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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
PO Box 47250  
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Comments for Docket No. U-180680  
PSE Ownership transfer proceeding on November 5, 2018 WUTC Hearing Room

Dear WUTC Commission,

I am a taxpayer and ratepayer of PSE and will admit I started out as a NIMBY (Not in my Backyard) when I learned almost 5 years ago that PSE was proposing to build “Energize Eastside” adjacent to my property within only a 100 foot right of way space between homes—100’ roof to roof from my house to my neighbor’s house. Taller towers, power from 115kV to 230kV—in the same space that two Olympic Pipelines exist—carrying 13 million gallons of jet fuel daily.

PSE, by allowing the Olympic Pipeline to construct pipelines of 16” and 20” diameters years ago, gave up their rights to construct another project safely in such a small space. Yet they continue to say that all is well. They can do it! When AEP-OHIO says they need 120’-150’ right of way space to build a 230kV project—which one pole would be centered in that ROW space and totally without any pipelines down the center! PSE is doing everything— safe or not, and when not even needed—to force this project into this space!

What I have learned in these 5 years truly baffles me and ANGERS me—to see the lack of control and oversight of PSE. Yet again, we face more foreign ownership to control PSE. It is high time the commission steps in to assure me that I have protections—for my safety, against lies and corporate greed, and consumer fraud if this project cost is passed to me and all ratepayers when the EE project is not needed.

What I have learned:

- PSE is 100% foreign owned. Amazing to me that government would allow something as important as power infrastructure to be completely foreign owned.
- Then to learn “investor owned” for profit ownership! Great reason to only allow PUD’s in our state.
- Then I learn the WUTC really has no oversight or can tell PSE what to do—only pass along rate increases AFTER a project is complete. So backwards—this needs to change!! Sweet deal for PSE. You have never denied them passage of rates for a project.
- Then to learn you allow them almost 10% return to build infrastructure projects! What an incentive for PSE not to look into 21st century solutions to power needs! Where can I invest with such grace? And atop all this—PSE keeps projects in house and is not required to do a competitive bidding practice. So much room for corruption! I hear you say PSE must use “least-cost alternatives”. Why when 21st century power solutions are available, they not required to use them?
- You must insist on PSE transparency. In IRP meetings, I have heard you say PSE should be transparent and allow those with proper clearances to access their numbers on Energize Eastside. PSE will not share their data—and they know you can’t force them. What is wrong with this picture?

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—When I learn of PSE advertisement lies: The grid on Eastside has not been updated since the 60's-FALSE. The area is growing so fast, look at all the cranes and construction, we need more power—FALSE again! Power needs everywhere are leveling off due to conservation and modern equipment. This is your business—you should know this!

—Why does PSE continue over the 4-5 years to change the EE story? First it was a winter peak need and sending 1500MW power to Canada? Soon PSE dropped talking about power to Canada since FERC defined EE as a local project. Now PSE says it is a winter peak problem! Also last minute, PSE has bifurcated the project into south of Bellevue first, then north of Bellevue later! This is one project from the beginning—this should not be allowed.

—When I learn that PSE could take Energize Eastside to EFSEC for quick approval if this project is truly so “essential”. Oh—they would have to testify under oath that it is needed? Of course they choose to burden 5 municipalities for 5 years of their time and effort to deal with something so complex.

—How can PSE have spent \$54 million to date on Energize Eastside before it is vetted as a viable project? I have said to PSE employees that I hope the UTC does not allow you to charge us for this travesty. And they say to me—“you are already paying for it!” How do you think I feel? PSE is rolling the dice again—that they will get lucky that no one will question this project with a critical eye—and again get another project built, costs passed to ratepayers, so PSE investors can reap the \$billion dollar profit of this project over its lifetime.

—WHY do I as a taxpayer and ratepayer have to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket—my money— to have this project vetted by experts who agree—this project is not needed. And there is no oversight by you and there is no stopping PSE from creating an industrial scale project through Eastside neighborhoods, unsafely built within feet of hazardous high pressure petroleum pipelines in a earthquake fault zone! PSE says—Safety is number one! Yet they continue to get fined for poor safety practices.

This is where you—the WUTC—must now make sure that PSE is forever transparent, honest, consumer driven, not investor profit driven. You need to control a runaway utility and protect your citizens from harm with your oversight and control. Now is the perfect time to exercise oversight and control over these new PSE owners for my protection as well as all ratepayers protection. This is your job.

Thank you for listening—

Sue Stronk