

Dear Commissioners,

I would first like to thank the commissioners, Avista and Hydro One for listening to ratepayers' concerns regarding this merger. There are many things to support in this merger agreement. I was very happy to see that Hydro One and Avista are working to address low income ratepayers and provide millions of dollars of shareholder dollars toward weatherization and assistance programs and that they have agreed to a new depreciation date for Colstrip from 2037 to 2027. This is a huge win for our environment. Thank you.

While there are many positives of this merger agreement that I am very pleased with so far, I would ask the commissioners to consider the following concerns before approving this merger.

Please protect ratepayers by NOT allowing Avista/Hydro One to allocate ratepayer money to operate Colstrip past 2025.

Please require Avista/Hydro One to set a retirement date for Colstrip on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

Please require Avista/Hydro One to set aside funds for the cleanup of Colstrip, MT without using ratepayer dollars. This area is an ecological disaster and will require massive amounts of money to clean up the staggering pollution the Colstrip power plant has caused to the area. It would not be just to shoulder ratepayers with this cost when we had no input on the decisions that led to the unfortunate cost-cutting measures which have caused the ash ponds to leak and contaminate the local Aquaphor for decades.

Thank you.

Fawna Slavik  
Avista Ratepayer  
Spokane, WA