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Robert Chase
July 30, 2018

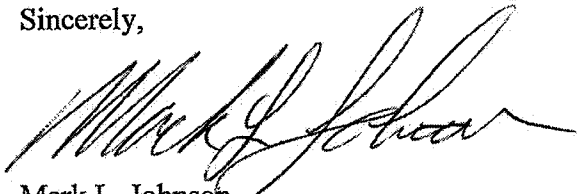
interests of residential customers, industrial customers, low-income customers, environmental groups, and organized labor, as well as the Commission's regulatory staff, have participated in the proceedings. The parties have analyzed the materials filed in support of the application for merger, propounded and reviewed discovery, and negotiated commitments from the applicants. The Commission's adjudicative process has included an evidentiary hearing, in which the Commission took testimony from and questioned witnesses from the applicants and all of the other parties. In addition, the Commission has conducted four public comment hearings in different communities located in Avista's service territory, and has also received a number of written comments from members of the public. These public comments are part of the record before the Commission.

As you may be aware, the Commission took immediate note of the news of the Hydro One leadership developments. The day after the news broke, the Commission issued a "Notice of Intent to Conduct Additional Process." In its notice, the Commission required the applicants and invited the other parties to file comments and recommendations on additional process. Following receipt of those comments, the Commission extended the time for its review of the transaction another four months, the maximum time allowed under the law.

Consideration of the application of Hydro One and Avista for merger approval does not involve federal lands or projects or processes subject to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act or the National Environmental Policy Act; nor does it necessitate review under the State Environmental Policy Act. The coordination process that you reference is not part of this proceeding. As I have described above, the Commission has a robust public comment process in addition to its adjudicative process. Through these established processes, the Commission can gather a broad range of information not only from litigants but, through the public comment process, from utility customers, from elected and appointed officials in the utility's service territory, and from all of the people and entities who are interested in this proceeding.

Your concerns are valued, and I will forward a copy of your letter to the Commission's public involvement specialist as a public comment.

Sincerely,



Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Cc: Andrew Roberts, Regulatory Analyst, Consumer Protection and Safety Division