

May 2019 IRP Comments and Public Input

Overview

The following comments were received in May 2019 as part of Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process. In total, seventeen comments were submitted to the IRP team. Comments in this document are verbatim with sensitive personal information redacted from the report.

Responses from the IRP team are included immediately following the submitted comment. For questions or comments regarding the 2019 IRP, please visit pse.com/pages/energy-supply/resource-planning or email the IRP team at IRP@pse.com. All comments or questions submitted will be made public.

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Comment #1

Date received: 05/15/2019

Name: Joel Carlson

Organization: Individual

Comment

Global warming fossil fuels must stay in the ground to save us from the 6th great mass extinction of life on earth! We must only use lower cost solar and wind energy in the future. We must plant new forests, switch to sustainable farming and restore estuaries that save carbon in the ground as well. This is urgent! See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permian%E2%80%93Triassic_extinction_event

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals.

For more information about the 2019 IRP process or to submit additional comments, please visit pse.com/pages/energy-supply/resource-planning.

Comment #2

Date received: 05/22/2019

Name: Joel Carlson

Organization: Individual

Comment

Global warming fossil fuels must stay in the ground to save us from the 6th great mass extinction of life on earth! We must only use lower cost solar and wind energy in the future. We must plant new forests, switch to sustainable farming and restore estuaries that save carbon in the ground as well. This is urgent! See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permian%E2%80%93Triassic_extinction_event

Response

Thank you for resending your comment. Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals.

Comment #3

Date received: 05/22/2019

Name: Lael White

Organization: Greenlake Health Center

Comment

We must say NO to new natural gas projects. Maintaining existing projects for current capacity, for safety purposes and repairing leak potentials, is necessary but we cannot build for new capacity. We must transition away from use of natural gas and toward renewable, non-fossil-fuel energy sources.

Response

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Comment #4

Date received: 05/22/2019

Name: Nancy Shimeal

Organization: n/a

Comment

I am a ratepayer and the owner of a Douglas-fir farm on Upper Skagit tribal land.

On my 75 acres, there will be about 15,000 Douglas-fir trees, and if they all live, they will absorb 1.26 million pounds of CO2 per year.

However, the changing conditions caused by drought, fire, and heat, our state will lose 32%, a third, of the land that has the conditions needed for growing Douglas fir trees.** That means that today, native trees are already stressed. If you look around, and look up, you will see dying trees in our neighborhoods and along our highways.

There are more than 42 million acres of forestland in Washington state. We know that methane emissions from fracked gas is 86 times more potent over 20 years than carbon emissions.

When PSE's IRP is projecting into the next 20 years, you must include the cost to all of us the harm that building gas infrastructure will cause. How much of the 42 million acres of forest will survive? Over the next 20 years, I will be trying to keep my trees alive.

We need you to stop planning the extraction, shipping, pipelines, the refining, and the burning, of gas. In your IRP plan for the next 20 years, while we are trying to keep our trees alive, we ask that you plan and execute a transition to only renewable energy. Thank you.

** according to the University of Washington College of the Environment, with continued use of fossil fuels, including gas.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals. Your comment was also provided to PSE during the IRPAG 3 listening session on May 22, 2019 and was included in the IRPAG 3 meeting notes.

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Comment #5

Date received: 05/22/2019

Name: Dennis Vickers

Organization: n/a

Comment

Here you got two shot glasses empty.

The shot glass off the right is full of clean water.

The shot glass off the right that is frozen has risen somewhat pass line of tab some what.

And then The glass of ice off to the left side has a point on it for a reason.

Remember the last shot glass and the Line tab has going down the original line tab you can even see it.

And also the glass of ice water off the right hand side Frozen when you throw it it's sinks down the original line tab.

Now I got some pictures of Greenland take a look at them it looks like a bowl of vanilla ice cream. Any comments and shares will be deeply appreciate sincerely king Dennis of the world of climate change and technology.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals. Your comment was also provided to PSE during the IRPAG 3 listening session on May 22, 2019 and was included in the IRPAG 3 meeting notes.

