

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 than 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.