

Snow, Suzanne

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: Contact Form Submittal from Consumer Counsel Webpage

Contact the Consumer Counsel

Date: 15th September 2020 15:10

Your Name::
Dolores Andersen

Your Email::
dodieinmont@msn.com

Your Message:

To All the Consumer Council Members From: Dolores Andersen 1204 Ponderosa Dr, Missoula, MT Please do not approve of NorthWestern Energy's purchase of Colestrip 4. It is backwards thinking. Renewable energy is smarter, cheaper, cleaner, and creates more jobs for working Montanans. The purchase of Colestrip 4 favors over privileged people and not working Montanans. It's also bad for the children and youth of Montana. Care enough to say "No" to NorthWestern's ill-conceived scheme.

Sent via leg.mt.gov/occ/occ-staff/

Snow, Suzanne

From: Bob Balhiser <patty-bob@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Cc: Frank Kromkowski
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Colstrip

Suzanne,

Colstrip needs to be shut down as a coal-fired operation, and its life should not be prolonged by a NWE takeover. Think of this sort of like the Republican's "starve the Beast" strategy.

It would be great to replace the coal fired boilers with a fourth-generation advanced reactor like PRISM that would repurpose the facility to produce and distribute carbon free electricity and, in the process utilize most of the remaining infrastructure.

Check out this link to a Montana Legislative Study Proposal that is likely to be re-introduced by Senator Terry Gauthier this session: <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2019/billpdf/SJ0033.pdf>

66th Legislature SJ0033.01 1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33 6
REACTORS AS A REPLACEMENT FOR COAL-FIRED BOILERS. 7

66th legislature sj0033.01 1 senate joint resolution no. 33 2 introduced by t. gauthier 3 4 a joint resolution of the senate and the house of representatives of the state of

leg.mt.gov

Bob Balhiser
Helena

Snow, Suzanne

From: Bornstein, Maggie <maggie.bornstein@umconnect.umt.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Comment for Meeting

Hello,

Here is my written comment for today's meeting:

"My name is Maggie Bornstein and I am weighing in from Missoula this morning. I am here to express my firm stance against more coal burning in Montana. In western Montana, we have already caught a glimpse of the impending climate crisis with recent smoke levels. Ratepayers should not have to shoulder the costs or deal with lifelong environmental consequences in the name of Northwestern Energy's monopoly."

Thanks,

Maggie Bornstein

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

Snow, Suzanne

From: Sue Dickenson <suedickenson6845@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 8:51 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment on NWE's request to purchase Coalstrip 4

Dear Committee---please weigh in opposed to NWE's request to purchase Coalstrip 4. If you look around the country, you see many investor owned utilities are doing very well financially by going big time for renewable energy sources. NWE seems to have its head wrapped around the coal axle and cannot/will not consider other options which are much less risky financially and do recognize climate change as a critical issue. Their plan on Coalstrip puts major financial risk right in the laps of consumers----unfair and a bad precedent to start. Business decisions should be made with the risk assumed by the business which makes the choice. They know there will be big cleanup costs, maintenance , etc.Hard working Montanans should not be liable for costs, particularly since the majority is seeing more and more that coal is a dying source of affordable energy. Thank you for your attention. Sue Dickenson, 620 Riverview Dr. E., Great Falls, MT 59404

Mary Catherine Dunphy
P.O. Box 292
Miles City, MT 59301

September 15, 2020

**Comment on NorthWestern Energy's Application to Acquire
More of the Colstrip Coal Fired Power Plant
to Provide Electricity to Montana Electricity Consumers**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am against NorthWestern Energy being allowed to acquire more of the Colstrip Coal Fired Power Plant in order to provide electricity to Montana electricity consumers for several reasons.

First: Renewable Energy is cleaner, healthier and less expensive. It is baffling and confusing to figure out why NorthWestern Energy wants to incur fuel costs (coal) at Colstrip when sun and wind are free energy sources. Warren Buffet's MidAmerican Energy in Iowa has figured this out, and so has Idaho Power. Why not NorthWestern Energy? Russ Doty, Esq. explained in a recent op ed that "Many do not realize that reliable green electrons are now up to 4½ cents a kilowatt hour (kWh) cheaper than fossil fuel generated electricity in most places; that LA's municipal utility buys solar power with battery backup at 2.9 cents/kWh."

See: <http://www.valleyjournal.net/Article/23752/Biden-climate-plan-benefits-agriculture-consumers-alike>

Second: Burning coal as a source of electricity – besides being more expensive for electricity consumers – will worsen the planet's dire climate change crisis.

Bold action is needed from Montana's utility regulators to stop, and prevent the environmental damage from coal or natural gas electricity production. Solar, wind, and battery storage is smarter, cheaper. We cannot wait. Just take a look at the numerous fires currently burning in Washington, Oregon, California and Montana. These are the kinds of climate disasters predicted by the climate scientists. These numerous fires are terrible disasters with horrifying consequences for people, animals, the environment and the economy.

