

18 January, 2023

UTC
P.O. Box 47250
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RE: Docket UE-210795

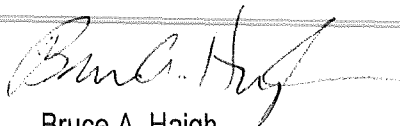
While the idea of a cleaner environment and less pollution is seen as an almost universal "good", there is no hope, whatsoever, that the transition to "clean energy" by Puget Sound Energy will achieve that. It is called "Global Warming"; not "PSE Service Area Warming"! Reducing base load reliability, reliance upon higher-cost sources of energy, and complying with a set of laws or acts which have yet to be fully litigated, on PSE's rushed, accelerated pace, are not in the best interests of PSE customers.

How many years has it taken PSE to get a new North-to-South high-capacity transmission line approved (and not yet erected) on the east side of Lake Washington? Prematurely getting rid of reliable power from coal and natural gas while leaving customers to the whims of wind and solar generation is ludicrous. We aren't building any more dams, and those we have today dedicate huge amounts of power to things like server farms. We aren't building nuclear plants. Given PSE's experience trying to get a few high-tension wires strung what is the best guess for how long it will take to plan, approve, and bring on-line any new source of reliable base-load power?

There is no such thing as safe storage for electricity sufficient to power cities and major industries. Batteries are prone to failure and diminishing capacity no less so than they are in your phone. Fire at such a facility would make Union Carbide's human and environmental disaster at Bhopal's chemical plant look like a Cub Scout marshmallow roast. The fumes are toxic. Lithium floats on water so standard firefighting techniques merely spread the flames. What community is going to want this horrible potentiality in their midst so PSE can pat themselves on the back for being so "Green"?

Washington's Climate Commitment Act (CCA) is being challenged in court today. The CCA is so very deeply flawed because it pretends that carbon dioxide is an imminent threat but then selectively taxes only some types of emissions and only some emitters. It has also been implemented in a manner identical to the unconstitutional regulation of West Virginia energy producers by the federal EPA. Laws have to be fully written by elected legislative bodies, not written and enforced by entities like our state's Department of Ecology (DOE) The legal process is slow but predictable. The CCA fails by forcing firms like Invenergy, operating a gas-fired electricity plant in Grays Harbor County, to buy carbon credits while similar plants around this state do not. A clearer violation of Article 1, Section 12 of our state's Constitution could not be found. And when affected persons feel the costs of the CCA being levied on them while far dirtier emitters like kerosene jet fuel, marine fuels, etc. are exempted the challenges to this ridiculous law will multiply.

I beg the UTC, as a customer who must buy electricity and natural gas from PSE as a sole-source provider to my home and community, to not allow them to implement these plans and power plant shut-downs until they have a viable alternative for provision of reliable and affordable base-load energy. I also urge delay of these plans until legal questions around the CCA and DOE's actions are fully litigated.



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