying, the opportunity we have here, you all</p> <p>3 have here, to deny PSE this rate increase is kind of a</p> <p>4 suggestion, I would say, to get them to reconsider the way</p> <p>5 that they've been conducting their business as well as to</p> <p>6 consider whether natural gases is a sustainable option</p> <p>7 outside of the very short term, which is, I think, maybe</p> <p>8 what they're considering.</p> <p>9 And also the fact that pipelines, at least fairly</p> <p>10 recently, have been a threat to some individual's lives.</p> <p>11 The fact that they've exploded recently and cost</p> <p>12 hospitalizations is rather threatening. And that seems like</p> <p>13 a pretty violent way for an energy source that so many</p> <p>14 people use to fail. So keep that in mind.</p> <p>15 And let's see so that's everything that I wanted to cover.</p> <p>16 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.</p> <p>17 CHAIR DANNER: All right, thank you. Thank you for coming</p> <p>18 out tonight.</p> <p>19 All right Roni Vyeda, come forward. And Ross Benson, you</p> <p>20 signed up maybe. Do you wish to come forward?</p> <p>21 MR. BENSON: No, thank you.</p> <p>22 CHAIR DANNER: All right. And I can't read your writing,</p> <p>23 George Cliff, Gary Cliff. All right. Marissa Roesijadi are</p> <p>24 you here, do you wish to speak?</p> <p>25 MS. ROESIJADI: Yes.</p>	<p>1 we're coming for you.</p> <p>2 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.</p> <p>3 All right. Ms. Marissa Roesijadi, go ahead. And Joe</p> <p>4 Tomlinson, did you want to speak tonight?</p> <p>5 MR. TOMLINSON: Yes, please.</p> <p>6 CHAIR DANNER: All right. You're on deck, then, sir.</p> <p>7 Okay, go ahead.</p> <p>8 MS. ROESIJADI: Hi, thank you for the opportunity to</p> <p>9 speak. I just have a simple statement to kind of encompass</p> <p>10 what I feel about all the facts and evidence and passionate</p> <p>11 statements that have been brought forward this evening. And</p> <p>12 I want to start with just reiterating actually your</p> <p>13 statement here that you have here on the pamphlet about</p> <p>14 providing services that are fairly priced, reliable and</p> <p>15 safe.</p> <p>16 We're here talking about a rate increase. And I want to</p> <p>17 echo what was brought up earlier is that we're locked into</p> <p>18 this surface. I feel that until the surface that PSE</p> <p>19 provides is done so with renewable energy, that no rate, let</p> <p>20 alone a rate that includes an increase in the rate, is a</p> <p>21 fair rate. The rate that we have now is not a fair rate</p> <p>22 because it does not reflect the service that is safe for the</p> <p>23 customers. We are simply beholden to pay into the system in</p> <p>24 order to meet our basic needs. Thank you.</p> <p>25 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p>
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<p>1 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Come forward and you will be up</p> <p>2 next. All right. Ms. Vyeda, go ahead.</p> <p>3 MS. VYEDA: Well, thank you very much. Thank you for</p> <p>4 being here and listening to us. I'm scared to death, but</p> <p>5 courage is being scared and doing it anyway. And I feel</p> <p>6 like I can't bitch if I don't get in the arena.</p> <p>7 And so, yeah, I've been a PSE customer since 1980 and I</p> <p>8 personally am one of the people that is having trees</p> <p>9 excavated out of their backyard. My precious, precious</p> <p>10 trees. I live on Northeast 8th. And I've gone to bat and</p> <p>11 to fight for that. I thank Don Marsh for all of his</p> <p>12 guidance.</p> <p>13 I don't want to give PSE any more money. You know the</p> <p>14 cable companies really hack me off with their big rate</p> <p>15 increases and the switch and bait kind of thing. And I just</p> <p>16 get so frustrated when there's a monopoly and we don't have</p> <p>17 a choice.</p> <p>18 I went to a meeting in Kirkland a couple weeks ago. And</p> <p>19 it was a thing -- kind of a start up grassroots kind of</p> <p>20 thing of some people that had an idea that we should have</p> <p>21 our own utility district in King County. And, yeah, it's a</p> <p>22 big, big dream out there, but that's kind of how dreams are</p> <p>23 made is somebody thinks about it and gets there and fights</p> <p>24 for it.</p> <p>25 So what I'd like to say is watch out Puget Sound Energy,</p>	<p>1 Okay. Joe Tomlinson and then Howard Harrison, you're on</p> <p>2 deck. Come on forward, sir.</p> <p>3 MR. TOMLINSON: Thank you very much. Joe Tomlinson, I'm a</p> <p>4 rate payer for 33 years. I'm an environmentalist and I'm</p> <p>5 also a realist.</p> <p>6 In the December bill of Puget Sound Energy sent out a</p> <p>7 flyer which listed three justifications for a rate increase,</p> <p>8 a significant rate increase. All three of those</p> <p>9 justifications were ridiculous. I am not going to go into</p> <p>10 details of why. That's already been largely covered here,</p> <p>11 but there are two justifiable reasons for a rate increase</p> <p>12 and neither of those were mentioned for political reasons.