

Whipple, Amanda (UTC)

From: Kouchi, Roger (UTC) on behalf of Public Involvement (UTC)
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 8:18 AM
To: UTC DL Records Center
Subject: FW: Puget Sound Energy Integrated Resource Plan (UE-120767)

From: Judith Akins [mailto:mattp@re-sources.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 9:01 PM
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: Puget Sound Energy Integrated Resource Plan (UE-120767)

Dear Chairman Danner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commissioner I am writing you concerning our interest in Puget Sound Energy and the 20 year plan to be submitted this month. As a customer living in Bellingham, I am concerned about our slice of power from a fossil fuel source, the Colstrip power generating plant. As you know the state of Washington has shifted its power sources away from coal and has shut down all fossil fuel plants in the state and you continue to buy this fossil fuel power from outside the state to comply with this ruling. You are now aligning a 20 year plan which you can decide to become a clean energy company. Your continued reliance on this dirty fuel is not in compliance with your goal of becoming such a company. In looking at your information at which you can decide to economically stay with the Colstrip power for the next 20 years or find other cleaner sources for the 32% of the power you need to become a completely green energy company. I would like to point out that you need to calculate these costs into your plan. In your calculations you must add; 1. Settlement costs from contaminated groundwater, an existing \$25 million settlement. 2. Additional costs from CO2 pollution control and compliance with federal air toxic rules. 3. An accounting from increased mining which is becoming increasingly uneconomical to produce. 4. An accounting of the costs from coal ash regulations. 5. Expectation on a carbon dioxide tax . Colstrip was opened in 1975, with a 1984 expansion. This means this almost 40 year old plant does not have the newest technology even though it has upgraded and improved its mercury output. It is the 8th dirtiest coal fired plant in the US and the dirtiest plant west of the Mississippi. It is the largest point source of greenhouse gases west of the Mississippi. The residents of Rosebud, Montana, where Colstrip is located, has the 3rd highest asthma rate in the state. The continued operation of Colstrip, especially the oldest burners, present considerable risk to public health, local environment and global climate stability. You will see that by adding in these additional costs and considering that Colstrip is a very old power plant and keeping it in operation is unsound economically as well as environmentally. I think your current plan is misleading and you are misleading the people of Whatcom County . Please amend your plan before it is too late to become a leading power company in the 21st century. Sincerely, Your Customer, Robert and Judith Akins 2174 E Birch St. Bellingham, WA 98229-4558 360-982-8599 J committed to investing in clean, renewable energy and reducing our reliance on carbon intensive sources of energy like the Colstrip Generating Facility. We all must prepare for a carbon-constrained future, and I ask that all final recommendations in the IRPs coming before the UTC include a broad examination of carbon pollution, new federal air quality standards, and other environmental costs associated with the continued operation of the Colstrip facility. Thank you,

Judith Akins

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Bellingham, Washington