BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION D/B/A/ AVISTA UTILITIES

Respondent.

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

EXHIBIT AT-14

Avista's Response to Public Counsel Data Request No. 196

July 29, 2022

AVISTA CORP.
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

JURISDICTION: WASHINGTON   DATE PREPARED: 04/19/2022
CASE NO.: UE-220053 & UG-220054   WITNESS: David Howell
REQUESTER: Public Counsel   RESPONDER: Heather Webster
TYPE: Data Request   DEPT: Asset Maintenance
REQUEST NO.: PC – 196   TELEPHONE: (509) 495-8930
      EMAIL: Heather.Webster@avistacorp.com

SUBJECT: Vegetation Management

REQUEST:
Does an increase in risk trees identified by Avista for a given year result in a proportionate increase in remediation actions taken? Please provide a summary table in Excel format with rows for risk trees identified, remediation actions scheduled, and percentage of scheduled tree remediations completed on time annually for the past 12-years.

RESPONSE:
To a certain extent, yes it does. Ultimately however, remediation action is constrained by tree crew labor availability. In 2021 tree crews on Avista property were incrementally increased as they became available from 19 to 32 currently in an effort to right-size the labor force in alignment with the goals of the Enhanced Vegetation Management program and distinct Risk Tree Program.

Summary risk tree data for the past 12 years is not available. Prior to 2020 risk tree work was planned and performed as part of routine maintenance on a +/- 5-year cycle. Work was not tracked at the tree level. Please see the annual work plans for the last 12 years that are attached to PC-182 for the level of detail available from past years.

Avista began using the FieldNote application for mobile digital data collection and work planning in 2018. This is when work planning began to be tracked at the tree level. The company focused on QA/QC efforts early in 2021 to improve standardization of how data was being collected and reported using FieldNote. From June 2021 forward data accuracy has been improved to 95% accuracy or better. Please see PC-DR-182 Attachment A - Risk units identified to mitigation 06-01-2021 to 04-14-2022 for tree level remediation details for this time period.