

Diane Holt

From: Mike and Kathie <bluelake@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2018 9:00 AM
To: Diane Holt
Subject: Avista Utilities - Hydro One Proposed Merger Case AVU-E-17-09 Case AVU-G-17-05

Dear Ms. Hanian:

I previously submitted the following comments regarding the proposed Avista - Hydro One merger by using you online customer comment form, but I do not see those comments posted in the open case Public Comment files. So I am resubmitting via this email. Sincerely, Michael A. Neher

June 15, 2018

Re: Case AVU-E-17-09

Case AVU-G-17-05

As an Avista natural gas and electricity customer, I am **OPPOSED** to the merger of Avista Utilities with Hydro One Limited. The reasons have been well stated by others at the June 14, 2018 public hearing in Coeur d'Alene. In addition those reasons stated by others for the record, I submit the following:

1. Hydro One's could seek to acquire Idaho Power and other Idaho utilities, further wresting control of Idaho's commerce. Hydro One has stated publicly that Avista is just the first such acquisition. Even though Avista serves gas and power customers in northern Idaho, there is every reason to fear that electric utilities in the rest of Idaho, including Idaho Power, could be a future target. The accumulation of U.S. critical infrastructure by a foreign, quasi-governmental entity is most disturbing as it takes away the control of this most basic and critical need away from the citizens of Idaho.

According to a November 21, 2017 article in the Globe and Mail, "Hydro One Ltd.'s \$3.4-billion (U.S.) deal to purchase Avista Corp. is just the beginning of a strategy that will see the Canadian utility expand into the U.S. market." ... Mayo Schmidt, CEO of Hydro One, stated "There are quite a number of organizations of the same size and complexity of Avista in the arena that, as we think about over the course of the next years, there's some potential," he said in an interview at Bloomberg's Toronto office...The utility has faced criticism around high electricity prices and executive compensation since the Ontario Liberal government sold a 13.6-per-cent stake of its shares through the initial public offering. The province now holds about 45 per cent of Hydro One after two subsequent sales and doesn't intend to go below 40 per cent."

2. Hydro One, should it acquire Avista, will compromise Idaho's control of it's critical infrastructure. The merger has the potential to put in jeopardy the State's economy because power resources are the foundation of commerce. The IPUC Commisioners have an unbearable personal burden in deciding this case. The pressure is

huge to approve this deal as it has cleared the scrutiny of Federal regulatory agencies, Alaska and Montana, and received the approval of Avista stockholders. I assume that Oregon and Washington will follow suit to further their motives of green energy. The only thing standing in the way of this merger is the IPUC. Three people, three Idaho citizens, with unprecedented authority and responsibility to serve the interests of Idaho citizens...and NOT the power company shareholders...are now sitting in the hot seat. It is a monumental decision that will affect the course of Idaho commerce and the well being of its citizens for generations. This merger offers no real benefit to Idaho and has the potential to do great harm in the future. In balance I urge the IPUC Commissioners to vote with caution and prudence for the good of Idaho.

3. VOTE NO.

RECEIVED

2018 JUN 25 AM 9:32

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

June 22, 2018

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

RE: CASE # AVU-E-17-09 & CASE # AVU-G-17-05

Dear Idaho PUC:

We are writing to urge you to do whatever you can to block the final sale of Avista Utilities in Spokane, WA to Hydro One Ltd. of Ontario, Canada. Our power company, Avista, is rich with the history of Washington Water Power & the early beginnings of our Northwest. We treasure our natural resources of this area & can see no good come from the sale of this company to Hydro One. We know the sale must clear the Idaho PUC, so we implore you to stop this sale. We believe that national security & protection of ratepayers are 2 vital reasons to deny this sale. And if Washington & Oregon go the way of Alaska, Montana, & Washington DC, then you, our Idaho PUC, are our last bastion of hope in saving & keeping this asset in the local hands of the people of our great Pacific Northwest. This must stay Local!

We strongly believe ownership of all U.S. utilities must remain in the hands of American chartered corporations located within the domains of this country. Our resources, as well as any entities who develop these assets, harness the energies of, and/or facilitate the sale of these energies should all remain under the control of our region & our country, period. We feel strongly about this, and think most people of our entire state also believe this way. URANIUM ONE was a catastrophe. This was a sale of a very strategic natural resource. We do not want the sale of Avista to Hydro One to also be a catastrophe, and you, our state PUC, may be the only one left to protect the people of our region. Just as uranium is strategically important to our national defense, we also think our own power grids should not be in the hands of foreign players. We feel this is a matter of national security in the long run. We have a gut reaction that this pending sale is very wrong, & we believe a lot of other people also have this same gut feeling. We don't want this! We want our company to stay locally controlled by our own state PUC.

Just because Canada is our neighbor to the north doesn't always mean that Hydro One will always primarily be Ontario-owned. It could be sold to the Russians, or China, even. And, interestingly enough, our country itself is in a somewhat unfriendly position at this very time on trade with Canada. Perhaps relations with Canada won't be so good in the future. Who's to say? What then about our region and the loss of ownership of Avista to primarily Canadian-controlled entities? Or, who's to say that some buyer of dubious intent will not be a player in the purchase of this utility in the future from Hydro One or even the province of Ontario? Who can guarantee they won't? Who can say that Idaho Code 61-328 will

still be able to foster protection of Avista's ratepayers after this sale? Please help protect us by blocking this sale. Because of national security alone, we believe this sale should immediately be stopped & we urge you, our Idaho PUC, to block this transfer of assets.

One other consideration in this sale, should be the staunch regard for & the firm protection of Avista's ratepayers, the real actual owners of the natural resources that Avista is using in its production & disbursement of its electricity. If a utility is not American owned, profits will still flow to the company of ownership, which is outside the U.S., to Hydro One of Ontario, Canada. That's not good for the local economy or for the U.S. Who or what can guarantee our rates will be controlled then? **Idaho Code 61-328?** Just because Hydro One says they are going to give us credits on our bills & that they will be investing additional monies into our communities, this just sounds like plain old BIG BUSINESS, seeing a cash cow with already existing lower rates (which they can raise, if they just wait a while, & then make a profit-margin killing), by stringing a bunch of red herrings across our Northwest to cajole us into acceptance.

Even aside from the assurances we have heard about economies of scale, competitive rates, community involvement, & company philanthropy, somehow, this whole sale does not feel right (that gut feeling again), especially for the ratepayers of this region--the real owners of the natural resources that are used. We can't help but feel that ratepayers will somehow, somewhere take a drubbing on this sale, if not now, at least eventually & it is vital to keep our electric grids safe from foreign influence of any kind. We urge you to help block the finalization of this sale. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Mike Roberts and Debra Roberts in cursive script.

Mike & Debra Roberts
1155 N Bainbridge Street
Post Falls, ID 83854

