

From: [Rebecca Kemnitz MacMullan](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Comment Docket number UE-161036.
Date: Friday, October 27, 2017 4:48:47 PM
Attachments: [C&H Fact Sheets.pdf](#)

October 27th, 2017

Title: Retire Colstrip by 2025 and add no New Thermal Resources.

Dear Commissioners:

Reliance on coal-fired electricity for the next twenty years as specified in Avista Utilities' 2017 Integrated Resource Plan is incompatible with Governor Inslee's 2014 Executive Order to end coal by wire, and is irresponsible in light of the immediate and long-term consequences global warming will have on Washington State's economy, public health, geo-political stability and natural environment.

While national policy is become an unreliable regulator of greenhouse gas emissions, the UTC, in regulating utilities in the interest of the safety of residents of Washington, should require that Avista adjust its current resource plan to close Colstrip power plant by 2025. Furthermore, the power supply currently generated by coal must be replaced by renewable energy sources and not with new thermal generation facilities. Rapid replacement of coal-fired electricity with renewable energy such as Montana wind energy, and solar power built, installed and operated in Washington State, serves the interests of Washington's economy, environment, and public health and safety.

Please find the attached 4-page fact sheet on the impacts of climate change on human health prepared by Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. Severe weather events, pollen counts and asthma attacks, high temperatures, water borne and vector borne diseases will all increase as global warming and climate change progress. In light of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's mission to protect the people of Washington by ensuring that investor-owned utility services are safe, the UTC must consider the multiple threats to the safety of people in our state created by global warming. While the need for cost-effective and reliable sources of power must be met, we must also consider the enormous costs of climate change on human health, agriculture, forestry, shellfish industry, disaster response to extreme weather conditions and national security concerns.

As a rate payer and a resident of Washington State, I implore the UTC to use its regulatory authority to compel Avista Utilities to close its interest in Colstrip power plant by 2025 and to invest in rapid development of solar and wind generated electric power infrastructure, as well as energy storage technology. While Avista Corporation is a good corporate sponsor and supports many philanthropic works in the communities it serves, the Preferred Resource Strategy submitted in this IRP is unconscionable. I write to you in full awareness, too, of Avista's responsibilities to its shareholders. Surely, shareholder too rely on a stable climate for their survival and do not want human hubris or avarice to threaten the planet's ability to sustain human civilization as we know it.

With 16 of the world's hottest years already recorded in this young century, no serious scientists, policy makers or leaders can now doubt the reality and the mortal danger of anthropogenic climate change. From the Paris Agreement to the Spokane City Climate

Ordinance, communities recognize the grave and well-founded concerns around anthropogenic climate change causing drastic and life-challenging changes to the ability of humans to find sufficient food, clean water, safe housing and stable environments. Future generations will not enjoy geo-political stability or economic prosperity if anthropogenic climate change and the emission of greenhouse gases causing anthropogenic climate change is not halted immediately. Neither Washington State nor the planet on which human survival depends can afford to rely on coal-fired electricity generation for another 20 years.

Sincerely,

Rebecca MacMullan

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