

From: [Huff, Ashley \(UTC\)](#)
To: [Roberts, Andrew \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: FW: Avista sale
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 8:49:40 AM

I don't know if this was forwarded on to you, but just in case here it is.

Thanks,

Ashley Huff

Customer Service Specialist
(360) 664-1258 Direct

Utilities and Transportation Commission
Respect. Professionalism. Integrity. Accountability.

From: Moss, Dennis (UTC)
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 8:44 AM
To: UTC DL Records Center <records@utc.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: Avista sale

Please include in Docket U-170970 as a public comment.
Thanks,
Dennis

From: Rendahl, Ann (UTC)
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2018 4:11 PM
To: Moss, Dennis (UTC) <dennis.moss@utc.wa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Avista sale

Please forward this to public information for the public counsel demonstrative exhibit.

Ann

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Stephen <sdunham@q.com>
Date: February 18, 2018 at 4:08:38 PM PST
Subject: Avista sale
To: Johnson, Steven (UTC) <steven.johnson@utc.wa.gov>

Please oppose the sale of Avista to a foreign nation who could then sell it to another nation such as China or Russia . As an Avista customer I am shocked you would even consider allowing this sale to go through. Please read the following article.

Steve Dunham

The Seriousness of the Hydro One Purchase of Avista

By David Boleneus
February 5, 2018

The Avista sale to HydroOne and subjecting Avista customers to [HydroOne is wrong for several reasons as I discuss here](#) and could bring severe impacts on Avista customers if cross-border practices are carried into the U.S. from Ontario by Hydro One.

If translated here, the effect will be traumatic, extremely costly, and even life-threatening. The key objection is that HydroOne will bring its practices from Ontario to Avista customers, practices which are unnecessary and have brought serious hardships on HydroOne's customers in Ontario.

FOUR POINTS

FIRST: Impacts on Ontarian's [are numerous](#); with Ontario's expensive electricity, parents must decide whether to heat or eat their homes in the cold of northern Ontario. Hydro One has disconnected 58,000 customers, some as winter approached. The most severe objection is the extraordinary price of electricity imposed on Ontarians.

In 2018 Ontario's HydroOne price is CN 66.2 cents per kilowatt-hour and in 2019 it will increase to CN 83.9 cents. This is not the

rate for electricity, or the rate advertised, but is HydroOne's "total" invoice that includes electric use and a [global adjustment fee](#) (explained in article) with the latter equal to 75% or more of the invoiced billing. I have added the two costs, for ease of comparison, to equal CN 66.2 cents per kwhr in 2018. HydroOne's electricity cost has increased from 5.1¢ per kwhr in 2010, an **increase of 1,298 percent** in eight years.

SECOND: Avista does not understand why HydroOne is acquiring Avista. This is a stark statement but in questioning two Avista government affairs officers in a January 2018 meeting they feel dollars per share received in the sale and HydroOne's higher bond rating to allow more economical financing ability are the only reasons. They are unaware of the Green Energy hoax that has stricken HydroOne's Ontario customers.

No Avista executive has visited Timmons or Echo Bay or rural communities in Ontario to witness first hand. Impacts of electric rate increases to 83.9 cents are only the "tip of the iceberg" of impacts so to speak.

1. Ending the use of coal power plants and increasing the use of wind turbines to generate electricity. This is already underway. It started in 2008 so this practice alone has driven electric rates from 7 cents per kwhr to 66.2 cents today.
2. The second point is cap and trade. Customers will be impacted substantially more as cap and trade operations get fully underway starting in 2018. Cap and trade is an expensive and illusory method to relieve carbon emitters of their carbon dioxide emissions but it harms energy security and low income families. It's a European-style political scheme to gain "credit" by making fuels arbitrarily scarce by trading something "clean" while passing costs on to customers.
3. The third is taxation of carbon dioxide which begins across Canada in 2018. Washington State's Governor hopes to pass a carbon tax into law in 2018. Taxing carbon dioxide is the classical bait-and-switch. Governments promise rhetorical benefits to the environment while forcing customers to pay for "air". It is a tax on air because 69 percent of the tax is levied on the air required to burn the fuel. More will be reported on carbon taxes and cap and trade in later articles.

