

May 27th, 2018

Re: Hydro-One's attempt to acquire Avista Utilities

Dear Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission,

I am writing this letter as a formal protest to the Hydro-One/Avista acquisition and am urging you to reject this transaction.

Understanding that your decision is based on discerning a "net benefit" to the Washington State consumer, my research showed no hard evidence that a "net benefit" would ever exist as ***there is no written document binding Hydro-One to guarantee the Washington Consumer:***

01. That overall power bills will not rise at an accelerated rate, far exceeding median income increases and customers' ability to pay. Billing increases not exceeding the median income increases of the service population is a reasonable regulatory expectation from a Government protected monopoly.

02. That Hydro-One can truly serve two Governmental masters long term, avoiding total political/regulatory control under the Ontario Provincial Government.

03. That Washington rate payers are not transferring Avista's substantial land property tax free status to a foreign entity, causing Washington State taxpayers to directly subsidize a government/private investor entity that does not provide any government services to Washington taxpayers for those tax subsidies.

04. That an aggressive corporate culture will be forced upon Washington rate payers. A culture that mandates the use of less efficient, more expensive energy technologies...dramatically increasing costs.

05. That protects the Washington rate payer in the case of a Hydro-One bankruptcy. Of specific concern is the "Golden Share" clause.

06. That (already announced) Smart Meter rollouts will substantially benefit ratepayers on a strictly financial basis and protect their privacy.

07. That Washington rate payers will not be ceding control of priceless public resources and critical infrastructure to a foreign Government entity...possibly affecting companies supplying essential services contracted by the US Government.

If these guarantees are not documented and in place, how could this acquisition possibly have a "net benefit" to the Washington energy consumer?

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Respectfully,

David Cebert
Spokane Washington