

Diane Holt

From: baronessw@frontier.com
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 4:55 PM
To: Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans
Subject: Case Comment Form: Norma White

Name: Norma White
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Name of Utility Company: KEC

Comment: Please do not approve the sale of Avista Utility to Canadian government-owned monopoly, Hydro One.

Idaho Code 61-328 specifies that an electric utility may transfer property only if the Commission finds that:

* Rates will not increase because of the transaction

According to OpenEI.org, HydroOne has North America's highest cost electricity, as of 2015 at 29.9 cents/kilowatt-hour (low density urban), a direct result of green energy laws. HydroOne projects increases to 66.2 cents in 2018 and 83.9 cents in 2019, a level 12 times larger than Avista's 2016 small business rate of 7.1 cents per kilowatt-hour and 35 times larger than Washington's Chelan and Douglas County PUD's 2.36 cents/kwhr rate.

Hydro One has commitments to subsidizing "green" energy, cap & trade mandates, deteriorating infrastructure improvements, and pensions; the rising cost of which will surely be born by American ratepayers--notwithstanding assurances to the contrary.

* The buyer has the intent and financial ability to operate and maintain the property in the public service.

It seems that the buyer's intent is to increase Hydro One shareholder value--of which the Province of Ontario owns at least 40%--rather than serving the public interest of Idahoans and other Americans affected by the sale. It appears that the government of Ontario wants to spread the net and capture more ratepayers to fund Hydro One's debt while controlling a monolithic, transnational monopoly.

* The transaction is consistent with the public interest.

It cannot be in the public interest of American citizens to transfer control of our hydroelectric systems to a foreign entity controlled by a foreign government that sets the electricity rates, rather than the Idaho PUC. There would be no accountability--either to ratepayers, nor to the state of Idaho--and no recourse once the monopoly is in place.

It is reported that Hydro One's service is poor, that it charges ratepayers more for deteriorating service yet ignored 10,000 complaints about high costs, that outages are 30% longer, 24% more frequent, and that their transmission system is in considerable disrepair, the least reliable of Canada's distribution companies. What will happen to our distribution systems if they take them over?

Thank you for your consideration.