

WASHINGTON
UTC
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

TO: Records Center
FROM: Roger Kouchi
DATE: January 7, 2014
SUBJECT: Letter from Mr. John Sherwin (Docket UE-120767)

Please include the attached letter received from Mr. John Sherwin regarding the Puget Sound Energy Integrated Resource Plan (Docket UE-120767). He enclosed a copy of the book, *Reinventing Fire* by Dr. Amory Lovings and the Rocky Mountain Institute.

Chairman Danner requested that his comments be made part of the public record. He also requested that the book provided by Mr. Sherwin be placed in the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission library for future use by staff. I asked the commission librarian to place the book in the library.



Roger Kouchi
Public Involvement Coordinator

cc: UTC Library

October 20, 2013

David Danner, Chairman
Jeff Goltz, Commissioner
Phillip B. Jones, Commissioner
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Puget Sound Energy
Docket UE-120767

STATE OF WA
UTILITY TRADE
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GENERAL MANAGER

Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at the October 10th public hearing. I greatly appreciated your thoughtful comments and was impressed that all of you were so focused and attentive for what became a packed day of testimony!

Enclosed is a copy of *Reinventing Fire* by Dr. Amory Lovins and the Rocky Mountain Institute. This describes a roadmap to a clean energy future that is fully achievable within a 50-year timeframe. A great companion to the book is Dr. Lovins' TED talk (http://www.ted.com/talks/amory_lovins_a_50_year_plan_for_energy.html). The TED talk summarizes the book and is a great place to start.

Some key points from *Reinventing Fire*:

- Our aging, dirty and insecure existing energy system has to be replaced by 2050 and that will cost roughly \$6 trillion (net present value) regardless of what direction we take.
- The new energy grid and approach: distributed renewables, organized into micro-grids that normally connect but can operate independently (disconnect fractally and re-integrate seamlessly). This is currently being implemented by the U.S. Department of Defense.
- This new approach, which carries about the same cost as status quo, will: maximize national security, maximize customer choice, create tremendous entrepreneurial opportunity and stimulate innovation.
- The new distributed energy grid will offer greater reliability than the currently highly centralized model (as we know no coal or gas generator is 24/7—they all break). Alternative energy generating facilities from a variety of types locations can be integrated to give highly reliable power.
- Risks of staying with coal/natural gas are high and centralized grid is vulnerable to natural events (e.g., earth and space weather) and terrorist attacks.
- The existing grid was built to tie different generators together to allow backups so it is suitable as a starting point for the new energy grid.
- Germany's *Energiewende* (Energy Turnaround) is an excellent example of what