

**From:** [Steve Harrell](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** PSE long-term plan docket #s UE-160198 and UG-160919  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 2:03:26 PM

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Dear members of the UTC:

I am not able to attend the hearing on Wednesday, Feb 21 in Renton (I live in Bellingham) so I wanted to express my opinion on PSE's long-term energy plan.

PSE has been a laggard in converting to renewable energy sources; its continued reliance on almost 30% coal generated electricity is particularly egregious. Its long-term plan should not be approved unless it commits to stopping any use of coal from the Colstrip generating plant or any other source of coal-based electric power generation. Preferably, it should eliminate coal-fired generation by 2022, but by 2025 at the latest. Coal generates both greenhouse gases and air pollution, and coal trains threaten to cause traffic congestion all the way from the Powder River Basin to Western Washington. Coal should be eliminated, and quickly.

In addition, PSE's plans to convert from coal to natural gas-fired generation are only a halfway measure. Although gas only produces about 60% as much GHG as coal per unit of generated energy, that is still too much, and although gas burns cleaner than coal, the process of gas extraction through hydraulic fracturing produces unacceptable levels of methane unless rigidly controlled (and it's not always rigidly controlled), as well as polluting local water supplies and causing seismic instability. Fracking, like coal-fired generation, is a technology that ought to be eliminated rather than further increased.

In our home in Bellingham, we generate more electricity annually through rooftop solar than we use, and contribute the surplus to PSE's grid. PSE has the capability and the capacity to encourage home solar, build concentrated solar (especially east of the Cascades) and install much more wind power than it does already. PSE needs to commit itself to an energy future rather than hang on to an energy past.

Please do not approve any plan from PSE that is not forward looking enough to commit itself to short-term elimination of coal, long-term phasing out of natural gas, and aggressive promotion of wind, solar, and other renewable sources of energy.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Stevan Harrell  
1430 Undine St.  
Bellingham WA 98229

206 755-0071