Furthermore, Farmer's Union economists estimate 25,000 jobs will be lost by Montana farms and ranches by mid-century if climate change continues to dry out the land. It is estimated 10,000 jobs will be lost in the Montana tourism, ski and sport-fishing industries. So, to help protect those 35,000 jobs, we will need more, cheaper (no fuel-cost) renewable electricity.

I am also formally requesting that no permit be issued for NorthWestern Energy to acquire more of Colstrip Power Plant for reasons that pertain to air quality, environmental justice and human rights. My request is based on the fact that coal burned to make electricity at Colstrip is releasing huge amounts of carbon dioxide into Planet Earth's atmosphere. The carbon dioxide, one of the most toxic of the various greenhouse gases, will accelerate global warming/climate change and the effects will be detrimental to the health and welfare of – not just Montanans – but every human being and species on Planet Earth. One might even consider it a biological weapon of mass destruction. Carbon dioxide is an equal opportunity destroyer. Please consider that it will be a crime against humanity to allow NorthWestern Energy to acquire more of Colstrip.

In November 2012, The National Academies, advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering and Medicine, (composed of the National Academy of Sciences; National Academy of Engineering; Institute of Medicine; and National Research Council), published a report entitled: "Climate and Social Stress: Implications for Security Analysis," which was overseen by the Committee on Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change on Social and Political Stresses.

The Report Brief is particularly sobering:

"In recent years, the accumulation of scientific evidence that the global climate is changing beyond the bounds of past experience has raised expectations of new stresses on societies around the world, creating possible security risks for the United States. Those stresses include situations in which climate events (e.g., droughts, heat waves, or storms) have consequences that exceed the capacity of affected countries to cope and respond.

. . . Security analysts should anticipate that over the next decade, droughts, heat waves, storms, or other climate events of surprising intensity or duration will stress communities, societies, governments, and the globally integrated systems that support human well-being.

. . . It is prudent to expect that some climate events will produce consequences that exceed the capacity of the affected societies or global systems to manage, and therefore will have global security implications serious enough to compel international response. Even though the links between climate events and security outcomes are complex, contingent, and not well enough understood to allow for prediction, it is also prudent to anticipate the such consequences will become more common in the future.”
<https://www.nap.edu/read/14682/chapter/1>

I, respectfully, urge you to read the Fifth Assessment of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change. <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar5/>

NASA has great information on climate change: <https://climate.nasa.gov/>

The United Nations has information about climate change:
<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/united-science-report-climate-change-has-not-stopped-covid19>

For all of these reasons, and many others that I do not have the time to enumerate in this letter, I, respectfully request that NorthWestern Energy’s request to acquire more of the Colstrip Coal Fired Power Plant be denied.

Thank you for your attention to this matter of grave concern.

Very truly yours,

Mary Catherine Dunphy

Snow, Suzanne

From: Sue <suek@montana.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NW Energy - comment on acquiring more Colstrip plant

To: Legislative Consumer Committee

Would you please oppose any increase of Northwestern Energy's ownership in Colstrip?

Whether you think coal is a good investment for the future or not, acquiring more liability for Colstrip plants is as obvious a mistake as deregulation of Montana Power was in the past. I had a dear elderly friend who was a widow who trusted Montana Power and our decision to allow them a monopoly and invested in MPC and was harmed in her last years by the loss of value.

When we allow a monopoly for energy in our state, we have the responsibility to regulate and re-direct the monopoly or it will follow its immediate needs for profit and stockholders interests, rather than looking to the the future and to the common good. We can't blame them. We have to meet our responsibilities.

We should definitely be suspicious when other companies are willing to sell for \$1!

Please don't let Montanans look like chumps again. And don't harm the people who are trusting you.

Thank you.

Sue Kirchmyer
216 West Sussex
Missoula MT
59801
suek@montana.com

Snow, Suzanne

From: Janny Kirk <jannykirk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:01 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for NWE Colstrip Purchase

Hello,

This comment is in reference to NWE's request to purchase additional shares of Colstrip for the 9/16/2020 meeting.

I am fully against this purchase as coal is the MOST expensive form of energy today. For every hour of energy produced by coal, the utility is losing money. This is fiscally irresponsible let alone environmentally disastrous . Put the money toward renewable energy development . As a rate payer who feels we have no say in the matter, this needs to stop! Coal is DEAD and it is time for NWE to realize this.

Thank you,

Janny Kirk

4020 Rimrock Rd.

Billings, MT 59106

jannykirk@gmail.com

Snow, Suzanne

From: Richard Liebert <wwranch@3rivers.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne; wwranch@3rivers.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NW Energy and power acquisition at Colstrip

For our elected leaders:

Let's insure that ratepayers like myself are 'Not hung out to dry' for the expensive costs to operate a coal plant while we have better options

with energy efficiency, solar, wind farms (that pay real \$\$\$ to farmers and ranchers like me for leases). I will not tolerate being left 'holding the

bag' for cleanup costs when that's clearly the plant's responsibility along with the power purchase customers like NW Energy.

No 'One Dollar Deal' which as it sounds it absolutely ludicrous.