Is there any benefit in reducing carbon dioxide? Is the benefit large or small, measurable or imaginary?

- *Does this benefit justify a cost of \$3200 per month for cap and trade?*
- *Is there a benefit to justify making electricity available only to the elite class and unavailable to wage-earners?*
- *Does this benefit justify paying electric rates of 83.9 ¢ per kwhr? Ontario's average electric use is about 800 to 900 kw-hours per month (its 975 kw-hr/ month in Washington), so a monthly invoice could be \$755 before service charges or about one-half of a wage-earners' income each month.*
- *ABOUT PLANT HEALTH: If carbon dioxide benefits plants to grow and more of it benefits plants more, then how is it possible that carbon dioxide is dangerous?*
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It seems clear that Hydro One is purchasing Avista for CN \$6.8 billion to escape paying US \$8 billion to the California Climate Exchange, a fee due if Hydro cannot find clean energy credits to offset their carbon emissions. Before HydroOne Avista owned 1,024 megawatts of power in their hydroelectric dams. After the sale, the dams will be traded as clean energy credits on the climate exchange in either Ontario or California.

Will the sell-off of Avista's hydro-electric dams impact the cost of customer electric rates?.

- *Will HydroOne's ownership of the dams and its claim of "clean" credit on the California Climate Exchange impact Avista's ability to serve customers as we are now accustomed?*
- *Will the sell-off of Avista's hydro-electric dams impact the cost of customer electric rates?.*
- *Will HydroOne's ownership of the dams and its claim of "clean" credit on the California Climate Exchange impact Avista's ability to serve customers as we are now accustomed?*

Figure 1. Chart compares electricity cost against installed renewable capacity in cents (US) per kilowatt-hour.

Note the very high cost of electricity of HydroOne at CN66.2¢ (or US\$3.6 ¢) in 2018 increasing to CN81¢ per kwhr in 2019 which has climbed to these levels from CN 5.1¢ per kwhr in 2010 to CN29.9 ¢ per kwhr in 2015. HydroOne promised to add \$295 to each customer electric invoice from 2018-2019. Following are high costs also in South Australia, Denmark, and Germany. These very high rates compare to the very low electric costs of 7.8¢ per kwhr for Avista and 11.9¢ average for Washington State in 2017. CN=Canadian currency. 1 CN dollar = 0.81 US dollar. Kwhr = kilowatt-hour

Current Avista customers must consider the impact of electric rates if Avista joins HydroOne. (See Figure 1 to compare electric rates.) Customers must consider if there is a risk that Avista rates will increase from today's 7.8¢ per kwhr to match the HydroOne rate in Ontario of CN66.2¢ per kwhr (same as US 53.6¢ per kwhr) in 2018. HydroOne has already promised a rate increase to CN81¢ per kwhr in 2019. It is also clear from the Figure that a larger percent of installed renewable energy translates to higher cost of electricity.

As a result, the climate change hoax has spawned another victim as Hydro One acquires Avista Corp.

This is only a small sample of the impacts which I explain more fully in the above link, [HydroOne is wrong](#).

The question: Should Avista customers be informed of what is happening in Ontario to judge for themselves on this issue? At this time we can only speculate about translation of Ontario practices to the U.S. With time one should expect Hydro will introduce these policies into Avista territory. As acceptance of Ontario's green energy laws becomes more widespread and as similar laws are being considered in Washington, for example, practices may become more widely acceptable. But impacts of cost and deception of the role of carbon dioxide will also accrue.

I will present a third lecture on the Avista issue in February and have lectured several times about *Climate Change: Why it is Not Happening; Why Humans have No Impact*. There is no danger from carbon dioxide if climate change caused by humans is not happening. The subject of carbon dioxide in today's hydrosphere was a related topic for my graduate thesis several years ago, so it's a subject with which I am very familiar. On first learning of the Avista acquisition by HydroOne and examining Ontario's climate law, it was immediately clear that joining HydroOne was not in my interest as it may represent a risk of enormous increase in cost of electricity. It's clear that Ontario and HydroOne misunderstand the importance of carbon dioxide in the world today.