

August 18, 2019

IPUC
PO BOX 83720
Boise ID 83720-0074
RE: Avista Rate Case # AVU-F-19-04

RECEIVED

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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear IPUC Administrators,

I join my friend Mary Baenen, who composed the original version of this letter, in opposing Avista's request for a \$5.3 million price increase to their Idaho customers to cover the cost of bringing in "smart meters." Most of us do not want to be on the smart grid. We want our freedoms, our choices, and we want a modest rate for our utilities.

I understand Avista is asking for a \$5.3 million price increase to Idaho customers. Avista executives are some of the highest paid in Idaho, and Avista customers with low to medium incomes would be the ones to suffer with increased rates. While Avista could allow their customers to call in their meter reading once a month on a safe analog meter, or support the local economy and provide local jobs as meter readers, they choose digital meters. Avista proposes to roll out new digital smart meters and a data management system. As well as health concerns from digital meters, there are safety issues. Smart meters have caused fires in California. And those who suffer EHS (electro-hyper sensitivity) and those of us who have become aware of the harmful effects of EMF radiation cannot opt out as customers in other states may do.

All one has to do is look up the Bioinitiative Report to view the studies and the evaluation of the studies by leading scientists from around the world to see that EMF (electro-magnetic frequency) radiation causes dangerous health effects to humans and animals. It is very detrimental to the bees, with bee colony collapses which is a huge concern. Without our pollinators, we lose our food supply. EMF radiation meets all the Bradford Hill Criteria as a carcinogen. The \$25 million-dollar study by the National Institutes of Health's phone study reports that electro-magnetic (EMF) radiation from cell phones causes cancer. Like cell phones, digital smart meters emit EMF radiation. I would prefer to have a safe mechanical analog meter, but I'm told I do not have an option. While customers in the state of Washington have opt-outs from smart digital meters, those of us in Idaho are treated unfairly, given no choice to opt-out. And now many Idahoans are faced with the situation of being forced to pay for a "service" that we adamantly do not want.

Before approval of *any* price increases for Idaho utility customers, IPUC needs to make sure Avista treats their Idaho customers fairly, giving us the same privileges to opt-out as their Washington state customers.

Sincerely,



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