</p> <p>13 One of those reasons is the recently passed Clean Energy</p> <p>14 Transition Bill passed by our state legislature. It does</p> <p>15 increase the operating costs of Puget Sound Energy.</p> <p>16 Puget Sound Energy is a private company. They have to</p> <p>17 operate at a profit. If we, the people, pass laws through</p> <p>18 our legislature that increases the operating cost of Puget</p> <p>19 Sound Energy, we ought to be willing to pay for it. If we</p> <p>20 ask for it and it cost something, we should be willing to</p> <p>21 pay for it. But the green -- or the Clean Energy Transition</p> <p>22 Act is not the biggest reason for a rate increase. The</p> <p>23 biggest reason for a rate increase is the proposed sale of</p> <p>24 the coal strip, coal-fired generating plant that generates</p> <p>25 approximately 8 percent of our total energy usage. And a</p>

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<p>1 bigger portion of our base-load generation capacity. The</p> <p>2 base-load generation capacity is a generator that operates</p> <p>3 24 hours a day every day.</p> <p>4 Wind energy and solar energy cannot be used to substitute</p> <p>5 for base-load generating capacity. There are only four</p> <p>6 technologies that can substitute for the base-load</p> <p>7 generating capacity that has lost with the sale of that</p> <p>8 coal-fired plant, nuclear, hydroelectric, coal and natural</p> <p>9 gas. Those are the four options. If that base-load</p> <p>10 generating capacity is not replaced, we will in the future</p> <p>11 experience blackouts. It has to be replaced. Nuclear's not</p> <p>12 an option, nobody wants it. There is no more increased</p> <p>13 hydroelectric. The two remaining options are coal and</p> <p>14 natural gas.</p> <p>15 Coal is the dirtiest form of generating electricity.</p> <p>16 Puget Sound Energy is logically proposing to replace coal</p> <p>17 with natural gas. If they don't -- if they're unable to do</p> <p>18 that, we'll experience blackouts. Okay. If they get a 7</p> <p>19 and-a-half percent rate increase, then borrowing against</p> <p>20 that, they will be able to go ahead and build the natural</p> <p>21 gas generating facilities to replace that coal-fired plant.</p> <p>22 That coal-fired plant is actually being shut down</p> <p>23 prematurely. It was scheduled to be phased out in 2025, and</p> <p>24 was scheduled to be replaced by natural gas.</p> <p>25 Our governor and the environmentalist and our state</p>	<p>1 enough time to build the replacement base-load capacity.</p> <p>2 And there's no other option other than clean energy natural</p> <p>3 gas, which is just a cleaner form of energy than coal,</p> <p>4 although it is still a carbon form of fuel.</p> <p>5 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>6 All right. At this point, I want to make sure that the</p> <p>7 remaining people who want to comment, a lot of people have</p> <p>8 signed in and have arrived subsequent to our swearing in of</p> <p>9 witnesses. So I need those who are still here who have not</p> <p>10 been sworn in who wish to speak tonight to please stand and</p> <p>11 raise your right hand.</p> <p>12 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and</p> <p>13 nothing but the truth.</p> <p>14 AUDIENCE: Yes.</p> <p>15 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much, you may be</p> <p>16 seated, we will continue. I see I have one more person here</p> <p>17 signed in from Vashon and I am concerned about people</p> <p>18 getting ferries. So I am going to -- I saw that name just a</p> <p>19 second ago. My mistake. All right. Howard --</p> <p>20 MR. HARRISON: Harrison.</p> <p>21 CHAIR DANNER: Harrison, thank you.</p> <p>22 MR. HARRISON: Good evening, I'm Howard Harrison. And I</p> <p>23 live in Redmond and I am a PSE rate payer, also a proud</p> <p>24 protector of the Salish Sea. And I went on a little walk</p> <p>25 from the LNG facility to Olympia a couple months ago with</p>
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<p>1 government have forced Puget Sound Energy to prematurely</p> <p>2 propose, it's not done yet, but to propose, to sell their</p> <p>3 interest in that coal-fired plant. And what is going to</p> <p>4 replace it? Well, we will be at risk until the replacement</p> <p>5 base-load generating capacity powered by natural gas comes</p> <p>6 on line, and that will be in a few years. We're going to be</p> <p>7 at risk if they go ahead and sell that plant.</p> <p>8 Okay. If we don't give them the rate increase, they won't</p> <p>9 be able to sell that plant. It would be suicide to sell</p> <p>10 that plant unless they get the rate increase that will fund</p> <p>11 the natural gas replacement for that base-load capacity. So</p> <p>12 what it boils down to is, if they don't get the rate</p> <p>13 increase, they're probably not going to sell that plant.