

September 8, 2017

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Hearing on Avista Colstrip Coal Plant in Montana

Honorable Commissioners, please accept my oral and written comments into the Public record.

My name is Patricia Ames. I am a mother, grandmother and Registered Nurse. Four generations of my family were born and raised in Great Falls, Montana, directly across the Missouri River from the Anaconda Copper Company Smelter. I witnessed the company making fortunes while raping and pillaging our natural resources. They degraded our land, water, air, and then moved to China, leaving behind a Superfund site for the tax payers to foot.

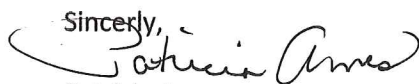
I am sick and tired of corporate CEO's and shareholders becoming wealthy at the expense of the environment and our children's, and the planet's future. Avista wants to continue being the largest climate pollutor in the Western United States. Despite the fact that the five other owners are responsibly planning for the future by preparing to close down, and by setting aside large amounts of money for cleanup costs, Avista has not set aside one cent for their \$100 million share of cleanup. The other five owners are planning to close the plants by 2027/2030. Avista is currently wanting keep the plant open past 2037, and to pay for their requested \$24 million, irresponsible, update of the old plant, by raising customers rates.

Talen Energy, the plants operator, recently told the Montana State Legislature that they are losing "tens of millions of dollars a year" operating the plant, and that they "cannot and will not continue to do that".

It is unconscionable and egregious that the CEO's of Avista want to continue this polluting dinosaur, at our environmental and financial expense. They have money in their pockets and larceny in their hearts.

I beseech you to hold them accountable and do the right thing. Be part of the solution and do not collude with the "good old boy's". Make the future better for your grandchildren. Do not allow Avista's hideous plan to proceed. Mandate their closure by 2025, in addition to setting aside \$100 million for clean up costs.

Sincerely,



Patricia Ames  
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