

Brian Bird, CEO  
NorthWestern Energy  
11 East Park Street  
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Brian,

Your decision to acquire Avista Corp's share of the Colstrip plants and your vow to keep these plants pouring out 10 million tons of greenhouse gas each year until 2045 is shameful. It may earn your stockholders quarterly dividends, but it is most certainly morally bankrupt.

After reviewing the science, the EPA estimates the current social cost of carbon at \$200 a ton. That means you will be responsible for \$2 billion in climate damage for each year of Colstrip's operation. Running your plants through the mid-2040s means nearly \$50 billion in degraded conditions for life on Earth.

Our children and grandchildren will suffer the adverse consequences of your actions. They will deal with more uncontrollable megafires in our forests, the death of our world-class cold-water fishery, millions of dollars of damage sustained by our grain-growers and cattle ranchers, and the injuries and deaths that will result from coming extremes in our weather.

With several decades of accumulated power, NorthWestern could be a force for good in Montana. But that means you must look at the climate crisis as more than a public relations stunt. Your "net zero" plan is a fraud that misses the two key targets scientists worldwide agree on. You choose 2050 as your target date when the science says that's 20 years too late. And you choose 2 C as your limit on rising temperatures rather than 1.5 C. Open your eyes and google "the difference in climate damage between 1.5 C and 2 C." Even schoolkids across the state understand the urgency of meeting these two targets.

Your ratepayers know –and we know you know– that renewables are cheaper than Colstrip or building a \$275 million methane generator. Utilities all over the country are taking advantage of the new, 10-year federal incentives for clean energy. In Montana, in fact, 17 counties qualify for enhanced incentives for renewables development as low-income and energy-dependent communities. Why not you?

You should be ashamed.

Sincerely,