</p> <p>14 And if they -- they're not going to get the rate increase</p> <p>15 unless they sell that plant either because our governor's</p> <p>16 not going to allow them the rate increase through the</p> <p>17 utilities commission. They're not going to allow them that</p> <p>18 rate increase unless they do sell that plant. So that's</p> <p>19 what they're faced with.</p> <p>20 Ladies and gentlemen, we either -- if we want to continue</p> <p>21 to have power without blackouts like California is</p> <p>22 experiencing, we better either do one of two things, give</p> <p>23 Puget Sound Energy the rate increase they're asking for or</p> <p>24 continue to use that coal-fired plant and allow another five</p> <p>25 years to phase that out so that Puget Sound Energy has</p>	<p>1 Paul. I also sit occasionally on the PSE IRP Technical</p> <p>2 Advisory Committee, although I'm not a technical person.</p> <p>3 I've been there to witness the manipulation of statistics</p> <p>4 and the bringing up of outdated charts and graphs shared</p> <p>5 amongst the technical people there.</p> <p>6 First, I'd like to acknowledge that this land is the</p> <p>7 traditional territory of the Duwamish and other coast Salish</p> <p>8 people. Puget Sound Energy is owned by Canadian and Dutch</p> <p>9 corporations. It is the dirtiest most greenhouse gas</p> <p>10 producing utility in the state by far. It has built a huge</p> <p>11 LNG plant on the indigenous land on the Tacoma Tiedflats.</p> <p>12 It has done so illegally without a major permit. It is now</p> <p>13 coming to its rate payers to pay 43 percent of the cost of</p> <p>14 that plant. Only 2 percent of that facility would be used</p> <p>15 by Puget Sound Energy customers. This is outrageous.</p> <p>16 Puget Sound Energy is beating us on a path to extinction</p> <p>17 for higher profits. 17 year old Greta Thundberg says it</p> <p>18 best. I wonder what you will tell your children was the</p> <p>19 reason to fail and leave them facing a climate chaos you</p> <p>20 knowingly brought upon them that it seemed so bad for the</p> <p>21 economy that we decided to resign the idea of securing</p> <p>22 future living conditions without even trying. Our house is</p> <p>23 on fire. Your inaction is fuelling the flames by the hour.</p> <p>24 And we are still telling you to panic and to act as if you</p> <p>25 loved your children above all else. We must immediately</p>

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<p>1 halt all investments in fossil fuel exploration and</p> <p>2 extraction, immediately end all fossil fuel subsidies and</p> <p>3 immediately and completely divest from fossil fuels.</p> <p>4 Now my words to the UTC. Our planet is headed towards</p> <p>5 extinction. Our house is on fire and we're pouring gas on</p> <p>6 it. Deny this rate increase. Stop supporting PSE's</p> <p>7 manipulation of our utility for profit. We must take back</p> <p>8 our electric utility from a corporation that is focussed on</p> <p>9 profit. To speed forward to getting off of fossil fuels, we</p> <p>10 must put our electric utility in the hands of the citizens</p> <p>11 and create a public utility district. Do the right thing,</p> <p>12 do it for your children and their children. Thank you.</p> <p>13 CHAIR DANNER: All right, thank you.</p> <p>14 All right. Suzanne Greenberg, are you still here? Okay.</p> <p>15 That was one of the Vashon people. All right. Aaron</p> <p>16 Schlossman, and Dwight Rousu, you're on deck.</p> <p>17 MR. SCHLOSSMAN: Good evening, everybody.</p> <p>18 CHAIR DANNER: Good evening.</p> <p>19 MR. SCHLOSSMAN: My name is Aaron Schlossman. Before I</p> <p>20 speak, I must recognize the Puyallup and Coast Salish</p> <p>21 tribes. We're meeting tonight on your lands. I only wish</p> <p>22 it was with your permission. Thank you, Commissioners, for</p> <p>23 giving us the opportunity to speak.</p> <p>24 The Tacoma LNG Plant embodies the intersection between</p> <p>25 indigenous rights, climate politics, energy politics and</p>	<p>1 The proposed hike is another moment in a long legacy of</p> <p>2 racist, white collar shakedowns in this country.</p> <p>3 And tonight we ask you, Commissioners, please stop the</p> <p>4 cycle.</p> <p>5 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.</p> <p>6 Dwight Rousu and Rachel Molloy, you are on deck.</p> <p>7 MR. ROUSU: Hello, thanks for being here. They're going</p> <p>8 to chase us out of here in 5 minutes. I'm a 40-year</p> <p>9 resident of the Eastside and a customer of Puget Sound</p> <p>10 Energy. I'm also a supplier to Puget Sound Energy. They</p> <p>11 pay me about \$5,000 a year for solar panel production off of</p> <p>12 my roofs. So I'm on both sides of Puget Sound Energy.</p> <p>13 I was sitting back listening to all these wonderful</p> <p>14 prepared comments and I am very impressed by the information</p> <p>15 everybody's been bringing forward here. I'd like to talk a</p> <p>16 little bit about the changes in cost and technology as it</p> <p>17 affects us. This is a one slice in time they did this</p> <p>18 analysis. But you look at the cost of different sources of</p> <p>19 energy and the future expected changes in the cost of energy</p> <p>20 and this -- looking at a one time slice is a very shallow</p> <p>21 slice.</p> <p>22 You look at nuclear energy, (inaudible). Anybody remember</p> <p>23 (inaudible)? A great proposal, made lots of money for the</p> <p>24 people putting together those plants and that is one of</p> <p>25 those resources that's left standing and lost a whole lot of</p>
