



Via Email

February 15, 2018

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502
Email: records@utc.wa.gov

Re: Comment on PSE's 2017 Integrated Resource Plan, Dockets UE-160918 and UG-160919

Dear Commissioners Danner, Rendahl, and Balasbas,

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) could make Washington state a national leader on climate by transitioning to renewable energy as it retires its coal plant in Colstrip, MT. As you know, climate change is already having an impact and threatens public health, natural resources, national security, food security, and business supply chains.

Please defend the public interest by rejecting any plan that does not address moving toward a 100% carbon-free future. Based on comments that PSE representatives have made to the Bainbridge Island City Council, we believe that PSE is open to moving in this direction but needs help and support from the regulatory and political system to do so.

Puget Sound Energy's 20-year Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) makes it clear that they do not anticipate bringing any new renewable energy online in the foreseeable future. The plan includes continued use of fossil fuels:

- Gas Peaker plants,
- Tacoma's Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) plant,
- gas from British Columbia, and
- continued operation of Colstrip.

The IRP indicates that PSE can meet the Energy Independence Act's Renewable Portfolio Standard of 9% now and 15% starting 2020 by using Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).

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Washington is uniquely positioned to be the first state in the nation to achieve a carbon-free grid. We have the greenest constituency, a legacy of innovation, and nearly two-thirds of our power already comes from hydro. In short, if Washington can't do it, no one can.

That means our utilities need to transition entirely off of fossil fuels for a 100% carbon-free future. We support the position of many other jurisdictions that are requesting that PSE close Colstrip 3 & 4 earlier than currently planned, such as by 2027. We need to clean up our energy sources so that we can electrify transportation and industrial processes. There is no way for Bainbridge Island or Washington state to meet its climate commitments without transitioning to a fossil fuel-free future. As our state's largest utility, Puget Sound Energy has a particular responsibility to lead the way, a responsibility that we believe they recognize and would be pleased to fulfill with the mandate, support, and assistance of the regulatory and political system.

We look forward to actions by the UTC that will require more innovation and environmental stewardship from PSE that is in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kol Medina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kol" and the last name "Medina" clearly distinguishable.

Mayor Kol Medina

On behalf of the Bainbridge Island City Council