

- My name is David Boleneus. I am a wheat grower in Lincoln County. I have watched, studied, analyzed this issue since August, recorded three YouTube videos, published four reports, written this commission, presented at two town halls and will appear on KTW radio tomorrow on the Matt Shea show. My reports are available to anyone. I volunteer to speak too. Just ask. I report now only a sampling of comments that are fully referenced.
- This merger is wrong, dangerous, for reasons beyond the time for me to report. It offers no advantages to customers, less promise than currently, and Hydro One conveniently avoids any guarantee for future electric supply.
- I will address the nightmarish electric situation in Ontario, far-away home of Hydro One, with HydroOne responsible for some of these nightmare-like experiences. Then I will tell you why electricity experiences currently terrorizing Ontario are coming to Avista territory despite apparent Stipulations otherwise made by this commission with special interest groups from this state that do not represent Avista customers.
- Before 2009 Ontario's rates were like Avista's, about 3.5 cents. Today no one can discover their rates, as utilities in the US. Hidden. In 2009 Ontario's Parliament and McGinty's liberal government, home of HydroOne, passed the Green Energy Act to require wind and end coal. Why? Because they were terrified of carbon dioxide. Mind you. That's the stuff you exhale as I speak and that makes plants grow to feed us, is 98% Naturally not Human-sourced. Ontario then built thousands of 400 ft tall bird chopping wind turbines, 5 times more than in Washington, and closed coal-electric plants, the most reliable and efficient in North America. It guaranteed renewable wind and solar providers 400% to 1,000% higher feed-in tariffs than available market-priced electric supply, placed no limits on renewables, even paid renewables when they didn't produce, required because this electricity is so exceedingly expensive and inefficient.
- Immediately, Ontario's electric rates skyrocketed to highest in North America, homing in on Germany's and Denmark's the world's most expensive 43-44 cent rates. HydroOne's low density urban rate rocketed to 29.9 cents per kwhr in 2015, with off-peak rates increasing 149% in 9 years, then electric rates added 18% to 36 cents/kwhr in 2016, or 507% higher than Avista's 7.1 cent large general service rate, 1500% higher than Grant & Douglas Co PUDs 2.39 cent/kwhr. Ontarians were in panic. Living on the edge.
- Here are some experiences. **Joanna's** electric in Timmons ONT was \$800 per month for family's house trailer. Another man (Ontario-Wind-Resistance.org) said his electric was \$880 per month for heating only 3 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, one bedroom. **Mayor Lynn Watson** said their Dinelles grocery in Echo Bay Ont. had to close all its frozen-refrigerated foods, reduce its store by 2/3 because it couldn't afford electricity for compressors and chillers. Seniors in their eighties on fixed income **Dorothy and Ken Wynne** in Moosonee

Ont. had to count out pennies to pay electric, cut down of fruits, veggies, even not eating, cooking on the BBQ in order to pay electric bills. **Ms. Dobbyn**, the United Way exec. dir. in Bruce Grey Ont. said Wynne's and other's stories really fits the definition of energy poverty. People are told it's their fault. They left a light on. **Dobbyn** said the largest Hydro bill was \$22,000 while others had to walk away from their mortgage, give up homes because electric was so high. Running backyard generators. Finding wood for heat in Ontario's winter. For others electric requires one-half of a month's take home pay.

- Their Smart meter program, the way to control and limit your electric use, already cost \$2 B was still not working as promised and most benefits were not realized. The Toronto Sun reports in the period 2013-2017, disconnected homes grew 19% to 58,286, the number of electric accounts in arrears, on the verge of disconnect grew 28% to 392,963, and while arrears debt grew a staggering 40% to \$134,885,199. Nipissing Ont. Conservative MP Vic Fedeli said families are in his office almost daily looking for help to deal with Hydro bills, absolutely having to decide whether to feed the kids or run the heater. Understand that these people suffer in silence, unable to communicate without cell phones, internet, TVs, maybe refrigeration, lights, without electricity, vehicles, gasoline.
- Here's the promise these practices are coming to Avista territory. Diaene Vernile MPP Kitchener Ont. says this on YouTube. Quoting Ms. Vernile: "To build Ontario's infrastructure, Ontario will sell off 60% of HydroOne in an IPO, but maintain control, control HydroOne's board, appoint its directors, maintain veto power, nominating authority to its subsidiaries, maintain regulatory control, and set rates." Will Ontario set Avista's rates? She says so.
- The 36 cent electric charges were only one problem but larger was the extra fee due even before turning on the lights. Called the Global Adjustment Charge, it triples electric bills. It's a Hydro One fee for Ontario's sweetheart deals made to pay renewables, and even paying generators full time when the wind is not blowing or sun is not shining and while gifting electricity to Quebec, Manitoba paid by Ontarians. To 2016 Ontarians had already overpaid for electricity by \$37 B said the Auditor General with future overpayments of \$133 B more coming in the next 13 years (2032). How about HydroOne's record? Its outages last 30% longer and are 24% more frequent. It charges ratepayers more money for systems in decline, the least reliable in Canada, but that's their main business. Its inefficient, lacks incentive to become productive, builds cost-overruns into its budgets, and games the Ontario Energy Board to get more money claiming its assets in poor condition. Fraser Institute says it's wasted \$2.25 B on conservation efforts. HydroOne promised to add another \$285 before 2019.