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<p>1 corporate corruption. Just for my clarification and my</p> <p>2 understanding, it seems like what we have on hand is a</p> <p>3 private institution using revenue from basic public services</p> <p>4 to pay for an illegal plant on tribal land in order to serve</p> <p>5 fossil fuel investors and private maritime clients regularly</p> <p>6 and rate paying clients on occasion. Is my understanding</p> <p>7 correct? Not really a rhetorical question.</p> <p>8 CHAIR DANNER: It is a rhetorical question.</p> <p>9 MR. SCHLOSSMAN: This is important for me for my future</p> <p>10 and it ought to be very important to you all. Let's take a</p> <p>11 second together to remember the mission statement of</p> <p>12 Washington UTC. You can even say it with me if you like.</p> <p>13 Your mission is to protect the people of Washington by</p> <p>14 ensuring that investor-owned utility and transportation</p> <p>15 services are safe, available, reliable and fairly priced. I</p> <p>16 urge you to remember who you protect in that clause. When</p> <p>17 you make a decision that benefits your peers, it makes us</p> <p>18 uncomfortable. Our discomfort becomes your discomfort when</p> <p>19 you go on for reappointment. Our discomfort becomes your</p> <p>20 discomfort when inflated rates give us ideas like what if we</p> <p>21 organized a public utility district.</p> <p>22 It's a corrupted attitude to expect PSE's rate paying</p> <p>23 customers to shell out for an investor's artificial returns</p> <p>24 on what was and will remain to be a poor investment going</p> <p>25 into the future.</p>	<p>1 money for all the customers and utilities.</p> <p>2 You look at coal. Coal has been around forever. The</p> <p>3 price of coal is going up so high. And how many coal</p> <p>4 companies have gone bankrupt in the last two years? That's</p> <p>5 a technology of a source of fuel that is changed in time and</p> <p>6 it become obsolete.</p> <p>7 The price of wind and the price of solar has been</p> <p>8 drastically decreasing over time. And I think that's going</p> <p>9 to increase along with wave energy and some of the other</p> <p>10 sources that may be developed. So I think you're having a</p> <p>11 big potential for a big resource built up there where those</p> <p>12 moneys should be going into creating sustainable energy</p> <p>13 sources such as a solar, such as the wind, such as any new</p> <p>14 technology you can bring up, there's some things that are</p> <p>15 probably not quite ready, but things like solar windows and</p> <p>16 some solar roadways. They might be coming, but they aren't</p> <p>17 ready yet. I think you need to be looking towards the</p> <p>18 future of other sources that are sustainable instead of a</p> <p>19 source that's going to be obsolete.</p> <p>20 And just as a little counterpoint, I don't think the rate</p> <p>21 increase for the gas is big enough. That's based on cost,</p> <p>22 that doesn't include the socialized cost. I think the rate</p> <p>23 increase should be ten times what it is for natural gas, but</p> <p>24 the funds should go to making renewable sources of energy.</p> <p>25 Thank you.</p>

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<p>1 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much. Rachel 2 Molloy, and France Giddings, you're on deck.</p> <p>3 MS. MOLLOY: Thank you. My name is Rachel Molloy. I'm a 4 PSE rate payer and a mother. PSE asks you to take full 5 economic account of the actual cost of producing and 6 delivering coal C methane. As a rate payer, I would ask 7 that PSE themselves take full economic account to the actual 8 cost of producing and delivering coal C methane.</p> <p>9 Future planning under the Washington 100 percent green 10 power and climate action emissions reduction policies are 11 being enacted exactly because the cost of climate change are 12 not free, easy, safe nor advised. In the years that I've 13 been coming to speak to you at the UTC, PSE has not shifted 14 their conventional base off of coal and coal C methane 15 products on the whole at all.</p> <p>16 This morning I had the honor to speak with the King County 17 executive and conservation officials. In that speech, I 18 spoke of the billions in mounting yearly cost to mitigate 19 repair and adapt to climate impacts in our state. As a rate 20 payer, that's not reflected, but as a taxpayer, that's a 21 cost that I'm paying and that everyone here is paying for 22 those climate impacts.