

Whipple, Amanda (UTC)

From: Kouchi, Roger (UTC) on behalf of Public Involvement (UTC)
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 11:01 AM
To: UTC DL Records Center
Subject: FW: Puget Sound Energy's (IRP) comment

From: Lora Rathbone [mailto:lora.rathbone@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 10:19 AM
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: Puget Sound Energy's (IRP) comment

To WA Utilities and Transportation Commission:

Regarding the proposal to continue to operate the coal plant in Colstrip Montana.

I am opposed to any use of coal for power in WA state, and believe it is essential that our country wean itself from coal.

WA state has abundant power from hydro and nuclear, as well as wind and other renewable sources. For this reason we should be a world leader in removing ourselves from all use of fossil fuel for electrical generation. We need to lead the way to mitigate the destructive path the world is on in causing climate change.*

Lora Rathbone

Richland, WA

*The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change- 2013) report points out that to have at least a 50% chance of keeping to less than 2C of warming, regarded by scientists as the threshold of safety, we must emit no more than 820-1445 billion tons greenhouse gases during the rest of this century. Given that the world is currently emitting about 50 billion tons of greenhouse gases in terms of carbon-dioxide-equivalent each year, this report implies that, even if we were to stay at current levels, we would exhaust the emissions budget within 15 to 25 years.

All governments have already agreed that it would be dangerous to exceed a threshold of global warming by 2C. The effort required to stay within the budget must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Delay is dangerous because greenhouse gases are accumulating in the atmosphere and because we are locking in high carbon infrastructure and capital. However the effort to cut carbon should not be seen as an economic handicap. The transition to a low-carbon economy, led by private sector investment, in the context of sound public policy, will be full of opportunity, discovery, innovation and growth.

- Lord Stern, the former World Bank chief economist and author of the landmark study of the economics of global warming

"This is yet another wakeup call: those who deny the science or choose excuses over action are playing with fire." "Once again, the science grows clearer, the case grows more compelling, and the costs of inaction grow beyond anything that

anyone with conscience or commonsense should be willing to even contemplate," - John Kerry, the US secretary of state (regarding the IPCC report)