



September 1, 2015

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Docket #UE-151500 (and UG-151592)

RE: Comments on Puget Sound Energy's Coal Fired Electric Facilities

Dear Chairman Danner and Commission Members:

The Olympia City Council would like to provide input on the current Washington UTC investigation in determining the costs of environmental remediation and other activities associated with Colstrip Units 1 and 2. We do appreciate PSE's efforts last session to introduce legislation to address Colstrip and their continued investment in energy conservation and clean, renewable technology. Overall, their investments and approach to green power and improving the State of Washington's movement towards carbon neutrality have been commendable. We think of PSE as an important partner in the work that we do locally related to meaningful investments to deal with climate change.

The Olympia City Council also feels strongly that we all must do more than we are currently doing to reduce our carbon footprint and protect our environment. Therefore, we encourage the UTC to adopt an adjudicated process for an evaluation of Colstrip Units 1 and 2. It is past time for such a review to commence. We must get to a resolution of the full costs associated with the operation and eventual decommissioning of the oldest of the four Colstrip units.

It appears to us that if the full costs, uncertainties, and risks of Colstrip's continued operation are taken into account, it is very likely that the combined costs of environmental compliance (including air pollution, coal ash, mercury, and groundwater contamination), upgrading plant technology and infrastructure, and likely regulation of carbon pollution – that these costs combined will be greater or equal to cleaner alternatives such as expanded energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart grid, and other approaches. We implore you to move towards decisive action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Buxbaum
Mayor

cc-15-36-

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