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UTC hearing – merger of Hydro One and Avista

Docket # UE 170970

(Spokane property owner
Avista rate payer)

My name is Judy Fitzpatrick and my address is Usk, WA in Pend Oreille County, but my husband and I own property in Spokane and I am an Avista customer. I am a retired teacher, not a climate scientist, but I am here because I get very alarmed by the ways that climate change is already having a big impact on our world. A few quick examples are the tremendous amount of rain that fell on Houston last year in such a short amount of time, the thinning of the arctic sea ice, and locally, the way the concern over wildfires has come to dominate our summers. That is not some dystopian future. People are being affected now.

So, it is clear we need to stop spewing carbon into the atmosphere as quickly as possible and one hugely impactful way to do that could be to spend the millions/billions of dollars that will be spent on energy infrastructure going forward on clean, renewable energy.

Since Colstrip is the biggest carbon emitter west of the Mississippi, this plant needs to be retired as soon as possible. Avista must formulate a plan and set a firm date for the shutdown. 2025 would be good so there would be two years for the needed environmental clean up.

Also rate payers should not have to pay for more expensive energy. It is being reported that wind energy in Montana is costing around \$23/megawatt, while Colstrip coal costs \$60.00/megawatt. But getting that cheaper energy on the grid means it is important that Avista plans ahead for the use of its transmission lines that are needed to distribute that wind energy into BPA's grid.

It is urgent that Avista spend its money to make the changes needed to move to cheaper cleaner energy sources, rather than propping up Colstrip unnecessarily into the future.