

Docket Number - 161036
Nov. 8 2017

My name is Madonna Jones. I am a retired science teacher from Colville, Washington. I am a long time customer of Avista (since the Washington Water Power days) and have always found Avista to be a wonderful company that provides great service and good value. Avista is an important part of my rural community and their employees are active in many local causes. I would call them a "good corporate citizen"

I am asking my local utility, Avista and my state utility commission to act, here in eastern Washington, to protect us from the consequences of fossil fuel driven climate change, such as the smoke ridden summers that have become the new normal. We now experience 5 times more major fires in Washington compared to the 1970's due to climate change. It makes me sad that today's children of the Inland Northwest think smoke is just another part of summer. It makes me sad that we have a new vocabulary, "It's a green dot day, (referring to the air quality map) outside recess!"

Poor air quality is just one of the many negative consequences of a warming world that are directly related to the decision you have to make in regards to the continued operation of the Coal Strip Montana facility. According to the Harvard Center for Public Health, climate change is public health enemy number 1. The Clean Power Plan was set to save 3500 lives every year. It is now up to local government and utilities to act on our behalf as federal action dwindles.

I want Avista to be an even better "corporate citizen" and stop burning coal to generate electricity by 2025 as the other utilities in the region are doing. I want this commission to represent me and future generations by ensuring that coal is no longer burned to make the electricity that I buy from Avista. Investment in clean energy is a better choice for the inland northwest. Thank you.

Madonna Jones

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