

**BEFORE THE  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND<br/>TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,</b> | ) |   |
|  | ) |   |
| <b>Complainant,</b>  | ) |   |
|  | ) |   |
| <b>v.</b>  | ) | <b>DOCKETS UE-160228 and<br/>UG-160229 (Consolidated)</b> |
|  | ) |   |
| <b>AVISTA CORPORATION, DBA<br/>AVISTA UTILITIES,</b>           | ) |   |
|  | ) |   |
| <b>Respondent.</b>   | ) |   |
| <hr/>  | ) |   |

**EXHIBIT NO. MPG-5**

**PROXY GROUP**

**AUGUST 17, 2016**

# Avista Corporation

## Proxy Group

| <u>Line</u> | <u>Company</u>                        | <u>Credit Ratings<sup>1</sup></u> |                       | <u>Common Equity Ratios</u>   |                                      |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|             |                                       | <u>S&amp;P</u><br>(1)             | <u>Moody's</u><br>(2) | <u>SNL<sup>1</sup></u><br>(3) | <u>Value Line<sup>2</sup></u><br>(4) |
| 1           | ALLETE, Inc.                          | BBB+                              | A3                    | 53.3%                         | 53.7%                                |
| 2           | Ameren Corporation                    | BBB+                              | Baa1                  | 47.4%                         | 49.7%                                |
| 3           | American Electric Power Company, Inc. | BBB                               | Baa1                  | 46.3%                         | 50.2%                                |
| 4           | Avista Corporation                    | BBB                               | Baa1                  | 46.9%                         | 50.0%                                |
| 5           | CMS Energy Corporation                | BBB+                              | Baa2                  | 29.3%                         | 31.4%                                |
| 6           | DTE Energy Company                    | BBB+                              | A3                    | 47.3%                         | 49.8%                                |
| 7           | Edison International                  | BBB+                              | A3                    | 45.0%                         | 46.7%                                |
| 8           | El Paso Electric Company              | BBB                               | Baa1                  | 44.6%                         | 47.3%                                |
| 9           | IDACORP, Inc.                         | BBB                               | Baa1                  | 54.0%                         | 54.4%                                |
| 10          | NorthWestern Corporation              | BBB                               | A3                    | 44.1%                         | 46.9%                                |
| 11          | PG&E Corporation                      | BBB                               | Baa1                  | 48.8%                         | 50.4%                                |
| 12          | Portland General Electric Company     | BBB                               | A3                    | 50.7%                         | 52.2%                                |
| 13          | Sempra Energy                         | BBB+                              | Baa1                  | 43.3%                         | 47.3%                                |
| 14          | <b>Average</b>                        | <b>BBB</b>                        | <b>Baa1</b>           | <b>46.2%</b>                  | <b>48.5%</b>                         |
| 15          | <b>Avista Corporation</b>             | <b>BBB</b>                        | <b>Baa1</b>           |                               | <b>48.5%<sup>3</sup></b>             |

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> SNL Financial, Downloaded on July 25, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> *The Value Line Investment Survey*, June 17, and July 29, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Thies Direct at 17.