

April 23, 2018

WUTC Testimony

Your first responsibility is to the ratepayers of the states involved in the proposed sale of Avista; not to the Avista Corporation, nor to Hydro One Canadian Corporation. You commissioners, and the media have asked only the stockholders of Avista, who have a nice 32.5 per cent one year return on their shares, all courtesy of the ratepayers, for approval of this sale.

All three of our local

TV stations have refused to respond to my written statements, and give only token announcements relating these meetings. As have my three state representatives. Politics is strongly at play here.

Why should ratepayers have to pay for Avista's substantial charitable contributions without voluntary consent? If Avista is a private corporation, it has no business deciding on public charity giving.

Although Avista board and directors will remain here, we know that important decisions will be in Canada.

Since Canada is a foreign socialist country, how will that affect legislation brought to bear on that corporation and will it have to be implemented on all Hydro One affiliates?

The response to a Spokane man's inquiry from his Ontario relative, a Hydro One customer; asking if she liked Hydro One was "get ready to be hosed". Their rates are among Canada's highest. This sale will guarantee huge rate increases in the next few years, despite the pretty sounding promise to act in the best interest of the ratepayers. This promise is so non specific as to be meaningless. It is very easy for a corporation to pad expense ledgers, thereby justifying large rate increases.

Avista has evolved into a fine utility, of local control and responsive to its customers. Why tie it to a huge foreign corporation, and become one of two million customers. Bigger is Not Better!

A local heating contractor told me last week those heating companies are strongly against the sale. His personal home, with Avista electric heat, had a bill of over \$700 last December.

With Spokane wages less than some other areas, many many people cannot afford to pay substantially higher rates.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS!

How will Hydro One's commitment to "Green or Clean Energy" affect our rates?

Will profits Hydro One earns be taxed and paid to Canada?

Can I sue a Canadian Corporation if necessary?

A PUD is very much needed in this instance, with Avista now being a nice plum for a larger corporation to absorb, take over, and reap large profits.

You owe it to our ratepayers to allow a thorough investigation of the PUD solution to our future power

Utility solutions and structure. This is our decision as ratepayers, not yours. Since we have no other place to go to secure power, it is very much a public utility. You should facilitate a thorough unbiased investigation of the PUD solution to our power delivery.

Thank you for your time and serious attention to these questions and serious concerns.

Don Mortenson
PH 509-467-0370

The Customer Rate Credit of \$1.27/month to ratepayers is not worth the cost to administer it.

To: Representatives
Matt Shea
Michael Baumgartner
Jeff Holy

Mar. 1, 2018

From: Don Mortenson
Subject: Sale of Avista Utility Co.

If this sale is approved, Hydro One will be the largest Utility in the N.W. That is BAD NEWS for the rate payer. When my water company sold to a Pennsylvania Corporation, our rates skyrocketed. Rate payers then formed a "water district" and rates Stabilized. Same with my garbage. Sold to a big corp. and rates rose substantially.

It is not a "done deal". A P.U.D. can and should be formed to protect ratepayers in the future. Avista has now risen to give good, reasonable cost service. Local ownership and complete control is needed. What if Hydro One should sell Avista to China?

Hydro One is about 47% owned by Ontario, Canada. It is "for profit" with a 2015 net of \$713Mil. Also in that year they had \$8.5 Bil. Debt. The Auditor General of Ontario was concerned about share sales because of increased power outages, equipment with a high risk of failure, and \$4.462 Bil. of repair costs. Sorry I don't have 2017 figures.

Your job is to protect us ratepayers (about 600,000 for gas and electric) !

The Spokesman Review published a guest opinion on Sat. Feb 3,2018 by former attorney Prosecutor, Don Brockett. He raised several important questions regarding this proposed sale. Please secure and read it.

The WUTC : Ph 1-888-333-9882 is holding four meetings with public input. Unfortunately they will give only minimal public notification of the meetings "to save taxpayers money".

Spokane Valley City Council chambers on 4/23/18 from 1-4:30 pm 10210 E Sprague Ave
Colville Public Library on 4/24/18 from 12-3:00 pm 195 So. Oak St.
Colfax Whitman County Parks & Rec. Bldg. on 5/3/18 from 12-4:30 pm 310 N. Main
Othello City council chambers on 5/2/18 from 5-8pm at 500 E Main

I highly favor a "Straw Vote" at each meeting, but they (commissioners) will only take notes on the public testimony. Are they afraid of knowing ratepayers will?

I have made formal complaint to the Wa State Attorney General's Office, with no response. Please halt the sale and require the process of a P.U.D. set-up be fully investigated!!

Sincerely,
Don Mortenson (509-467-0370)