**Comments re Docket UE-161036– by Mike Nuess, Spokane WA**

Coal and oil

have delivered

enormous benefit to humanity.

Their energy services

have begun to free us from physical toil.

But they cannot deliver energy abundance for all.

Furthermore they now threaten to destroy us.

For the first time in human history

We face two

self-created,

imminent and urgent,

threats

to our survival on earth.

And one is today’s scale

of fossil fuel combustion for energy,

the prime source

of the excess atmospheric carbon,

creating climate turbulence.

For years the pentagon has said it’s our greatest security threat.

And now, even cautious climate scientists are alarmed

as climate change grows much faster that they had predicted,

accelerating exponentially towards our destruction.

Fortunately we have an extraordinary solution

Counter-accelerating exponentially towards our salvation.

Solar and wind, energy use efficiency, geothermal,

and a sprinkling of other

truly renewable energy technologies,

the only ones that can deliver

global energy abundance,

clean, stable environments

and durable peace.

Despite half-a-trillion-a-year

in taxpayer subsidies skewed against them,

they grow exponentially

in both production and capital investment,

cheaper now

and delivering more new generation capacity

than all fossil and nuclear generation combined.

We must take this misplaced half-a-trillion

and instead subsidize the transition

of our coal and oil workers

to better, cleaner, safer and more abundant jobs

in regionally-based renewable energy industries,

providing them income support,

health care, pension security

and training.

We must welcome

the more than $300 billion per year

in private renewables investment

and back it up with public investment.

We must immediately terminate

coal and oil generation.

These must stay in the ground.

They threaten our very survival.

We must pursue

our renewables solution

which now adds over 120 new GW per year—

roughly 30% of the U.S. coal fired production.

*Full spectrum acceleration is required*,

for we are now at that critical moment

when both the remarkable growth of efficiency and renewables

and a tsunami of new investment

enable the swiftest possible transition.

This must not be forestalled by continued fossil (or nuclear)

investments and subsidies*.*

Let’s not make mistakes like this again:

In the last ¼ of the 20th Century

the Bonneville Power Administration

field-tested several

large wind generator designs

here in the Pacific Northwest.

Then during the 1980’s

this R&D was dropped,

but the development of

modern wind power

continued in Europe.

Now just about 3 decades later

wind energy generation is

the world’s fastest growing energy technology,

costing less than coal or any other EGT.

Had we then chosen more wisely

We would have developed

The entire value-adding

Wind-electric production chain

here at home,

providing new jobs for

an indigenous industry

providing coal workers

a smoother transition

than the one that must happen now.

Instead we have had to export dollars

To import wind towers and blades from Denmark.

Hopefully, this time,

short-term planning horizons

and politics

will not preclude

a science-based decision.

Avista's intention

to use coal-fired electricity

for the next 20 years,

constitutes unacceptable

environmental harm

by both direct damage

to health and environment

and by forestalling

our swift transition

to energy abundance,

healthy and stable environments

and durable peace.

At this point Avista seems

unlikely to support

the required

*emergence through emergency*

we so critically need.

Hopefully the right vision

and firmly committed action

in the right direction

will come from you,

our commissioners.