</p> <p>23 If we must take full accounting, then I ask that PSE truly 24 be required to take into account all costs, including social 25 cost, environmental impacts regionally and climate costs so</p>	<p>1 responsibility of the people who use their services as their 2 priority. I believe that that message needs to get passed 3 on. Thank you.</p> <p>4 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>5 All right. Mark Humphrey, and then Claire Richards.</p> <p>6 MR. HUMPHREY: Good evening, thanks for being here.</p> <p>7 CHAIR DANNER: Good evening.</p> <p>8 MR. HUMPHREY: I am a rate payer as well, former Boeing 9 employee. And I reiterate what the other gentleman said 10 about well, gee, did I get a 6 or 7 percent pay increase to 11 cover my utility bill? Heck no. I've heard a lot of things 12 tonight and very, very good speakers about what's happening 13 here.</p> <p>14 I'm on the medical end of what's happening with PSE's 15 changes to their infrastructure including smart meters. I 16 know this is off topic, but I am concerned that they are 17 shoving both this rate increase and harmful devices onto our 18 homes. I have measured the RF -- I know this is off topic, 19 but I have measured the RF radiation just from the new 20 meters that they put on my house. And I am having even more 21 medical issues. I know this is off topic. I've met with 22 many people, Andrew and others at WUTC and at PSE trying to 23 resolve this.</p> <p>24 I hope this rate increase does not occur. I'm already 25 stretched to the bone trying to cover the medical expenses</p>
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<p>1 rate payers can see in full this price this product brings 2 in externalities. A future doesn't exist for rate payers in 3 the 2 to 4 C degree warming that we are heading towards as a 4 nation. Thank you.</p> <p>5 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>6 All right. France Giddings, and then Mark Humphrey, 7 you're on deck.</p> <p>8 MS. GIDDINGS: Hi.</p> <p>9 CHAIR DANNER: Good evening.</p> <p>10 MS. GIDDINGS: So my name is France Giddings. I have been 11 a part of this bio-region for over 70 years. I have been in 12 front of you more than once. And some people might say that 13 makes me an example of blind faith. My father joined a land 14 coop on the Hood Canal a long time ago, built a little 15 cabin. And over the last few years, I have been the one 16 taking over paying the bills. That's when I discovered that 17 the corporate electric company isn't the only model.</p> <p>18 I pay bills to the Mason County Public Utility District. 19 The bills are reasonable. Every bill, they send me a little 20 pie chart. They show me all the alternative energy sources 21 they use with, my memory is maybe 20 percent is traditional 22 energy sources. It's the wave of the future.</p> <p>23 And I know that PSE will try its damndest to block any 24 PUD, but we've already got 20 some in this state and they're 25 working. And they are cleaner and they take the</p>	<p>1 I'm incurring from these hazardous devices.</p> <p>2 I apologize this is off topic, but I wanted to speak a 3 little bit on that and hope that other folks will take an 4 interest in the building biology hazard of these new meters. 5 Thank you.</p> <p>6 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>7 All right. Claire Richards and then Gwen Hanson.</p> <p>8 MS. RICHARDS: Hi, thank you. My name is Claire Richards 9 and I am -- I live in Seattle and I'm a nurse scientist and 10 the mother of a four year old.</p> <p>11 And as you know, there's overwhelming scientific consensus 12 about climate change. And I just want to read a little bit 13 to you from the New England Journal of Medicine. A recent 14 article that was published called, The False Promise of 15 Natural Gas. "Fracked gas is associated with health and 16 environmental hazards and reduced social welfare at every 17 stage of its life cycle. Fracking is linked to the 18 contamination of ground and surface water, air pollution, 19 noise and light pollution, radiation releases, ecosystem 20 damage, and earthquakes. Transmission and storage of gas 21 result in fires and explosions. The gas compressor stations 22 emit toxic and carcinogenic chemicals such as benzene 1, 23 3-butadiene and formaldehyde. Wells, pipelines, and 24 compressor stations are disproportionately located in 25 low-income, minority, and marginalized communities where</p>

