

- My name is David Boleneus. I am a wheat grower on family farm in Lincoln County, geologist and Research Scientist retired from U.S. Geological Survey. I have watched, studied, analyzed this issue since August, recorded three YouTube videos, published four reports, written this commission, presented at two town halls, with another coming in May 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, threatening to Avista customers for reasons beyond the time for me to report fully. The merger 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 that besets Ontarians. 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 possible for utilities in the U.S. Hidden. In 2009 Ontario's Parliament and McGinty's liberal government, home of HydroOne, passed the Green Energy Act to require wind and solar but to 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 all coal-electric plants, the most reliable, secure 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 and requiring subsidy support full-time.
- 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 in 2017, 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, and pregnant with a second child. 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, reducing its store by 2/3 because it couldn't afford electricity for compressors, refrigerators and freezers. 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 as HydroOne continued to disconnect customers. 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 Billion was still not working as promised and most benefits still unrealized. 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 afford communication 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 Member of Parliament 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 per kilowatt-hour 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's a surcharge that triples electric bills beyond the electricity used. Global Adjustment is a

Hydro One surcharge for Ontario's sweetheart deals made to pay renewables, a backroom deal that even pays 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 its Auditor General with future overpayments of \$133 Billion 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. It's 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 Billion on conservation efforts. HydroOne promised to increase electric rates another \$285 before 2019.

- 40 miles east of Detroit, in Chatham Kent township in 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, to quell the outrage from Ontarians calling this the Fair Hydro Plan. Toronto's Consumer Policy Institute<sup>1</sup> (7 months ago, Sept. 2017) calls it a mirage Plan that misleads customers as the Financial Accountability Office reports rebates now cost \$18.4 Billion borrowed to 2028, costs \$21 Billion in interest which could jump to \$30 Billion if interest costs do not rise more than 1%. The \$18.4 Billion rebate and \$30 Billion in interest could cost \$48.4 Billion 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. That's only the beginning. 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 Billion residents of Ontario.
- This is not the end. HydroOne wants Avista and to control its 13 hydroelectric plants. Why? Ontario requires Green Energy, clean, renewable. Ontario mandates its greenhouse gas emissions fall by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, a demand that will add another \$3,247 per 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 Billion

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 Climate Change Action 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's raiders have gained control of \$80.8 B worth of 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 and Westar in Utah, Kansas. Once anchored HydroOne will swoop up more local utilities to bring its destruction here—to 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 tragedy and deprivation happening to 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/>