



Washington State Senate

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

RE: Comments on Puget Sound Energy's Integrated Resource Plan

Dear Chairman Danner and Commission Members:

During the Utilities and Transportation Commission's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) review process I would like to take the opportunity to express my disappointment that the complete environmental costs of the continued use of Colstrip within Puget Sound Energy's portfolio were not fully accounted for.

I represent a district that is completely encompassed by Puget Sound Energy's service areas. I appreciate that Puget Sound Energy's IRP is an attempt to bring energy to my constituents in a way that minimizes the cost to consumers. There are many individuals in my district who depend on the stability of prices and reasonable rates that PSE is known for. I also appreciate the work that PSE is doing to fully comply with I-937.

However, fully understanding the cost that their energy use has on the environment is also important to my constituents. The cost of mitigating the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that come from burning coal will ultimately be paid for by my constituents; either through higher prices as the result of increased standards placed on utilities or through their taxes as Washington State attempts to undo the environmental harm caused by them. Once these costs are realized, it seems difficult to justify PSE's long-term use of a heavy GHG emitting source of power like coal. If PSE believes that continued use is justified it seems appropriate that the total environmental cost of the GHG's produced by PSE be taken into account. In addition, as the effects of climate change worsen and demographic changes occur within our political system, we will see *increased* pressure to limit GHG emissions. This combination of factors leads me to urge the UTC to request an update to PSE's IRP to include the full cost of carbon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Mullet", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Mark Mullet
5th Legislative District