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<p>1 they may leak gas, generate noise, endanger health, and</p> <p>2 contribute to environmental injustice while producing no</p> <p>3 local benefits. Gas combustion generates oxides of nitrogen</p> <p>4 that increase asthma risk and aggravate chronic obstructive</p> <p>5 pulmonary disease."</p> <p>6 "Compounding these hazards are the grave dangers that gas</p> <p>7 extraction used -- and use pose to the global climate. Gas</p> <p>8 is a much powerful driver of climate change than is</p> <p>9 generally recognized. As much as 4 percent of all the gas</p> <p>10 produced by fracking is lost leakages, and these releases</p> <p>11 appear to have contributed to sharp increases in atmospheric</p> <p>12 methane."</p> <p>13 And I'm not going to mention about the stuff about it</p> <p>14 being more potent, I'm sure you've heard that before. Gas</p> <p>15 burned in stoves and burners contribute to global warming.</p> <p>16 And all this considered suggests it is far less -- it is not</p> <p>17 as beneficial as it seems.</p> <p>18 "Despite growing recognition of the dangers associated</p> <p>19 with gas and a recent exponential increases in the</p> <p>20 production of electricity from renewables, new gas wells</p> <p>21 continue to be drilled and new pipelines are built. The</p> <p>22 expansion of the gas infrastructure is supported by</p> <p>23 government subsidies and tax breaks that benefit the</p> <p>24 fossil-fuel industry and artificially depress gas prices."</p> <p>25 "All reasonable analyses indicate that we must leave</p>	<p>1 inspiring and incredibly every talk is different. Everybody</p> <p>2 has their own message to say.</p> <p>3 So -- but somehow something else seemed to win out over</p> <p>4 the Bellevue City Council and Puget Sound Energy. For some</p> <p>5 reason they couldn't hear the impassioned and well informed</p> <p>6 pleas. Something else won. And I don't know what it was, I</p> <p>7 suspect it has something to do with money, though. So</p> <p>8 tonight you guys have heard an amazing amount of testimony.</p> <p>9 I don't know what's causing the teenage suicides and I'm</p> <p>10 sure that there are many, many, factors that go into that.</p> <p>11 However, there's something about powerlessness that has to</p> <p>12 be going into that. We as climate activists want to show</p> <p>13 optimism and hope that something can be done. You, on the</p> <p>14 commission, you have the power to speak to Puget Sound</p> <p>15 Energy in a language they understand, the language of money.</p> <p>16 Please deny the rate increase, thank you, again.</p> <p>17 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>18 All right. Chris Stearns.</p> <p>19 MR. STEARNS: Thank you. For the opportunity to address</p> <p>20 you again after the Lacey meeting. My name is Chris</p> <p>21 Stearns, I represent Thurston County as a PUD Commissioner.</p> <p>22 And I don't speak for the rest of my board or for my</p> <p>23 utility, which is a water utility and a customer of PSE.</p> <p>24 It's also a customer of several coops.</p> <p>25 UNIDENTIFIABLE FEMALE: Speak into the microphone please.</p>
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<p>1 nearly all remaining fossil fuels in the ground, if we were</p> <p>2 to hold the extent of global warming to below 1.5 degrees</p> <p>3 above the pre-industrial period, the target set by the</p> <p>4 IPCC."</p> <p>5 Investigating in gas is short sided. It locks us in to</p> <p>6 using gas dependence and miss opportunities to invest in</p> <p>7 renewables. The public should not be paying for this. And</p> <p>8 as we can see, we're already 1.1 degrees over warming now.</p> <p>9 And we can see what's happening in Australia. We see what's</p> <p>10 happening in California and here with our air quality. This</p> <p>11 will get worse. Could you imagine going past 1.5?</p> <p>12 CHAIR DANNER: All right, thank you very much.</p> <p>13 And Gwen Hanson.</p> <p>14 MS. HANSON: Hello. I'd like to thank you all for taking</p> <p>15 so many -- I mean it's really late and you're still here,</p> <p>16 and I want to thank you for that, I appreciate it. So I'm a</p> <p>17 family doctor and I see an alarming number of suicide</p> <p>18 attempts in teenagers. And, sadly, some of the attempts</p> <p>19 have been successful, and it is a heart breaking situation.</p> <p>20 I'm also a climate activist with the citizens climate</p> <p>21 lobby. And I know a lot of the people in this room, why do</p> <p>22 I know them? We all spend countless of our free time hours</p> <p>23 working on this issue. I have left these chambers confident</p> <p>24 that the right thing would be done. Why? Because I've</p> <p>25 heard talks like they were given tonight. Amazingly</p>	<p>1 MR. STEARNS: It's also a customer of several coops and</p> <p>2 municipals, small municipals, et cetera. So I do know how</p> <p>3 to compare their service. We have a lot more outages</p> <p>4 through PSE. I have a lot more customers complaining all</p> <p>5 the time that they want us to pay for a generator because</p> <p>6 PSE is not delivering the power that they need when they</p> <p>7 need it to get the water that they need to live.</p> <p>8 So I hear this all the time. I'm like a nerve center for</p> <p>9 listening to the complaints of PSEs poor service. And I</p> <p>10 just want you to know that, you know, I can see it with my</p> <p>11 own staff what's going on with the utility compared</p> <p>12 private -- private compared to the public.