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Good morning, members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. My name is Erica Dellwo. I am a rate-payer of Avista Corporation, and a citizen of Spokane, Washington. Thank you for hosting this hearing and giving me the opportunity to voice my concerns about Avista's integrated resource plan for the coming decade.

I believe the purpose of the IRP is to ensure reliable delivery of electricity, an undeniably vital resource, as I learned when I lost the ability to run my home's heater for a week in 20 degree weather. So while it is true that I believe the burning of coal for electricity is a major contributor to warming the planet leading to more extreme weather events like our epic windstorm last month, I'm going to focus my question on the direct cost of climate change to energy generation.

Climate change will reduce the amount of snowpack. Let's forget for a moment how this will eliminate thousands of jobs that rely on snow - that is, after all, one of those "externalized" costs. And let's again ignore the reduced amount of recharge to an aquifer that serves hundreds of thousands of people - that's the problem for another utility. And who cares about fish and people who want to enjoy the cool - make that warm and polluted - water in our rivers. These are all costs that society will bear, BUT what about the direct cost to hydroelectric power? Avista knows that snowpack serves the function of a reservoir, releasing water over time, with snowmelt providing a steady flow of water for hydroelectric dams to function. Avista's IRP shows that their greenhouse gas emissions will increase over the IRP period. Scientists predict that climate change will cause precipitation in our region will fall more as rain, rather than snow. We have no reservoirs to capture this water and release it as needed. Scientists have also said that just a one degree increase in air temperature will increase evaporation, again affecting river flows (not to mention agriculture, forest fires, and drinking water). Doesn't this plan jeopardize the amount of hydroelectric power we can expect over the IRP period and beyond?

So, my question about this plan is: where does Avista plan to come up with the loss of hydro electric power caused by climate change, which they are contributing to through their investment in the Colstrip, Montana coal-fired plant?