

Whipple, Amanda (UTC)

From: Kouchi, Roger (UTC) on behalf of Public Involvement (UTC)
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 7:43 AM
To: UTC DL Records Center
Subject: FW: Written Testimony - PSE IRP, Docket No. UE-120767 (and UG-120768)
Attachments: PSE 2013 IRP - RE Sources Testimony.pdf

From: Matt Petryni [mailto:mattp@re-sources.org]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 4:49 PM
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Cc: Doug Howell
Subject: Written Testimony - PSE IRP, Docket No. UE-120767 (and UG-120768)

Utilities and Transportation Commissioners:

Please find attached a written copy of my testimony to the Commission that I presented last Thursday to the proposed Integrated Resource Plan for Puget Sound Energy, Docket No. UE-120767.

I am available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration of these

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Matt Petryni, Campaign Organizer
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July 30, 2013

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Docket #UE-120767 (and UG-120768)

Testimony of Matt Petryni, Campaign Organizer

Chairman Danner, members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today. My name is Matt Petryni and I represent over 10,000 PSE ratepayers who are members of RE Sources for Sustainable Communities in Whatcom, Skagit and Island Counties.

We are a non-profit educational organization and building supplier that is served by Puget Sound Energy.

As ratepayers, we believe that the continued operation of Colstrip as provided for in the IRP currently before you presents an unacceptable financial and environmental risk to Whatcom, Skagit and Island Counties. As a coastal city reliant on snowpack in the North Cascades to support our drinking water as well as our fishing and farming industries, we've worked to reduce carbon pollution in our community, as the threat of climate change imposes a very real economic cost on us.

We believe that PSE is capable of being a good economic partner, one who has committed to aggressive conservation plans in the past and in the IRP before you, and our organization has been committed to work with them to implement energy conservation in Whatcom County.

We believe we can meet the electrical needs of Whatcom County without polluting watersheds and ranchland in other communities. We don't believe it's fair that other communities should have to suffer so ours can enjoy heat and electricity. We are confident most of our members would share these concerns and join us in accepting a rate increase to address them, as the costs of decommissioning Colstrip are known and predictable, while the risks associated with its continued operation are uncertain.

As a business that specializes building materials supply and reuse, we are concerned about the potential for future rate increases from liability, misguided investment, and regulatory costs.

Because we have limited other choices for electricity, PSE can often pass the costs of regulatory compliance and lawsuits brought by communities defending their water onto us. These costs are highly uncertain, unlike the costs of closing the plant which are known and can be planned for.

Operating Colstrip with no plan for switching off of coal to cleaner burning fuels or alternative sources of energy thus exposes our business to potential costs from regulations for sulfur dioxide, mercury and air toxics, and carbon pollution.

We've seen the federal government recently announce restrictions on carbon pollution for new coal plants and state that similar restrictions are likely in the near future for existing plants. The state government is pursuing similar policies. As a major point source of CO2, we believe it is likely Colstrip will be subject to these costs within twenty years. Please require them to include and plan for these costs in their IRP, and consider closing Colstrip to manage this risk and minimize the uncertainty imposed on us as ratepayers.

We believe we speak for a number of small businesses and PSE consumers in Whatcom, Skagit and Island Counties in seeking to minimize costs that cannot reasonably be planned for in our business, and hope the IRP will establish greater certainty with regard to Colstrip.

I'd like to thank the commission for considering our comments, and hope you'll help ensure a better accounting of the risks Colstrip poses to us, both environmentally and economically. Thank you for taking the time to carefully review this IRP.

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