</p> <p>13 And I'm just concerned because PSE seems to have no regard</p> <p>14 for life. I mean, one of our citizens in Thurston County</p> <p>15 was killed in a trench digging accident this month because</p> <p>16 they didn't employ trench protectors, which are metal things</p> <p>17 that protect the trench from collapsing. A gentleman, two</p> <p>18 of them were buried alive, one was dug out, one was dead.</p> <p>19 So that happened just this month.</p> <p>20 And I'm concerned that they don't have the same care for</p> <p>21 my customers and citizens in Thurston County because when</p> <p>22 the storm happened in 2012, we saw a lot of people frozen</p> <p>23 into their homes, loose wires down, sometimes outages for 10</p> <p>24 to 14 days. I even had the legislature look into it. And</p> <p>25 they put the publics and privates together, quite a</p>

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<p>1 difference in comparison to how they reacted to that                  2 situation. And thanks to Senator McCoy for pulling that                  3 workshop together. There was no testimony from the public,                  4 by the way, at that workshop.                  5 More erratic weather will knock down their system again                  6 because they're not maintaining it very well. Seniors                  7 frozen in their homes, wires down, people who have oxygen                  8 can't get the energy they need to renew their oxygen tanks.                  9 These are things that happened to PG&amp;E in California during                  10 those fires. And there was no telling when, in the rolling                  11 brown outs they were doing, when the energy would come back.                  12 We faced that situation in Thurston County in 2012 in                  13 January. This, eight years ago.                  14 Okay. So I'm concerned about that. And I'm concerned                  15 about knowing, you know, when the power comes back because                  16 they have no way to deliver that information to the public                  17 when outages occur. They've been working on it, I give them                  18 credit for that. I also give them credit finally for doing                  19 some refurbishing of their dams on Baker Creek, you know                  20 re-updating those dams. But they haven't built any new                  21 projects since 2012. And their contracts run out, as I                  22 indicated in my last testimony. And I'm wondering where the                  23 power is coming from. It's not a way to run a utility.                  24 So I guess I've made most of the points I wanted to make                  25 today. I just wanted to let you know that there is another</p>	<p>1 didn't know who the UTC was until last week, but here I am.                  2 I'm a volunteer organizer at 350. I work with Sierra                  3 Club. Your job as I know it is to provide oversight. To                  4 provide oversight and to ensure our utilities and water are                  5 safe, to protect us, the public, against health risks and                  6 corruption. So I guess your group was formed because of                  7 corruption, past corruption. And our tax dollars pay for                  8 your jobs.                  9 Well, I'm here to echo most people in this room that say                  10 we won't stand for a rate hike for anything Puget Sound                  11 Energy wants. And for me, it's so easy, I mean, just                  12 following what's been going on with PSE, they equal                  13 corruption, we know that. That's what Puget Sound Energy                  14 stands for. We know that fracked gas is deadly, it's basic                  15 knowledge. I'm a mom, but I know this.                  16 And these Australian bush fires -- I have a family member                  17 who slept in her clothes recently and she said goodbye to                  18 us. We thought she was going to, you know, go up with                  19 anything else. But I'm not just crying for her, I'm crying                  20 for all the death, it's here.                  21 Anyway, our kids are pouring in the streets. And so                  22 please listen to our indigenous leadership. Their voices                  23 are really strong and their experience is thousands of years                  24 old. Please listen to science and use your authority to                  25 help us get off of fracked gas, to safer electric sources,</p>
