

**From:** [Nancy J](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
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I appreciate that PSE is planning to get rid of the two most toxic boilers at the Colstrip location. This is a great first step. But, now is the time to turn our backs on fossil fuels entirely. PSE should retire the remaining two plants in Colstrip by 2025 and commit to replacing them with conservation and 100% renewable energy.

The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) submitted by PSE has only minimal commitment to conservation and renewables, while continuing a reliance on fossil fuels. The proposed natural gas power production is equally damaging to the climate as coal. Natural gas carries significant risk of methane leakage as it is drilled and transported. Also, gas requires a large amount of water for hydraulic fracturing, refining, and pipeline and power plant operations. Today, "natural" gas means fracked gas. Fracked gas is financially risky for PSE customers as gas fuel costs are prone to dramatic price swings. PSE's corporate owners incur minimal risk associated with fuel or carbon costs, but customers stand to pay significantly when fossil fuel prices rise or clean-up is required. Replacement of Colstrip power plants with 100% renewable energy and energy conservation is feasible now, as stated in the 7th Power Plan from the Northwest Power & Conservation Council.

Replacement of aging/inefficient power plants should be done with only renewable energy. Natural gas is primarily composed of methane, a much more powerful greenhouse gas emitter than coal burning. Gas burns cleanly, but there is significant leakage in the production and transmission process.

The cost of wind and solar technology on a residential and commercial level is rapidly declining. Wind and solar are currently more affordable alternatives than either coal or natural gas according to industry expert Lazard in their Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis 10.0 report.

In addition, there have been impressive improvement in energy storage methods - such as liquid salt, improved batteries, and electric vehicle storage.

The ratepayers of Washington state would be much better served by pivoting to clean, inexpensive and efficient energy sources.

We, the rate payers, would bear the cost of future decommissioned facilities when PSE's new gas infrastructure becomes more expensive to operate than building renewable source capacity.

Thank you for your attention.  
Nancy S Johnson  
9411 216th St SW  
Edmonds, WA 98020  
206-371-5499

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Nancy J  
[najohnso@operamail.com](mailto:najohnso@operamail.com)