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State of Washington  
Utilities and Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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STATE OF WASH.  
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COMMISSION

RE: AVISTA CORPORATION 2015 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN, DOCKET UE-143214

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a Spokane resident and Avista ratepayer to comment on Avista's proposed Integrated Resource Plan.

Here in the Northwest, global warming means smaller snowpacks, bigger forest fires and acidic, corrosive oceans. It also means we pay for even greater damage elsewhere, through our taxes, our insurance, and even with the lives of our men and women in uniform as a warming world becomes a dangerous place.

The scientific consensus says that we have as little as 27 years, at present trend, to quit coal and other fossil fuels, in order to avoid potentially catastrophic costs. As the dirtiest of all fossil fuels, coal must be the first to go.

Avista knows this as well as we do, yet its owners are simply kicking the can down the road.

Avista estimates the annual cost of leaving Colstrip at 50 million dollars. But Avista is a 2.1 billion dollar company, and this transition must be made, now or later, so the company's present management is simply pushing the cost onto future managers and ratepayers—while continuing to push 13 million tons of carbon pollution into the atmosphere each year.

The U.S. government says that carbon pollution comes with a social cost of \$40 per ton. That's the cost of healthcare, damage to infrastructure and crops, and other direct costs imposed on society. Most scientists consider this to be far too low. They say the true social cost of carbon pollution is closer to 200 dollars per ton, but let's just go with the official figure of 40 dollars and see how this adds up.

Colstrip produces 15 million tons of carbon pollution per year. Avista owns 15% of Colstrip, so each year Avista is responsible for 2 million tons of carbon pollution from this monster.

Now multiply that 2 million tons by the \$40 per ton social cost of carbon, and we see that Avista is imposing a cost of at least 80 million dollars per year on all the rest of us, in order to save \$50 million. Over the life of their 20 year plan, Avista gets a 1.6 billion dollar subsidy to destroy the climate...all to avoid a much smaller cost to go clean.

Are we in the business of handing our utilities billions of dollars to pollute? No. Make Avista pay its own way, and save the world's climate while you're at it. As a ratepayer, I'll happily pay the small rate increase it will take to prevent my dollars from financing a local and global disaster.

Please refuse to approve Avista's Integrated Resource Plan until the company sells to its stake in Colstrip. Your children and mine are depending on you.

Sincerely,

  
David Camp