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<p>1 option, the public knows this. We're a state that doesn't                  2 have service territories, they can be replaced.                  3 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.                  4 Now there's somebody that signed in with just the name                  5 Hogan. And unfortunately the way our processes work, we                  6 need to have a full name. So unless Hogan is your full                  7 name, I can't take your testimony tonight. Are you Hogan?                  8 MS. HOGAN: Yes, Rachel Hogan.                  9 CHAIR DANNER: Rachel Hogan, thank you very much. Go                  10 ahead.                  11 MS. HOGAN: I really appreciate what people in this room                  12 have said. If I could go to camp with all of you, I would                  13 want to go to camp right now. I thank you for being here so                  14 late.                  15 I don't know why I'm so nervous probably because I feel                  16 like I'm going to cry. The last speaker talked about kids                  17 and depression. And I have kids at home who are dealing                  18 with what's going on right now in the world. And even as                  19 young people, they're aware of what's going on in the                  20 climate.                  21 First of all, I want to acknowledge that we are on stolen                  22 land. The truth is so powerful. And I'm so glad that Doug                  23 thinks that you all are respectable people because at this                  24 time, it's so scary. I mean, integrity is not really a                  25 thing anymore in some places. And speaking to the UTC, I</p>	<p>1 it's pretty simple.                  2 In a rate hike PSE is asking you, the oversight committee,                  3 commission, to approve us paying more, to dig our own graves                  4 and the graves of our children and their next generations                  5 faster. That's exactly what they're asking us to do, just                  6 dig faster and then put yourselves in it. It's pretty                  7 simple. They're building this, you know, enormous tank,                  8 that, you know, I don't want to repeat, but it's ridiculous                  9 that it exists on Puyallup land and that they built it                  10 without the proper permits. And it's against the law.                  11 And the greenwashing is not greenwashing, it's just lying.                  12 And that's what we see so much now, it's wrong. And our                  13 children do need hope. They need to see a group with                  14 integrity stand up.                  15 And the other thing, it's taking our energy. I should be                  16 at home right now with my kids and it takes our energy to                  17 come and find out who is doing this, how is this possible.                  18 And it's stealing from us. They're stealing from us and                  19 they want us to pay for that too.                  20 So I'm asking you, as the oversight commission what                  21 sickness is this? That's the question I want to know, what                  22 is so ill in this? And so we're aware of the enormous power                  23 that you three people hold in this position and please do                  24 what you can to make sure that Puget Sound Energy does not                  25 get one dime. Thank you.</p>

1 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.  
 2 All right. That is the end of folks who have signed in to  
 3 speak tonight. Are there any names that I have missed  
 4 tonight? Otherwise -- all right. Hearing nothing, seeing  
 5 nothing.  
 6 I want to thank everybody for coming out tonight and  
 7 sharing your comments with us on a raindrop night. We have  
 8 an evidentiary hearing in February, early February, 6th and  
 9 7th. I believe it is the -- February 6th and 7th in Lacey,  
 10 Washington, and we will be taking this under consideration.  
 11 And we will take all of your comments tonight as part of the  
 12 record in that case. And we will be looking at that as  
 13 well. So thank you, again, for coming out and safe travels  
 14 home. Thank you.

16 (Conclusion of hearing at 8:18 p.m.)

1 CERTIFICATE

2  
 3 STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 4 ) ss  
 5 COUNTY OF KING )  
 6  
 7 I, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty  
 8 of perjury that the foregoing court proceedings were transcribed  
 9 under my direction as a certified transcriptionist; and that the  
 10 transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and  
 11 ability, including any changes made by the trial judge reviewing  
 12 the transcript; that I received the audio and/or video files in  
 13 CHAIR DANNER format; that I am not a relative or employee of any  
 14 attorney or council employed by the parties hereto, nor  
 15 financially interested in its outcome.

16  
 17  
 18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
 19 this 6th day of February, 2020

20  
 21  
 22  
 23 \_\_\_\_\_  
 24 Bonnie Reed, CET  
 25