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Comment #6

Date received: 05/22/2019

Name: Chris Chapin

Organization: Redmond People's Climate Action

Comment

Fracked gas is a step in the wrong direction. Any project that burns fossil fuels is a step in the wrong direction. We are in a climate crisis. PSE has a moral responsibility to supply clean energy going forward. Profits will disappear in the face of catastrophe. Please help mitigate the impending disaster. Please step up and be a leader. Please listen to the people who live in this community and not the corporate powers overseas.

Thank you.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals.

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Comment #7

Date received: 05/22/2019

Name: Christina Proctor

Organization: PSE customer and PSE power customer

Comment

I am opposed to the creation or expansion of infrastructure relating to fracked gas. I am happy to pay more to keep our energy green and currently participate in PSE's Green Power.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). PSE appreciates your participation in the Green Power program.

For more information about the 2019 IRP process or to submit additional comments, please visit pse.com/pages/energy-supply/resource-planning.

Comment #8

Date received: 05/22/2019

Name: Mark Vossler, MD

Organization: Chapter President Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Puget Sound Energy's Integrated Resource Plan. As a PSE rate payer, practicing physician, public health advocate, and representative of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, I have serious concerns.

First and foremost is the planned continued reliance upon natural gas even as coal based electricity generation is phased out. The LNG plant in Tacoma and the pipeline expansion plans in Snohomish county reveal that rather than transition to renewable energy as quickly as possible you intend to extend our societal dependence on dangerous, dirty, unhealthy energy sources for as long as possible. Given that methane is 86 times as potent a greenhouse gas as CO₂ in the twenty-year time frame any leakage between the well and generating station is dangerous to the health of the entire global population. Furthermore the serious health risks posed to surrounding communities by fracking operations need to be considered. It is immoral for us to keep our lights on at the expense of the health of people living proximal to frack sites.

We are pleased that you plan to comply with state law and not charge rate payers for coal generated electricity after 2025 but your stated plans for the Colstrip plant seem quite nebulous. The climate impacts and the waste disposal issues of coal would mandate that nobody is getting their electricity from Colstrip after 2025.

PSE's planned infrastructure developments, including Energize Eastside, seem to be geared toward centralized power generation inherent in the old model of burning fossil fuels rather than the new model of distributed generation and clean energy.

We therefore request that your IRP be revised to include no expansion of the use of fracked gas, including the Tacoma LNG project, a more rapid transition to 100% renewable sources, and a revision of the infrastructure build out paid for by your ratepayers to more accurately reflect the needs of a modern renewable energy grid.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals. Your comment was also provided to PSE during the IRPAG 3 listening session on May 22, 2019 and was included in the IRPAG 3 meeting notes.

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Comment #9

Date received: 05/22/2019

Name: Kathy Carr

Organization: Eastside Climate Action

Comment

Thank you for listening. When rate payers have to pay 42% of a new energy infrastructure, we expect we will pay for the energy that other utilities in the NW have signed RFPs for - renewables- certainly not fracking and methane that increases the greenhouse gases by 30%. Further, as an investor in the new infrastructure, we expect a far greater return on our investment than 2%. Seems reasonable. WA is a clean energy state now- for us and for our children. We demand PSE step up to the challenge that we all face, not make it worse with methane. You've had a lazyboy business without innovating to meet our future for decades, and yet you've known about global warming. Any other company would have had a competitor bury such business stagnation if PSE weren't a monopoly. Time for PSE to challenge itself and lead with it's customers in this fight for our future with renewables. Other utilities Can Do, so can PSE. Trust is an issue when PSE distorts pollution numbers using 2007 data instead of 2014 data, when PSE ignores treaties, ignores permits, and ignores the hazards of a LNG plant on a fault in tide flats. Public awareness will swell. Our investment must be for renewable energy.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals.

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Comment #10

Date received: 05/22/2019

Name: Vicki Halbakken

Organization: n/a

Comment

No fracked gas infrastructure, no dirty coal. Put your resources Into Clean energy.

