

## **RESOLUTION 1278**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FRANKLIN COUNTY**

#### **SUPPORTING COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION**

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WHEREAS, Public Utility District No. 1 of Franklin County (the District) receives nine percent of its fuel mix from nuclear power generated at the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) operated by Energy Northwest in Richland, Washington; and

WHEREAS, CGS is a publicly owned nuclear facility operated by a Washington State not-for-profit operating agency since 1984, capable of delivering 1,190 megawatts of continuously available power to the grid, which is sufficient to power a million homes while emitting virtually no greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 a report by McCullough Research recently released claims CGS can be replaced entirely by renewable resources and should be shut down; and

WHEREAS, the McCullough report also claims that the value of the electricity generated at CGS is less than the plant's operating cost, pointing out that there is no national spent fuel storage repository, and that active geological faults in the Puget Sound area are connected to ridges at the Hanford site; and

WHEREAS, said report did not acknowledge any of the positive aspects of CGS mentioned below; and

WHEREAS, CGS power is generated at a sustaining cost of 4.2 cents per kWh, which is competitive with natural gas and hydropower and less expensive than wind and solar power; and

WHEREAS, the greatest part of the spent nuclear fuel from CGS is safely contained in dry cask storage on site, and CGS is currently building additional capacity to

store thirty additional years' worth of spent fuel casks, so that CGS could operate throughout its useful life without a national spent fuel repository; and

WHEREAS, recent evaluations conducted for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are concluding that CGS facility including the spent fuel storage systems are at very low risk of failure due to credible seismic events; and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was confident enough in the safety and security of CGS operation in 2012 to approve an extension of CGS's 40-year license for an additional 20 years, thereby extending operation through 2043; and

WHEREAS, CGS's power is continuously available regardless of weather conditions, and is therefore well suited to support reliable power grid baseload and capacity demand, including backing up increasing levels of intermittent renewable wind and solar power; and

WHEREAS, shutting down CGS would likely result in an immediate shift of our power to CO2 power sources such as natural gas to meet increasing power demands while supporting the power grid baseload; potentially doubling the state's CO2 emissions from natural gas, making attainment of Washington's greenhouse gas emission goals more difficult, and

WHEREAS, local effects of shutting down CGS could include the loss to Washington State of up to 1,500 direct jobs and three times that number of indirect jobs; and

WHEREAS, while building a new nuclear power plant may be uneconomic in today's business environment, shutting down CGS would be abandoning an investment in a large, continuously upgraded, and successfully operating low-carbon baseload electrical power plant with a thirty-year expected remaining lifetime; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the District recognizes CGS as a critical facility for combatting carbon emissions-driven climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District urges the Washington State Legislature to support the continued operation of the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant through its useful life.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the Public Utility District No. 1 of Franklin County at an open public meeting this 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2017.




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William Gordon, President



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Stuart Nelson, Vice President



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Roger Wright, Secretary