- 40 miles east of Detroit, in Chatham Kent SW Ontario installing foundations for wind turbines is destroying local underground water supplies. The water is brown. It's a black plague as farmer Marc St Pierre displays the black toxic sludge that affects his wife's health is only useful for bathing and toilets that started as the pile drivers continued work on the foundations. There's no way it's safe to drink.
- Then Ontario's Energy Ministry committed another really stupid act. They would rebate 9 cents to reduce electric to 27 cents for 10 years, calling this the Fair Hydro Plan. Toronto's Consumer Policy Institute<sup>1</sup> (7 months ago, Sept. 2017) calls it a mirage Plan and misleads customers as the Financial Accountability Office reports rebates now cost \$18.4 B borrowed to 2028, costs \$21 B in interest which could jump to \$30 B if interest cost do not rise more than 1%. The \$18.4 B rebate and \$30 B in interest could cost \$48.4 B to future customers, with nothing gained while this political stunt "gambles" customer's electricity future. The Ministry promises you will pay 14 cents more added-- 50 cents per kwhr rather than 36 cents had there been no rebate and the Fair Hydro mirage does nothing to address lucrative contracts made with generators, which is at the root of the problem.
- Reported so far is Green Energy Act Round 1. Its only began. Green Energy Act Round 2 began in 2017 promising more costs, more deprivation to the already impossible burden. It certainly promises widespread death to the 13.6 B residents of Ontario.
- This is not the end. HydroOne wants Avista and its 13 hydroelectric plants. Why? Ontario requires Green Energy, clean, renewable. Ontario mandates its GHG emission fall by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 adding another \$3,247 /month to each household. It's their Climate Change Action Plan. The Avista acquisition assures HydroOne can meet the 2020 check point while HydroOne avoids paying \$8 B to buy Carbon Credits to Al Gore's Chicago Climate Exchange saving them \$1.3 B and gains control of Avista's 13 hydroelectric assets. How smart? Pretty dumb of us. Its only one part of the CCAP which amounts not to a merger or acquisition action but an Ontario-orchestrated raid on U.S. utilities. You see storming Avista is only a small peg in Ontario's cross-border foray. The semantics important here. In the last two years, Ontario raiders have gained control of \$80.8 B worth or U.S. clean assets. Forbes.com listed 10 other US companies as future targets, MDU Resources in ND, MT, SD and Idaho Power in ID. Once anchored HydroOne will swoop up more—Inland Power, Kootenai Elect., Northern Lights, Seattle City, Chelan-Douglas PUDs.
- Even the Bank of Montreal and Chrysler's CEO warned of serious harm coming to Ontario's economy with jobs disappearing and 1 in 20 businesses closing. At this point demonstrations against the high electric cost were happening all across Ontario, according to Ontario-Wind-Resistance.org. *Now I have gone overtime but I have more reports of*

*personal stories of people trying to survive in Ontario. Perhaps I can report those after others have had their turn.*

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<sup>1</sup> September 29, 2017 Brady Yauch, Fair Hydro Plan Fact Check consumerpolicyinstitute <https://cpi.probeinternational.org/2017/09/29/fair-hydro-plan-advertisements-fact-check/>

## The Green Energy Act

# Ontarians...choosing...heating or eating

'People have to choose between heating and eating'  
Rising hydro costs hit Ontarians



Wynne says,

.."that paying the hydro bill is difficult".

"We have to do without. Besides the high cost of living and all that, making ends meet is hard."

".. they have had to cut down on entertainment and groceries — reducing fruits and vegetables and therefore not eating as well as they use to."

"To conserve energy...they unplug everything they can and Use the BBQ for cooking.

Francesca Dobbyn, United Way's executive director (in Bruce Grey, ON), says:

- "Wynne's story absolutely fits the definition of "energy poverty" and that people are making these massive lifestyle adjustments without results."
- "People are angry, they're frustrated and they don't know what to do, ". "They're being told it's their fault ... you left a light on. "
- Dobbyn has encountered people who have had to walk away from their houses because "the **Hydro One** bill is bigger than the mortgage. "
- She says the largest hydro bill the United Way has worked on was \$22,000.
- In 2015, **Hydro One** cut off electricity in 60,000 households in its catchment area. *Ontario Energy* Minister Glenn Thibeault hesitates to call this situation a crisis but Dobbyn begs to differ.
- "It's totally a crisis. If we had 30 people in our community with the measles it would be a health crisis. We had, you know, 3,000, people sick from E.coli in Walkerton all those years ago ... that was a crisis. We have 60,000 people disconnected from their hydro and *that's not a crisis?*"

WHY HYDRO BILLS ARE SO HIGH IN ONTARIO--REVISED

By Mike Crawley, CBC News Nov 22, 2016 10:22 AM ET

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-hydro-bills-1.3860314>

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-september-1-2016-1.3744010/people-have-to-choose-between-heating-and-eating-rising-hydro-costs-hit-ontarians-1.3744013>

# Trudeau's Politics of Pain: Canadians Suffer Rocketing Power Prices Due to Subsidised Wind Power

February 4, 2017 by [stopthesethings.com/2017/02/04/trudeaus-politics-of-pain-canadians-suffer-rocketing-power-prices-due-to-subsidised-wind-power/](https://stopthesethings.com/2017/02/04/trudeaus-politics-of-pain-canadians-suffer-rocketing-power-prices-due-to-subsidised-wind-power/)



Kathy speaks to Premier Trudeau at a town hall meeting in Buckhorn ONT.

