

August 18, 2019

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

RECEIVED

2019 AUG 22 AM 8:46

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear IPUC,

Avista requests a \$5.3 million price hike to support their proposed smart meter roll out and data management system for smart meters. Local jobs lost as meter readers, saves Avista money, yet they request approval from IPUC for more price hikes to utility customers while it's reported that the Avista executives yield 6-7 figure income. I have concerns for Avista customers with low incomes as well as health, privacy, and safety concerns around the smart grid. Smart meters have been reported to have caused fires in California.

The National Institutes of Health's \$25 million dollar, 10-year cell phone study reports that electro-magnetic (EMF) radiation from cell phones causes cancer, the same EMF radiation is emitted from smart meters pulsing every 3-30 seconds. EMF radiation meets all the Bradford Hill Criteria as a known carcinogen. Martin L. Pall, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Basic Medical sciences of Washington State University states, "What seems clear from [stating study]... is that there is a strong argument that these microwave frequency EMFs, in fact, are more dangerous than ionizing radiation to the body. This, of course, is exactly the opposite of what industry has been claiming for many, many years."

I have requested an opt-out of EMF emitting meters from Avista such as what they offer their customers in Washington state, and I've petitioned the IPUC to provide smart meter opt-outs for all Idaho utility customers, without opt-out fees. My request to Avista and my petition to IPUC was denied. I live in a home with two meters (electric and gas) emitting EMFs, that have been shown to cause cancer as well as studies showing massive mitochondrial dysfunction done by free radicals from peroxynitrite that also cause single and double stranded breaks in DNA. Excessive free radicals triggered by low-frequency EMF exposure have been linked to chronic diseases such as cardiac arrhythmias, anxiety, depression, autism, Alzheimer's and infertility as well as cancer.

I got the impression that IPUC denied my petition for opt-outs for Idaho utility customers because I had requested no opt-out fees. I still feel that any opt-out fee should be nil or very minimal so that those on low incomes can afford to protect themselves from what science tells us is a harmful pollutant. If I file another petition for smart meter opt-outs with low opt-out fees, will the Commissioners agree to look at my petition? Your response requested.

I am opposed to Avista's request for a \$5.3 million price hike to Idaho utility customers. Before approval of any price hikes for Idaho utility customers, IPUC needs to make sure Avista is treating their Idaho customers fairly (do a survey) and have smart meter opt-outs in place in Idaho for those of us who value our health and those of us with EHS (Electro-Hyper Sensitivity).

Sincerely,



Mary Baenen  
Sandpoint ID