

**From:** [Tucker, Sarah](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Cc:** [Coburn, Kendra](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Letter from Reps. Fitzgibbon, Cody D-34  
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**Attachments:** [UTC-PSE-letter-Fitzgibbon-Cody.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon,

Please find attached a comment letter from Reps. Fitzgibbon and Cody on PSE's 2017 integrated resource plan, docket numbers UE-160918 and UG-160919.

Please feel free to reach out to our office with any questions – thank you,

**Sarah Tucker**

Legislative Assistant to  
Representative Joe Fitzgibbon  
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State of  
Washington  
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Steven V. King, Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
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WUTC Commissioners,

Puget Sound Energy's commitment to retire the two most toxic boilers at the Colstrip coal plant is a tremendous victory for our climate. We commend PSE for its leadership in moving the Pacific Northwest towards clean energy.

We write today to express our support for a long-term plan that addresses removing Colstrip coal-fired electricity from the grid by 2025 and explicitly excludes new fossil fuel infrastructure, including liquefied natural gas (LNG). These steps are critical to enable the carbon-free future that our constituents expect from our state's largest utility.

Climate change is already disrupting everything from our water supplies to our food systems—fueling forest fires, damaging shellfish, and causing sea-level rise on our Pacific coast. Eliminating coal combustion is an important step towards combatting the disastrous results of climate change. We must transition away from all fossil fuels towards carbon-free options as quickly as possible to avoid global warming's most catastrophic effects.

New studies show gas can be more damaging to the climate than previously assumed due to methane leakage. This is particularly true for gas produced by hydraulic fracturing. Gas is also financially risky for PSE customers; gas fuel costs are prone to dramatic price swings, and the Energy Information Administration predicts future increases. Moreover, the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council's most recent projections demonstrate that new gas infrastructure is unnecessary to meet the region's energy demands for at least a decade. The Council has instead called on utilities to invest in 4,500 MW of conservation and 600 MW of demand response in its 20-year plan.

PSE's customers overwhelmingly demand renewable energy. Localities that are home to hundreds of thousands of PSE ratepayers have called on PSE to reduce its fossil fuel dependence and transition to carbon-free resources. Major corporate customers, such as Microsoft, Starbucks, and REI have joined the Renewable Energy Buyer's Alliance to guarantee their operations run clean.

PSE can leverage Colstrip's retirement as an opportunity to lead our region in clean energy development. PSE has already proven skilled at using energy storage and demand response to

meet its capacity needs and has piloted energy efficiency solutions that have reduced customers' bills across its service territory. More can—and should—be done to bring these measures to scale. Integrating conservation measures with investments in new renewable resources will enable PSE to meet its capacity and generation demands while minimizing environmental harm and financial risk for customers.

PSE's decision to retire Colstrip Units 1 and 2 is praiseworthy. We ask that you use your full existing authority to move towards retirement of the remaining two Colstrip coal plants—Units 3 and 4—no later than 2025 and to commit to a 100% renewable energy and energy efficiency replacement for Colstrip without new natural gas.

Sincerely,



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