We CAN do better.

Richard Liebert

289 Boston Coulee Road

Great Falls, MT 59405

Cattle Rancher, Lt. Colonel (Retired) US Army

Snow, Suzanne

From: KayBee Masis <kbmasis@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on NWE Application

To the Legislative Consumer Committee:

Northwestern Energy wants Montana customers pre-committed to covering costs resulting from the company buying a larger share of Colstrip 4.

Please consider the needs of the electricity consumers first in your deliberations about their request for pre-approval.

I understand that the details of the costs associated with this purchase has not been provided to the PSC.

As a customer, I am very concerned about this unusual situation, putting us in jeopardy for unknown

Due diligence by the Montana Legislative Consumer Committee is required.

I urge you not to approve the request.

Kathleen Masis M.D.
430 Beverly Hill Blvd
Billings MT 59101
406 698-1878

Snow, Suzanne

From: Ken Palisin <kenpalisin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:10 AM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cola trip

Wow, why would we put a yoke around the neck of Montanans?

Buying Colstrip and we clean up the ponds, streams, air and soil for next 50 years.

Ken Palisin

Sent from my iPhone

Snow, Suzanne

From: Sharon Patton-griffin <pattongriffin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Northwest Energy

I would like to give public comment.

I am opposed to this plan which NWE has tried to get through the legislature during the last legislative session and the PSC.

This plan will not benefit our climate, our rate payers, or the people working for Coal Strip 4. There is no reason for this action or for the deception that NWE has used to try to force this action.

Snow, Suzanne

From: David Saslav <dsaslav@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 6:26 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I am AGAINST purchasing Colstrip 4

Dear Legislative Consumer Committee / Suzanne,

I am strongly against the purchase of Colstrip 4 by Northwestern Energy. The time is now for Montana to be divesting fully from fossil fuel-based energy sources, and investing exclusively in clean, renewable energy sources instead.

By allowing NWE to externalize additional future cleanup costs while paying too much for dirty energy today, the LCC could actually effect a "lose-lose-lose" outcome that is bad for Montana's environment, bad for ratepayers, AND bad for Northwestern Energy (though they may not be calculating this loss correctly at the moment).

Please DEFEAT the proposition to permit NWE to purchase Colstrip 4 while the state continues to lag behind other states in the race to evolve to clean, renewable energy sources.

David Saslav
Great Falls, MT

Snow, Suzanne

From: Melissa Smith <mls3ster@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 1:45 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legislative Consumer Committee on NWE and Colstrip

Dear Ms. Snow:

As my eyes water and my nose won't stop running from smoke from the catastrophic forest fires in all of the Western states, I write to urge the Legislative Consumer Committee to vote no on Northwestern Energy's application to acquire more of the Colstrip Coal Fired Power Plant.

For decades, science has shown us that our dependence on fossil fuels will be devastating to our habitat. Montana legislators seem incapable of connecting the dots between Colstrip and our climate crisis. If they allow this sale to go forward, more devastation is ahead.

We must end our dependence on coal. The market has spoken: many of our energy partners will not buy electricity derived from coal. So, in less than a decade the only marketplace for coal will be Montana ratepayers. Generating electricity from coal is already the most expensive way to generate power. There won't be a regional market for coal generated electricity - except to Montanans and we will pay the most for our electricity.

Now is the time to pull the plug on coal generated electricity in Montana. It is the right thing to do. Vote no.

Melissa Smith
Great Falls, Montana

Snow, Suzanne

From: Karen Stears <karen.e.p.stears@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment for NWE Colstrip purchase

Hello I would like to make a public comment about NWE's request to purchase additional shares of Colstrip for the 9-16-20 meeting

As a customer of NWE I am VERY concerned about their interest in purchasing additional shares of Colstrip. There is no real legitimate reason to purchase more of Colstrip other than corporate greed. Their cost + mode of rate determination Allows them to buy the most expensive method and make \$ on it.

Buying more Colstrip will saddle the ratepayers with high \$maintenance, expensive repair bills, long term toxic waste management, and most importantly unnecessary green house gas emissions.

There are other options for consistent electricity generation. Most are far less expensive: for example solar or wind with battery backup. Solar or wind with pumped hydro battery backup such as the Gordon Butte Project. Smart grid use can also help. Wind and solar are the least expensive ways to generate electricity now.

Many regional utilities have (iowa) or soon will have carbon free electricity generation.

Why does NWE need more coal produced electricity - NO GOOD REASON.

Thank you
Karen Stears
311 Parkhill dr
Billings, MT. 59101
Stears@fiberpipe.net

Sent from my iPhone

Snow, Suzanne

From: Betty Whiting <bettywhiting@bresnan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:01 PM
To: Snow, Suzanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DON'T Buy Colstrip

I have one minute to tell you to tell the committee that we have smoke in the air right now because Montana has sold coal to the world. We don't need more wildfires! No to Northwestern Energy purchasing colstrip plants.

Betty Whiting, 925 Burlington Avenue, Billings, MT 59101.