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January 29, 2020

Washington Utility and Transportation Commission  
P. O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504

Subject Comment for Docket UE-190529 (Electric Service)  
and Natural Gas Service

Honored Commissioners,

Please reject the PSE request for increasing the Electric Service rate for residential customers to 7.7% and for Natural Gas Service residential customers to 7.5%.

Recently, PSE has used the funds from residential rate payers to fund public hearings and hire legal staff in excess of \$55,000,000. This figure was verbalized by lead PSE attorney to Bellevue Hearing Examiner Gary McLean at Bellevue City Hall hearing dates March 28, March 29, April 3, and April 18. Substance of hearing was PSE request for approval of Conditional Land Use Permit Application for the South Bellevue segment--3.3 miles of the 18 mile PSE project titled Energize Eastside (EE). This land use permit application is now facing its second appeal before the King County Superior Court.

On January 8, 2020 PSE presented Conditional Land Use Permit Application at Renton City Hall before Hearing Examiner Phil Olbrechts for a 4 mile segment of the 18 mile PSE project titled Energize Eastside. At this point in time citizens estimate PSE has spent a total of \$70,000,000 for legal and hearing expenses associated with this 18 mile 230Kv transmission line project.

This 18 mile utility easement is NOW 100 YEARS OLD running northward through the cities of Renton, Newcastle, Bellevue and Redmond. In the 1950's it was discovered this utility easement line crossed over an earthquake fault running parallel West to East over federal highway I-90. In 1966, Olympic Pipeline added a jet fuel underground pipeline to this utility easement. In Renton, this jet fuel line carries 13 million gallons of fuel daily within 225 yards of Sierra Heights Elementary School. This distance is less than half the separation required by California between schools and hazardous liquid pipelines. Lt. Rick Laycock, fireman with Renton Fire Authority knows pipeline explosion hazards.

Your regulatory efforts will hold investor owned utilities accountable. The future is trading 230Kv transmission lines for energy storage to meet peak energy demands. Author: Robert Watson discusses Los Angeles (L.A.) utility regulators approval of historically low cost solar and storage project. L A. utility regulators have signed off on two PPA's. Reports state these changes will cost consumers less than \$5.00 annually. Author Julia Gheorghii details Rocky Mtn. Power's battery project.

Read [www.inverse.com/innovation/the-era-of-terawatt-storage-is-at-hand](http://www.inverse.com/innovation/the-era-of-terawatt-storage-is-at-hand). The Hornsdale battery in South Australia ranked as the world's largest when it switched on in November 2017, producing 129 megawatt-hours of storage.

It is time PSE uses rate payer's dollars supporting Clean Energy solutions and battery power to meet the summer peak needs instead of a new 230Kv transmission line creating environmental damage which flirts with the danger of a jet fuel pipeline explosion within our neighborhoods and schools.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Ossenkop, Retired Research Specialist, Seattle VAMC  
Dennis Ossenkop, Retired Environmental Specialist, FAA