- Kathy Katula, Buckhorn Ontario
- Mostly crying, Kathy:
- "I am a single mom with three children and other grandchildren". I was able to save enough to buy my own house".
- "My electric bill (Hydro bill) of \$1,085 costs more than my mortgage of \$900".
- "I went five days in the heat last summer without electricity just to make ends meet. I called. I begged my hydro company but they didn't help".
- "I have only \$65 left every two weeks after paying bills".
- "I make \$50,000 a year but I live in energy poverty". "I work 15 hours a day.
- So I ask Mr. Trudeau. How can you ask me to pay a **carbon tax?**" "I know we need to pay for roads and such".

Kathy is one of millions of Canadians now struggling to meet the escalating costs of power: costs driven by the ideological fantasy of powering an economy on the whims of the weather.

Former Australian PM, Tony Abbott went to press, slamming Australia's business and family-killing Renewable Energy Targets

He called for an end to subsidised wind power.

Abbott quite properly observed that: "The first rule of government should be to do no harm. Right now, the government must avoid all policy-induced hits on people's cost of living and all policy-induced hits on the cost of doing business."

- Who represents customers? Confident says
- WATC Handout - fill points easily
- Decision date - we can submit <sup>30</sup> ~~last~~ <sup>may</sup> ~~concrete~~
- Do you play forecasts with
- Special interests, give them special access
- Do you understand the future
- Factors that drives (I'd like one to own door

# Increasing hydro prices are devastating rural Ontario (Bancroft)

<https://youtu.be/EAmChm584z0>



weather/Climate Network / in the Province of Ontario, International Ontario



- Commentator:
- Electricity prices according to Statistics Canada in Ontario jumped 16 percent in the last year (Aug 2015 to Aug 2016)
  - Residents in rural Ontario are being hardest hit by increasing cost of electricity
  - Residents in Bancroft have reached a breaking point with soaring Hydro (electricity) costs.

- Resident Jessup in Bancroft:
- We have to decide between heating the house and feeding the kids.
  - Hydro bills were nearly \$600 a month and father of two couldn't keep up
  - Hydro One installed a load limiter with the Smart meter. Jessup said it only made matters worse. He could not run the microwave oven now
  - I'd rather feed my kids than anything, but in the end I am behind on my Hydro (electric) bill. It's a never ending battle.
- Bill Kilpatrick, Bancroft Councillor:
- Bancroft has been hardest hit by the cost electricity
  - When you need to choose between basic necessities, that's a crisis. We are in a crisis.
  - Half the cost of bills are delivery costs. Costs are at least several hundred dollars during summer months and double that amount during the winter months. That's more than a mortgage payment.
- Social worker, Marcia Depotter:
- Electric costs forced her to sell her house and downsize. The level billing was \$798 each month, but still at the end I still owed \$798 more
  - Over one-half of my paycheck is going to hydro costs
  - Thank you Premier Wynne. Thank you Hydro One. I'm broke
  - 60,000 customers had their electricity disconnected due to non-payment
- Ian Seaborn, Bancroft resident:
- I was disconnected.
  - With family help, I was able to get a generator to heat my house.
  - Even in budget billing and ditching TVs and computers he couldn't keep up.
  - Right now we are thinking about moving in with parents so we can afford to live

# Rising energy costs and poverty collide in rural Ontario – A HydroOne story

By Brian Hill Associate Producer Global News <https://globalnews.ca/news/3080057/rising-energy-costs-and-extreme-poverty-collide-in-rural-ontario/>



- They know the battle between eating and heating first hand
- Kemp works part-time as a school bus driver while Burnette is a mechanic currently out of work in the Kingston Ont area.
- The lack of work has left them far behind on payments to Hydro One
- Their current bill was \$1,418. Next month, Hydro One told them that next payments would be about \$1,000 and then the bill comes in and its \$3,142
- Then they couldn't pay. Hydro One cut off the power.
- In the basement the sump pump had no electric so could not operate and about 3 feet of flood water accumulated. The mold started growing and reached six feet, destroying drywall. Because there is no sump means they are not insured for the damage. The stinch in the basement was terrible and could hardly go down there.
- Burnette says "it makes you sit down and cry, is what it does." Mel says, "taking a shower is something you cant do anymore." "Its even difficult to have a good meal in these hard times."
- They finally got a generator which they run four hours a day, to bring the heat up to temperature and charge the batteries, then run on batteries and 2 or 3 inverters and candles.
- Rising hydro rates are driving a lot more Ontarians into energy poverty. They cannot afford internet, cellphone, so they cannot communicate their need and condition to the outside world, said Francesca Dobbin, United Way told Global News
- No power is driving people into hospitals, driving them into mental health facilities. She says the need for electricity should be considered a human right and not denied or overpriced



# Hydro One leaves family of 6 without electricity for months

By Brian Hill Associate Producer Global News <https://globalnews.ca/news/3085450/hydro-one-leaves-family-of-six-without-electricity-for-months/>



WATCH | High Hydro costs ruining the lives of Ontario families

## Hydro One responds

- Hydro One, the province's largest utility distributor, **disconnected nearly 10,000 homes from their electricity services in 2015.**
- In total, customers owed the company more than \$105 million dollars in back-payments by the end of last year.
- Despite knowing how difficult it has been for families in Ontario struggling with rising energy costs, the company continues to disconnect residential customers – even as winter approaches.
- 'Growing' profits at Hydro One**
- On Nov. 11, Hydro One released its most recent third-quarter financial statements.
- The company, which was recently privatized by the Ontario Liberal government, reported profits of approximately \$835 million, or roughly \$750 for each of Hydro One's 1.1 million residential customers.

