



*Case No. AVU-E-17-09 and AVU-G-17-05*

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## **Idaho regulators to hold technical hearing on Nov. 26 in Avista-Hydro One merger case**

**BOISE (Nov. 21, 2018)** – State regulators will hold a technical hearing on Monday regarding Avista Corporation's proposed merger with Hydro One Limited.

The hearing before the Idaho Public Utilities Commission starts at 9:30 am MST in the hearing room at 472 W. Washington St. in Boise. The proceeding is open to the public but seating is limited.

Live audio of the hearing will be provided online or via phone. Please go here for information: <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/conference.html>.

A technical hearing provides an opportunity for intervening parties to the case to present testimony and cross-examine witnesses as the Commission considers the proposed \$5.3 billion merger. The technical hearing is not an opportunity to take public testimony or comment.

Public testimony was taken at three public hearings held in northern Idaho in mid-June, and more than 600 written comments have been submitted in the case. The vast majority of public comments oppose the merger.

The technical hearing had initially been set for July 23 but was postponed after Hydro One's chief executive officer retired and its board of directors resigned under political pressure from the newly elected premier of the Province of Ontario, the largest shareholder of Hydro One with a 47-percent stake.

The Commission rescheduled the technical hearing in August, after a new board and interim CEO were appointed.

The Idaho Commission is one of several regulatory entities that must approve the transaction.

[The application](#) submitted by the two companies for Commission approval in fall 2017 calls for Avista to become a wholly owned subsidiary of Hydro One, the largest electric utility in Ontario with more than 1.3 million customers.

Avista provides electric service to approximately 378,000 customers and natural gas service to approximately 342,000 customers. About 130,000 electric customers are in Idaho, along with approximately 82,000 natural gas customers.

Under the terms of the proposal, Avista would maintain its name and existing corporate headquarters in Spokane. Existing staffing levels and community involvement would also be unchanged.

Several parties to the case entered into a [proposed settlement agreement](#) in April that contain provisions intended to shield Avista and its customers from financial risk. Among the 73 commitments outlined in the proposed settlement are nearly \$16 million in rate credits for Idaho customers over five years and more than \$5 million to fund energy efficiency, weatherization, conservation and low-income assistance programs over a 10-year period.

A [revised list of provisions](#) was submitted on Nov. 16 that are intended to “address the impact of the management changes and the potential for Provincial involvement in the affairs of Hydro One and Avista.”

Seven parties have intervened in the case: Avista Customer Group, Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho, Clearwater Paper Corporation, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Forest Group, Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Washington and North Idaho District Council of Laborers.

There is no timeline for the Commission to issue a decision in the case.

All documents related to the case, including public comments, the company’s application and all testimony filed, can be found at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov). Click on “Open Cases” under the Electric heading and scroll down to Case No. AVU-E-17-09. Or go [here](#).