

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION D/B/A/ AVISTA UTILITIES

Respondent.

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DOCKETS UE-220053, UG-220054, and UE-210854 (Consolidated)

**AARON TAM  
ON BEHALF OF THE  
WASHINGTON STATE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
PUBLIC COUNSEL UNIT**

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**EXHIBIT AT-30**

Avista's Revised Response to Public Counsel Data

Request No. 315

July 29, 2022

**AVISTA CORP.  
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

JURISDICTION:	WASHINGTON	DATE PREPARED:	07/27/2022
CASE NO.:	220053/54/210854	WITNESS:	David Howell
REQUESTER:	Public Counsel	RESPONDER:	David James
TYPE:	Data Request	DEPT:	Wildfire Resiliency
REQUEST NO.:	PC – 315 Revised	TELEPHONE:	(509) 495-4185
		EMAIL:	dave.james@avistacorp.com

**SUBJECT:** Wildfire Plan

**RE:** Wildfire Plan, refer to David R. Howell, Exh. DRH-2 at 25.

**REQUEST:**

Has Avista consulted with other West Coast (Washington, Oregon, or California) utilities regarding how they track fire ignitions?

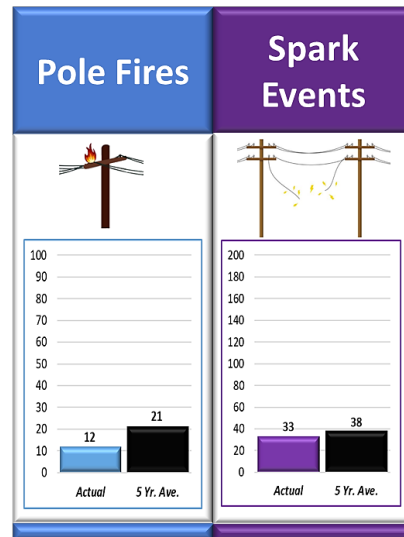
- a) If yes, please explain the setting and extent of these consultations.
- b) If yes, please explain what fire ignition tracking equipment and procedures from West coast utilities Avista plans to adopt. Please also explain which fire ignition tracking equipment and procedures Avista is choosing not to adopt, and why the Company believes they are inappropriate for their utility.
- c) If no, please explain why Avista has not consulted peer utilities on fire ignition tracking.

**RESPONSE REVISED 07.27.2022:**

- a) Avista has hosted several meetings with Northwest utilities to share information relating to Wildfire resiliency and response related programs. Generally, these meetings are held in the spring (in preparation for fire season) and fall (to discuss outcomes and lessons learned). The meetings involve wildfire resiliency program managers, risk managers, and legal staff. Utilities that have participated include: Puget Sound Energy, PacifiCorp, NorthWestern Energy, Idaho Power Company, Chelan Public Utility District and more recently Tuscon Power. Avista also has attended all four of the Western Energy Institute's (WEI) Wildfire Mitigation seminars. These conferences are held in the spring and have been hosted by (in order): San Diego Gas & Electric, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Avista Utilities, and Fortis British Columbia, Canada.

No formal consultations have taken place at this time, although our Northwest counterparts have discussed using the same strategy as we are employing, combing through Dispatcher comments in their Outage Management Systems (OMS), as a stopgap method for capturing this information until a more robust system is available. It is assumed that when this occurs for any of the participating utilities, it will be shared with the group, for all of us are driving toward better metrics in this area.

b) Fire ignition tracking has not been a presentation topic, though informally this group has discussed tracking fire ignition events. As noted in previous responses, utility Outage Management Systems (OMS) are designed to track electric outage causation, including some forms of fire ignition such as pole fires. While a majority of these systems lack outcome tracking, most allow for written comments. At Avista, the incident close-out procedure requires that the Dispatcher speak directly with field 1<sup>st</sup> responders and capture comments from field personnel. Avista and other utilities systematically search the OMS database to extract information related to spark ignition events. This data is captured on a monthly basis. An example from monthly reporting is inset right. The data reflects 2022 year-to-date results through May as compared to the previous 5-year historical average. Tracking utility sourced fire ignition events is an important metric within the Wildfire Resiliency Plan.



As referenced in PC-DR-312, a Request for Proposal (RFP) is currently being developed for Avista’s new OMS, an enterprise-wide data management system which will aid the Company in tracking more specific information. Wildfire is a stakeholder in this process and will participate in developing the requirements for the OMS replacement.

c) N/A