Some families simply can't afford to pay their Hydro (electric) bills. Mother and father and four children haven't had electricity for six months. They fear and distrust HYDRO ONE. Their bill has often hit more than \$900 a month, close to \$400 of which was deliver costs, money spent before they even turned a light on.

- HYDRO ONE, they say was unforgriving.
- Electric cost - \$474; Use – 4454 kwhr
- Delivery - \$369; Total cost - \$843
- Or 0.189 per kwhr
- Arrears debt - \$3,949

**They are desperate.** Once the arrears debt reached \$10,000, Hydro One sent a letter to explain. HydroOne would remove the wires from their house. To reconnect would cost them thousands.

Her husband uses a hose to fill plastic-lined garbage cans with water so he and his family can bathe. "My husband, every day, brings water home for us," Carol said, unable to hold back her tears. "We drink bottled water. We cook on the BBQ. We boil water so the kids can have showers from shower bags." The couple, who live about an hour east of Toronto, were disconnected as a result of their owing over \$10,000 in late payments. They say that while their usage has not changed since they moved to the rural community 20 years earlier, their bills have increased 20-fold.

It has just gone up and up and up," Carol said, referring to her monthly electricity bill. "Try explaining to your children why you can't get water from tap. Try explaining to your children why mommy is out in a bizzard trying to cook dinner on the BBQ.

Carol said. "I usually wait until the kids are asleep, then I try to be as positive but I can't".

# Hydro customer debt and disconnections soar under Kathleen Wynne

<http://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/wallace-hydro-customer-debt-and-disconnections-soar-under-kathleen-wynne>

During the past four years, 2013 to 2017...

- the number of customers grew 4% to 4,5918,314
  - The number of accounts disconnected for non-payment grew almost 19% from 49,130 to 58,286
  - The number of accounts in arrears increased 28% from 307,822 to 392,963;
  - And the amount of arrears debt owed by customers increased a staggering 40% from \$96,461,640 to \$134,885,199.
- Nipissing Ont. Conservative MP Vic Fedeli said...
- Families are in his office on an almost daily basis looking for help to deal with hydro bills.
  - “We have families who absolutely have to decide whether they can heat or eat.”

Ontario Auditor General Jim McCarter predicted with “Kreskin-like” accuracy, back in 2011, that this would happen.

- McCarter raised red flags over the Liberal government’s decision to spend billions of dollars on wind and solar power projects without proper oversight.
- “While this helped these projects get off the ground quickly, their high cost will add significantly to ratepayers’ electricity bills in the future,” McCarter predicted at the time, a suggestion the Liberals scoffed at.
- The consequence, over the past four years, has been escalating hydro bill problems for consumers rooted in a flawed, mismanaged and ideological Liberal government plan that wasted billions of dollars promoting and overpaying for unneeded green energy.

Article by Shari Doveale

### 1. Will Avista SKYROCKET your electric rates?

<https://redoubtnews.com/2018/04/avista-skyrocket-electric-rates/>

Article by Brady Vauch, Energy Probe International in Toronto, Ontario.

1. **Ontario electricity rates fastest rising in North America.** Op-Ed Ontario electricity rates rising fastest in North America -- appeared in Toronto Sun  
<https://ep.probeinternational.org/2016/03/01/ontario-electricity-rates-fastest-rising-in-north-america/>

2. **Ontario's Auditor General slams the Provinces' pending cap and trade fiasco**  
Ontario's Auditor General tells the public what's really going to happen when the province introduces its cap and trade program. Hint: it's not pretty.  
<https://ep.probeinternational.org/2016/12/02/ontarios-auditor-general-slams-the-provinces-pending-cap-and-trade-fiasco/>

## Ontario Wind Resistance



More articles can be found at: ENERGY PROBE <https://ep.probeinternational.org/StopTheseThings> [www.Stopthesethings.com](http://www.Stopthesethings.com) and [Ontario-wind-resistance.org](http://Ontario-wind-resistance.org)

Articles at [stopthesethings.com](http://stopthesethings.com)

1. **Ontario obsession: How Wynne's wind power cult wrecked once prosperous province**  
<https://stopthesethings.com/2018/04/06/ontario-obsession-how-wynnes-wind-power-cult-wrecked-once-prosperous-province/>

2. **Ontario's Wind Power Obsession Punishing Thousands: 390,000 Families Struggling to Pay Power Bills & 58,000 Disconnected: 390,000 in electric bill arrears, unable to pay**  
<https://stopthesethings.com/2018/01/17/ontarios-wind-power-obsession-punishing-thousands-390000-families-struggling-to-pay-power-bills-58000-disconnected/>

3. **Ontario's Water Wars: Wind Turbine Construction Turns Underground Water to Toxic Sludge**  
<https://stopthesethings.com/2018/03/29/ontarios-water-wars-wind-turbine-construction-turns-underground-water-to-toxic-sludge/>