Response

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Comment #11

Date received: 05/23/2019

Name: Steven Storms, BSChE, PE (retired)

Organization:

Comment

PSE has manipulated the natural gas demand in order to insure there is a need for peak shaving that can only be met by the LNG plant. This fake requirement for peak shaving on the coldest winter days allows them to demand a \$133 million contribution from the residential customers for the LNG plant capital. The amount of LNG that will be required for the public usage has dropped to about 2%, but the public is still required to pay 43% of the capital project. This is mostly due to a guaranteed 6 million gallon reserve capacity in the 8 million gallon storage tank. PSE is free to use this capacity 8 or 9 months of the year as long as it is available during the coldest months of the year. As long as PSE can claim a need for peak shaving the \$133 million gift probably makes this the most profitable project they have ever done.

Somehow when the methanol plant was being proposed, PSE had no problem in providing enough natural gas to fill that huge demand. Currently, PSE just signed a contract with WestRock paper mill to increase their usage of natural gas to generate more electricity for sale in California. How PSE can find extra natural gas for industrial customers, but claim a need for peak shaving for their residential customers is impossible to understand. WestRock, in their proposal, has the ability to switch fuels in case they ever lose their natural gas supply. WestRock insured that they continued to maintain that ability in their new permit, even though they stated that they have never had to switch to oil in the last 10 years due to lost natural gas supply. WestRock received a permit to double their steam production to 173,268 lb/hr while burning natural gas. They could easily switch that total production to oil and free up the natural gas whenever peak shaving is required. The problem with that scenario is that PSE would lose their ability to claim as much need for peak shaving and they would not be entitled to the \$133 million contribution from the residential customers. If WestRock is going to get extra natural gas that is needed during peakshaving demand, it would appear they should pay their portion of the \$133 million that is required for the peak shaving capital. (I am sure the WestRock project could not stand a capital charge that would amount to 10s of millions of dollars to cover their peak shaving charge.) In fact any new industrial demand that increases the peak shaving requirements, should be included in a pro rata capital charge for a portion of the \$133 million.

I believe the peak shaving need is fictional and the illusion is maintained in order to get the public to pay for a large part of the LNG project. PSE is doing whatever is required to maintain their claim for a peak shaving demand. They are having a much harder time because they reduced the overall demand from 7% to 2% by reducing the need to only 10 years of the project life. Adding new industrial demand is just another way to insure that peak shaving is required. The WestRock paper mill could actually increase the supply of natural gas by asking them to switch fuels during high demand, but that would destroy the PSE myth about the need for peak shaving. That would also take away the free \$133 million from the public that makes this project so attractive.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals

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Comment #12

Date received: 05/23/2019

Name: Erika Nedderman

Organization: n/a

Comment

No fracked gas! Keep it in the ground. Climate crisis! Renewable energy now! We can do this! Thank you!

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals.

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Comment #13

Date received: 05/23/2019

Name: Radka Chapin

Organization: n/a

Comment

PSE has to transition to 100% renewable energy immediately. LNG is not a renewable resource but a very dangerous source of greenhouse gases and very destructive to our climate. PSE coal plant in Montana has to be shut down completely - not just switch to selling energy to another state. We cannot afford to burn any more fossil fuels. PSE, be a leader in solving the climate crisis!

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals.

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Comment #14

Date received: 05/23/2019

Name: Emily Hazelton

Organization: n/a

Comment

We need to move beyond gas fuel sources and to renewable energy. Our future is at stake, and the impacts of climate change hit poor communities first. We need serious change in our power infrastructure.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals.

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Comment #15

Date received: 05/23/2019

Name: Devon Kellogg **Organization:** PCA,350.org,Washington State Parent Teacher Association

Comment

Dear David Mills and Irena Netik,

Thank you for providing a chance for your customers to speak about the upcoming IRP. I am adding my comments now in lieu of speaking or submitting written comments at the May 22nd event.

I am a parent, teacher and asthma sufferer living in the Redmond area for over 26 years. I have grown increasingly concerned about the effects of climate change on our region and around the world and what affect this will have on my health and my children and students' futures. As I'm sure you are aware, many recent reports (IPCC SR15, NCA4, etc) tell us we need to act now or risk catastrophic climate consequences! We have already begun to see the effects such as fires, droughts, storms, floods, and sea level rise. The number one solution to this climate crisis is reducing our use of all fossil fuels.

