

*My name is Pauline Druffel - an Avista Customer*

Thank you for coming to hear our views. I have an ongoing concern about Global Warming. Our Annual Global temperature keeps rising each year. Westcoast forests burn more each summer as the southeast sees more destructive hurricanes. The Greenhouse Gases produced by the burning of coal are found to be significant in leading to this global warming. Already in 2014 our Governor Enslee issued an executive order instructing state agencies to work "with key utilities to reduce, and eventually eliminate the use of electrical power produced by coal." And in 2015 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named the Montana Colstrip Power Plant, (the one from whom Avista gets part of its electricity) as the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the country. So I am frustrated to see Avista project plans to maintain part ownership of this coal burning plant for 20 more years, that is, to continue getting electricity from there up until 2037 while our forests burns and our globe continues to heat up.

I also am concerned about the other environmental damage caused by the Colstrip Power Plant. One issue I'm aware of relates to the coal ash ponds which were required to be lined, but are not. So the toxins that are in those ponds can and do seep out of the ponds and into the water table. They are found in streams that generations of ranchers have depended on for their cattle. At some point some one or more of the owners of Colstrip need to pay for all the damage done by disregarding these regulations and harming the ecosystem.

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