4. **Why Ontario Suffers the Highest Power Costs in North America**  
<https://stoptheseings.com/2016/11/14/wind-power-why-ontario-suffers-the-highest-power-costs-in-north-america/> include video

### YouTube videos

1. **Outrage grows over rising electricity rates in rural Ontario**  
Ontarians are faced with decision of putting food on the table or turning on the lights. There is growing outrage in rural Ontario after a **Global News investigation revealed soaring electricity rates are pushing families into poverty.**  
Shirlee Engel reports.... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IVT8MDSrP0>

2. **Pembroke man with giant bill from HydroOne, slapped with \$9,000 penalty.**  
HydroOne requires a \$6,000 security deposit or customer risks having electricity cut off.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDVuuqcbObg>

3. **By David Boleneus' presentation at Avista/Hydro One Townhall in Coeur d'Alene ID- hosted by NWPQA.** Presentation on the serious consequences of Avista being purchased by Hydro One. April 11, 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOh3I5s190s>

Three articles to supplement this talk are comments submitted to Idaho Public Utility Commission, including short summary, long form comments and his powerpoint slides available at.... <http://www.nwpoa.org/> .... bottom of page  
[https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/1a545e1d-a9ba-4c9f-9112-762455a79dfa/download/1cb86umk3\\_547149.pdf](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/1a545e1d-a9ba-4c9f-9112-762455a79dfa/download/1cb86umk3_547149.pdf)  
[https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/1a545e1d-a9ba-4c9f-9112-762455a79dfa/download/1cb86us32\\_967007.pdf](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/1a545e1d-a9ba-4c9f-9112-762455a79dfa/download/1cb86us32_967007.pdf)  
[https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/1a545e1d-a9ba-4c9f-9112-762455a79dfa/download/1cb86vauc\\_609382.pdf](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/1a545e1d-a9ba-4c9f-9112-762455a79dfa/download/1cb86vauc_609382.pdf)

4. **David Boleneus' presentation at CAPR 10: September 30, 2017 Second Annual "East Meets West"** Regional Conference, by Citizens' Alliance for Property Rights  
See more recent update of this talk on April 11, 2018  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thhgOWqss24>

5. **David Boleneus' presentation at Townhall, Spokane Valley Library (On Main W. of Pines Av.)** April 29, 2018. Review summary "Fact Sheet" (item 4 on page 2)  
concerning Avista-HydroOne proposed merger

7. **VERY SIGNIFICANT**—Parliamentarian Vernile tells who will operate Avista and set your rates (hint: it's not Avista and not Washington):  
Ontario's Member of Parliament Daiene Vernile in this YouTube video **promises that Ontario will control all decisions of HydroOne, its board of directors, veto power, regulatory controls, set electric rates to serve Ontario's interests.**  
YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TALKLwaonfi>

David Boleneus, Wheat grower, Lincoln County (family owned farm since 1913)  
Spokane County Volunteer VSP, 4-year term, geologist, [boleneus@gmail.com](mailto:boleneus@gmail.com)

## Information Bulletin & Sources – Avista Acquisition by Hydro One (pending)

Concerned Avista customers can still object to its takeover. HOW: Attend a hearing or write to commissioners at Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission or Commission in your state.

The takeover of Avista by Ontario's HydroOne is incomplete until each Utility Commission in each of the five states approves--Idaho, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Montana. It's now incomplete but Commission hearings are coming soon.

There is time to act if you do not wish electricity rates to rise or be controlled by a foreign government.

You can sway opinions by submitting your objection. To object lodge comments with your state Utility Commission (addresses below). *You need only say "I object to HydroOne acquiring Avista Corp."*

If you do not submit an opinion, the Commission will presume you Approve. Forward and urge others to act.

### ADDRESSES:

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0074

472 W. Washington Boise, ID 83702

Ph: 208.334.0300 Fx: 208.334.3762

Reference cases: AVU-E-17-09 (electric) and/or AVU-G-17-05 (gas)

website -- <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/>

Deadline to receive comments is June 27-2018

Washington Utility and Transportation Commission  
98504-7250, 1300 Evergreen Park Dr SW, Olympia, WA 98502

(360) 664-1160

Washington has an online comment form available

E-mail [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)

website -- <https://www.utc.wa.gov/>

Public Service Commission of Montana

Address: 1701 Prospect Ave, Helena, MT 59601

Phone: (406) 444-6199

website -- <http://psc.mt.gov/>

Oregon Public Utilities Commission

Address: 201 High St SE #100, Salem, OR 97301

Phone: (503) 373-7394

website -- [www.puc.state.or.us/](http://www.puc.state.or.us/)

Regulatory Commission of Alaska

701 W 8th Ave #300, Anchorage, AK 99501

1-800-390-2782 (outside Anchorage)

Fax: (907) 276-0160

TTY or Hearing Impaired: (907) 276-4533

Email: [tca.mail@alaska.gov](mailto:tca.mail@alaska.gov) or [cp.mail@alaska.gov](mailto:cp.mail@alaska.gov)

They have an option to submit an online complaint.