I am excited about the new Energy Transformation bill that passed in the WA State Legislature (as well as others). I'm pleased to hear PSE worked to help make it happen. I hope that PSE will create the new IRP with the true intention of the bill in mind. Please do not prop up Coalstrip 3&4 or invest in "bridge to nowhere" natural/fracked gas options! We will not meet our regional or global targets to avoid climate catastrophe if you do! Have you considered wave and geothermal power options as well as wind and solar? These seem like much better long-term investments for everyone!

Can you also please add some incentives for homeowners like me to transition to energy-saving devices such as induction stoves, heat pumps, tankless water heaters, etc or to make upgrades to our insulation, venting systems and drafty doors/windows? This would be a great benefit to helping with grid reliability and reducing your customers' reliance on fossil fuels (especially gas). Many of us want to do this but don't know where to start or how to fund it.

Lastly, I respectfully request to be given a link or copy to the UTC letter that comes out after the new 2019 climate legislation has been taken into account.

Thank you again for listening. I hope you will take these comments to heart for the sake of us all.

([signed] on behalf of myself, my kids, my students, our global neighbors and all future generations)!

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals.

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Comment #16

Date received: 05/29/2019

Name: Suzanne Greenberg

Organization: Vashon Climate Action Group

Comment

Hello, my name is Suzanne Greenberg and I am from Vashon Island, which is Coast Salish land. I want to acknowledge we are guests today on Duwamish land. I am a PSE ratepayer and a volunteer board member of the Vashon Climate Action Group.

I came here today because I am deeply concerned about climate change and the future of this planet. I am vehemently opposed to investing in new fossil fuel infrastructure at this precarious juncture in history. Scientists have been quite clear in study after study; we need to change our behavior quickly and absolutely if we are to survive.

Today I attended an event at work. They were doing a time capsule and gathering things from all the participants to stow away untouched for 25 years. The presenter began to muse; what will the world be like 25 years from now? Who of you will still work here, what will we think when we unearth this capsule?

And indeed, what will the world be like? Will we be suffering from unbearable drought here in WA from a snowpack that is fast disappearing? Will summer fires be so intense that most children will be breathing with the aid of inhalers? Will we be having ever increasing conflict between other Americans about immigration as the climate refugees flock towards more livable spaces that the Global North may provide?

We are hurtling towards that dystopian future. Decisions that utilities make now will be the deciding factors of where we are in 25 years and how livable our world is.

You said that reliability is your bottom line. A livable future so far outweighs reliability. It is blind to stubbornly stick to that reasoning when the results of continuing along sticking with that idea is immoral. There may be times that our power goes off periodically. I can live with that. I can't accept a world that will be a nightmare.

You also said you are watching with us what new green technologies will develop in the future. Please take the millions you are investing in this plant and put it towards the development of green power. The LNG plant in Tacoma is wrong on so many levels. Fracked gas may burn cleaner, but if you look at the lifecycle, though it was once thought to be a transition fuel, it has been shown to have climate impacts equal or greater than coal. Methane is 86 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO2. The LNG facility you are building in Tacoma, without proper permits or permission from the Puyallup Tribe whose land it occupies, is a horrendously irresponsible venture. You are asking me, as a rate payer, to fund this project, though the gas used for my electricity would be a minute amount. I am not willing to fund my own destruction!

Please look outside the normal commitments you have made as a company and realize we are in a global crisis, and your response to that and commitment to US ratepayers must reflect that.

Thank you.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Your comments have been shared with appropriate PSE teams and individuals.

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Comment #17

Date received: 05/29/2019

Name: Nancy Shimeall

Organization: Climate Reality Project

Comment

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments here online, at the May 22 listening session, and at the end of each TAG meeting. However, there was and is no direct response or feedback, no dialog, so it appears that all of this input has no impact on PSEs IRP process or progress. Please consider responding to us in the moment, at the point of our engaging with you.

Response

Thank you for participating in Puget Sound Energy's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). PSE will provide an additional opportunity to share comments and feedback on the IRP process at the IRPAG #4 meeting scheduled for November 26, 2019.

For more information about the 2019 IRP process or to submit additional comments, please visit pse.com/pages/energy-supply/resource-planning.