Website -- <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/consumerservices.aspx>

### Public hearings:

- May 2, 5 p.m., Othello City Council chambers, 500 E. Main St., Othello

- May 3, noon, Whitman County Parks and Recreation auditorium, 310 N. Main St., Colfax

### INFORMATION, ARTICLES:

Articles by Karen Schumacher: <http://gemstatepatriot.com/blog/author/karen-schumacher/>

#### 1. Canada now owns part of Idaho

<http://gemstatepatriot.com/blog/canada-now-owns-part-idaho/>

Articles by David Boleneus: <http://gemstatepatriot.com/blog/author/david-boleneus/>

#### 1. The Seriousness of the Hydro One Purchase of Avista

<http://gemstatepatriot.com/blog/hydro-one-purchase-avista/>

#### 2. Links for Eye Opening Info on Ontario's Hydro One You Should Know BEFORE they Own Avista

<http://gemstatepatriot.com/blog/hydro-one-avista>

#### 3. Should Avista become Hydro One

<https://redoubtnews.com/2018/01/avista-corp-become-hydro-one/>

Link includes 2 page summary article with 25 references, long article and YouTube video at East Meets West 2017 Conference in Ellensburg WA

#### 4. Fact Sheet: Why Stop the HydroOne and Ontario Control of Avista

Submitted to [www.gemstatepatriot.com](http://www.gemstatepatriot.com) (in press)

Article by Cindy Zapotocky: <http://gemstatepatriot.com/blog/author/cindy-zapotocky/>

#### 1. Please stop the sale of Avista utility to HydroOne

<http://gemstatepatriot.com/blog/avista-utility-hydro-one/>

# From DAVE BOLENEAS

p. 1

## FACT SHEET -- WHY STOP HYDRO ONE AND ONTARIO'S CONTROL OF AVISTA<sup>1</sup>

### Pre-2000 Ontario:

- Boasts the most advanced and efficient fleet of coal-fired electric generating fleet on continent.
- Ontario electric costs 1-2-3 cents per kwhr.
- Maurice Strong, Canadian, high school dropout...
  - Dreams up global warming idea, as CEO of Ontario Hydro, UN insider, Chairman of UN's Climate Summit in Rio de Janeiro to convince gov'ts. of climate change, end use of fossil fuels, claims climate catastrophe to facilitate global governance by UN; receives \$1 M kickback in Saddam Hussein's "Oil for Food" scandal; assists N. Korea's nuclear ambitions; Ontarians label him "Father of America's Destruction".
  - began re-organizing in 1990s; HydroOne created in 2002.
  - Creates Chicago Climate Exchange mentoring Barack Obama, Al Gore, a market for world to pay carbon indulgences; Barack Obama: "under my plan electricity rates will necessarily skyrocket".

### Post-2000 Ontario: (Green Energy Act, "Round 1")

- Ontario politicians are terrified of Carbon Dioxide, so what do they do? Pass the Green Energy Act, 2009; codifies Maurice Strong's dream of global warming.
- Shuttle all coal plants, make huge expenditures for nuclear, yet convert to renewables while ignorant of cost.
- Electricity cost rising faster than anywhere in North America; off-peak rates, the cheapest rates, rose 149%-155% in 10 years about 8 times faster than the 17.8% rise in inflation; rates rose 25% just from 2015-2016.
- Sign 20-year energy deals that costs 400% more for wind and 1,000% more for solar, or \$37 billion above market-priced electricity and \$137 billion to 2032; Green Energy Act Round 1 total cost \$172 B.
- Guarantees renewables access to electric grid, pay \$135/mwhr, to produce electricity without limit.
- Build 237 wind farms (tens of thousands of wind turbines) on all shores of 4 Great Lakes bordering Ontario.
- 2017: So much electricity, dumping to New York, Quebec at 2% of cost; 98% paid by outraged Ontarians, by demonstrations.



### Cost of "Green" is Energy Poverty in Ontario

- Joanna (Timmons, Ont.) expecting a new baby: It costs \$800 per month for electricity in her trailer home.
- 58,000 households disconnected due to high cost of electricity; disconnects grew 19% in 3 years.
- Disconnects by HydroOne continue just before Christmas as winter sets in.
- Rural Ontarians go "off-grid", using backyard generators, cook on BBQs.
- Dinelle's Grocery in Echo Bay shuts all refrigerated food section, coolers, freezers, as electricity costs too much to operate compressors; must close 2/3rds of store.
- Parents must choose: feed kids or pay electric bill.
- "Electric bill takes one-half of my monthly take-home pay".
- Mayor Lynn Watson (Echo Bay Ont.): "Seniors can't afford electricity; rates are killing small business".
- Dorothy Wynne (Moosonee, Ont.): "I need to count pennies to pay electric. We don't eat meat, fruits, turn off all the lights, for money to pay for electricity"; Customer: "my electric bill is \$880/mo even using only 3 rooms.
- United Way Exec. Dir. Francesca Dobbin: "Disconnects are totally a crisis; HydroOne bills forcing families to abandon homes as electric is larger than mortgage; we had 3,000 cases of E. coli some years ago and that was a crisis, while Energy Minister says 58,000 disconnects are not a crisis".
- 392,963 Ontarians in "electric arrears" with debt growing 40%; cannot afford to pay electric charges (2016).
- Global adjustment charge is 70% of electric bills (a convenient method to hide the real costs of Ontario's sweetheart renewable deals, closing coal plants); energy use & other fees 30% of bills.
- Ontarians overpaid \$37 billion in electric charges.

### Why Not Hydro One:

- Hydro One's electric in Ontario (2015) is 29.9 cents/ kwhr; 36 cents per kwhr (2016), 460% higher than Avista, 1500% higher than Douglas County or Chelan County PUDs 2.39 ¢/ kwhr, but is increasing rates \$289 more(2019).
- Hydro One's outages are 24% more frequent and 30% longer; charges more for systems in decline, is unresponsive to 10,000 customer complaints about high cost, is gaming the Energy Board to get more money, is inefficient with no incentive to become productive, its capital budgets are not benchmarked, and with cost overruns built into budgets.
- Its \$2.25 billion conservation effort is a waste of money (Fraser Institute), reducing CO2 only 0.0003%.

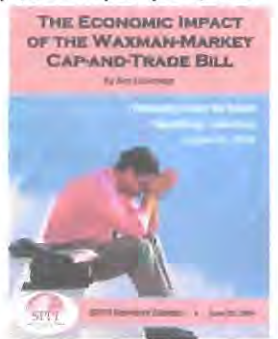
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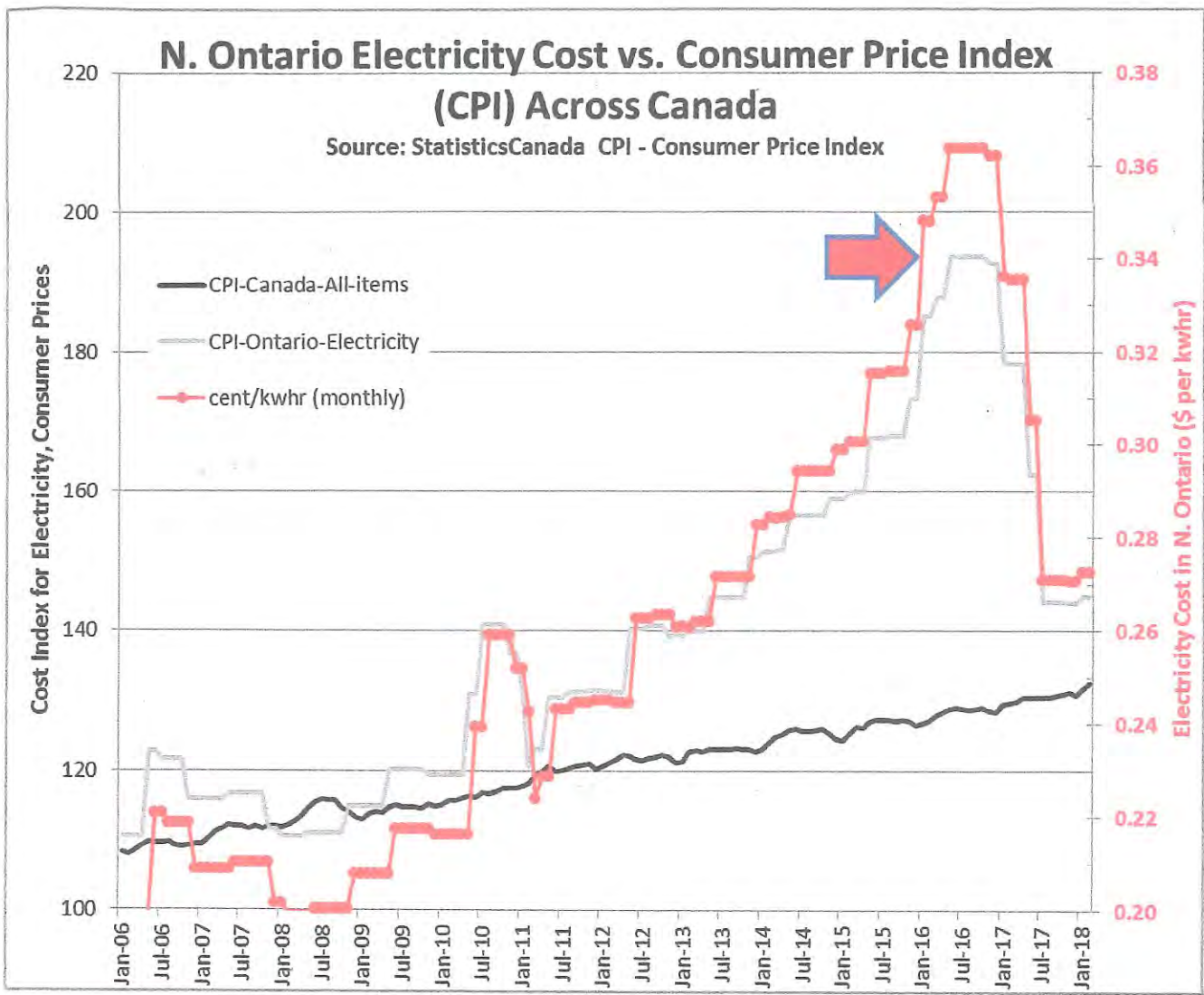
- Their distribution system is in considerable disrepair, least reliable in all of Canada's. Distribution is their business.
- Since 2015 a quasi-private company, shields them from FOIA requests, from investigations by watchdogs to resolve complaints and prevents Auditor General to conduct financial accountability.
- HydroOne run by promise-them-anything governments whose leader are focused on getting re-elected.
- Its Smart meter rollout cost \$2 B, is not working, with benefits unrealized.
- Developers knew—MPP says: "the smoking gun"—that to construct wind turbines in Chatham, 40 mi east of Detroit would contaminate nearby active wells<sup>2</sup>. C-K farmer Marc St. Pierre: "toxic sludge water is only useful for bathing and toilets....there's no way it's safe to drink"<sup>3</sup>.



The Pain Accelerates – MPP says Ontario's Green Energy Act, "Round 2" is Coming Here

- Cap-and-Trade (C&T) of carbon credits begins in earnest, 2016; a "sham" program, as it is only about "trading credits" and no concern for GHG emissions though so rhetorically-claimed by politicians.
- Force reducing GHG emissions by 80% below 1990 levels; acquiring Avista assures HydroOne meets 2020 target.
- Round 2 compels Canadian companies to raid U.S. utility companies seeking "clean power" sources to satisfy C&T.
- Acquisitions total \$88 B+ in two year period, including Avista at \$6.7 B; Ten more U.S. utilities remain as targets.
- HydroOne's wooden nickel for Avista saves it \$8 B otherwise due to buy carbon credits from Chicago or other C.Exc. and they could now own 13 hydroelectric dams and 374,000 Avista customers to shield their misfortunes.
- **Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Daiene Vernile of Kitchener:** Ontario "will sell off 60% of HydroOne IPO, but maintain control" "control HydroOne's board", "appoint directors, maintain veto power, nominating authority to its subsidiaries", "maintain regulatory control", "set rates", to "unlock assets to build Ontario's infrastructure"<sup>4</sup>. Will Ontario set Avista's rates?—She says so.
- **Energy Ministry (2017) Fair Hydro Plan.** Auditor General: this band-aid mirage of a plan reduces electric rates from 36 to 27 cents/kwhr at expense of future electric customers; it saves \$18.4 B today by borrowing \$21 B but cost could be \$30 B if interest rates rise, but future customers will pay \$11.6 B, an amount entirely unknown for the *save-now-pay-more-later* program<sup>5</sup> (see illustration of electric rates).
- **HOW Cap-and-Trade damages people, whole economies, whole countries, and whole societies<sup>6</sup>:**
  - C&T forces electric rates higher, estimated to add Round 2 cost of \$3,247 per household in Ontario, not including cost of Canada-wide \$50/tonne tax on carbon dioxide, all of this added to Round 1 costs.
  - C&T costs are invisible, not seen on electric bills, camouflaged in higher costs of all consumer goods.
  - C&T is an illusion, a massive shell game, a massive energy tax in disguise.
  - C&T transfers important economic decisions from private to government, subordinates to Central Planning (i.e. Venezuela, Cuba, N. Korea, China, FSU).
  - C&T is all about artificial scarcity of fuels by government fiat, without considering supply and demand.
  - C&T ("Waxman-Markey C&T bill") was rejected by U.S. Senate in 2009<sup>7</sup> would add \$20,000/year per customer in energy costs, cause 1.14 million jobs lost per year, including green jobs, decrease GDP by \$393 B per year, and using EPA's valuation of statistical life methodology result in 39,300 deaths per year, with larger rates of death in the high risk low income groups.
  - C&T increases energy costs: For each 10% reduction in GHG's, it disproportionately reduces incomes by 10% for lower quartile earners; a reduction of 80% by 2050 in Ontario or 85% (Pres. Obama's Clean Power Plan; UN' Paris Agreement) will surely kill.
  - C&T harms energy security by eroding our ability to produce domestic energy, forcing importing fuels, causes job losses.
  - C&T forces the U.S. to forgo its current highest GDP, highest standard of living, highest life expectancy, increasing incomes, highest technological output, high agricultural out.... due to our large use of fossil fuels, but at what cost?
  - C&T produces no impact on climate, since CO2 is unrelated to temperature or climate.
  - Gov. Inslee wants C&T and Carbon taxes to create a "predictable climate" unaware that *70% of tax is a tax on air*; Inslee's book "Apollo Project" to re-engineer energy sources misrepresents climate with 29 errors in chapter 1.





**ARROW -- THE COST OF ELECTRICITY IN HYDRO ONE'S TERRITORY IN CANADA at 36 cents/kwhr IF HYDRO ONE TAKES OVER ---- THIS IS COMING TO WASHINGTON, IDAHO, MONTANA, ALASKA, and OREGON**

<sup>1</sup> [boleneus@gmail.com](mailto:boleneus@gmail.com) A more complete, more widely referenced report is available on request  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2018/04/01/negative-impact-pile-driving-would-have-on-water-wells-in-north-c-k-cited-in-report/>  
<sup>3</sup> <https://stopthesethings.com/2018/03/29/ontarios-water-wars-wind-turbine-construction-turns-underground-water-to-toxic-sludge>  
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TALKLwaonfl>  
<sup>5</sup> <https://ep.probeinternational.org/2017/10/18/auditor-general-rips-into-the-fair-hydro-plan/>  
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/studies/cap-and-trade-primer-eight-reasons-why-cap-and-trade-harms-the-economy-and-reduces-jobs/>  
<sup>7</sup> <http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/commentaries-essays/commentaries/cap-and-trade-economic-impact>