

## Public Comments by Case

**Total Comments:** 30

**In Favor:** 0

**Opposed:** 30

**Undecided:** 0

Filing Support	Commenter	Source	Comments
No	Asa Ceait	E-mail	<p>On October 20, 2021, you sent me the following: (see more below regarding their NEW request for 12-2022)</p> <p>Case Number: 200900</p> <p>Dear Interested Person:</p> <p>Thank you for your interest in the Avista general rate case.</p> <p>On October 30, 2019, Avista filed to increase overall electric revenues by \$44.2 million and overall natural gas revenues by \$12.8 million.</p> <p>The Commission rejected Avista’s proposed revenue increase. The Commission approved a settlement that results in no changes to customer bills. The settlement increases overall electric revenue by \$13.6 million and natural gas revenue by \$8.1 million. The agreement also changes Avista’s tax accounting. The tax accounting changes will result in no changes to customer bills.</p> <p>It is the commission’s responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing the company an opportunity to earn a fair return.</p> <p>This concludes this matter at the commission. Please visit our Web site at <a href="http://www.utc.wa.gov">www.utc.wa.gov</a>, and enter docket number 200900, 200901, or 200894 to view documents related to these filings.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please contact me at (360) 664-1101 or <a href="mailto:andrew.roberts@utc.wa">andrew.roberts@utc.wa</a></p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Andrew Roberts</p>

		<p>Public Involvement Coordinator</p> <p>Since you did suggest that I contact you this is what I wish to do regarding Avista's new request.</p> <p>It is extremely apparent that when they have asked for rate hikes in the past, for those very same reasons, they ALSO gave themselves a 'rate hike'. Their 'compensation' has continuously gone up, with very few exception.</p> <p>When you look at the population growth rate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current metro area population of Spokane in 2022 is 456,000, a 0.88% increase from 2021.</li> <li>• The metro area population of Spokane in 2021 was 452,000, a 1.12% increase from 2020.</li> <li>• The metro area population of Spokane in 2020 was 447,000, a 1.13% increase from 2019.</li> <li>• The metro area population of Spokane in 2019 was 442,000, a 0.91% increase from 2018.</li> </ul> <p>You can see just how much Avista's revenue has and WILL increase as most everyone of these people will be paying their electrical and natural gas payments to Avista.</p> <p>They have already 'made' monies from prior rate increases and have made enough profits to support their Board of Directors and UPPER staff (CEO, etc.) with 'benefit' increases.</p> <p>They are using Smoke and Mirrors to FOOL you and 'steal' more money from the residents in Spokane.</p> <p>They should be DENIED and should ALSO be 'hand-tied':          "create a "stay out period where Avista would not file a new general rate case for new rates to be effective prior to Dec. 2024" (in their own words.)          "Under staff's proposal, an average residential electric customer using 914 kilowatt-hours a month would pay \$0.89 less, for an average monthly bill of \$81.44," (I do NOT know of ANYONE who pays less than \$100.00 per month; most pay MUCH more!</p> <p>"Avista's expected incremental costs during the CEIP period are \$41.6 million over 2022-2025, with only \$6 million during 2022-2023. By contrast, PSE's are expected to total \$450 million over the CEIP period, with \$117.5 million of that during 2022-2023."</p> <p>They TRY to 'justify' their increase based upon another part of the countries rates. We ARE NOT 'them'.          Do the 'right thing', please.</p>
	<p>Charles Taggart</p>	<p>E-mail I read earlier this year that Avista wants another rate increase.          I understand inflation affects us all but after the increase last year I don't feel another is justified right now, even though it is supposed to be spread over two years.</p>

		<p>Charles Taggart Spokane Valley, WA ctagg@msn.com</p> <p>Sent from Mail for Windows</p>
Kathy Catalano	E-mail	<p>Once again, Avista is requesting a rate increase. Yet somehow they are saying they are going to credit customers a portion (for a short period of time). However, last time they were supposed to credit us \$51 million, I never saw a penny and Avista was never required to show how they were refunding monies to the public. I only saw rate increases. I did a comparison of all my bills and only one time out of 12 months did the rate go down, only to go back up even higher within a couple of months. Now Avista wants to raise their rates so the public can pay for their investments? Why am I paying for Avista's investments? They seem to make pretty darn good money. I should know, because their rates are pushing people right out of their homes. They keep putting their dumb inserts in their bill saying if you need help paying your bill, call here! However, one of my most recent increases (2021) was literally for me to put money into Avista's fund to pay for the people that can't afford their bills! How on earth does that make any sense? Why am I paying for other people's bills? So Avista just wants to pass their costs onto the public to cover for everyone? Due to Avista's outrageous, constant increases, I have to freeze during the winter because I cannot afford to pay \$400 for a heating bill, yet Avista (and apparently the WUTC) supports this because they continue to allow it to happen, and then to top it off, want me to pitch in for a fund for people who can't afford the bill!!! I'm one of those people, yet I pay my bill monthly. Avista must be in cahoots with the Governor of this state.</p> <p>I just received an increased rate in April of 2022, and literally just got another one on this bill (June 2022-July 2022), not even a full 3 months after last increase! And now they want another one. This monopoly needs to stop. These increases are coming too often and way too close together.</p> <p>The WUTC needs to find another way for Avista to manage their money. Maybe that's the problem: they don't know how to manage the incoming funds they are receiving from a large portion of Washington State. Maybe their "higher ups" should give some of their salaries back to pay for Avista's investments, instead of charging me (and other Washingtonians) to pay for their investments!</p> <p>If WUTC is supposed to be regulating, I would have to say a very poor job is being done. I have asked for years and years to have an accounting of how Avista paid Washingtonians back the \$51 million it was owed (for Avista stealing it from us) and never once was provided an answer that explained any of it. And now, here we go again. Avista saying consumers will get some sort of break, but guaranteed we the people will never see a penny of that money!</p>

			<p>I'm TOTALLY AGAINST Avista's constant increases, and this particular one with a hearing slated for September 7 of this year, should be denied!</p> <p>Kathy Catalano Word Processor   Witherspoon • Kelley KathyC@witherspoonkelley.com   vCard</p>
	<p>Gary Drexler</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>As one of Avista many customers who are retired as I am and on behave of the thousands of customers on lower income, I wish to protest this rate hike.If you examine Avista’s track record of executive wages and compensation and compare that to their corporate expenditures, you will find that the rate increase is a huge burden placed upon the people they serve. I request as this issue comes before the commission that you use duedilligence.</p>
	<p>Celina Thomas</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>Dear members of the UTC,</p> <p>I am writing about the rate increase that Avista is requesting in my area, Dockets UE-220053/UG-220054. The UTC should not allow an increase in the Basic Rate charge.</p> <p>It makes sense to increase rates when the costs for providing services rise. However a higher Basic Charge places an unfair burden onto poor customers during a time that they are already struggling financially and in fact more and more people are becoming homeless because they can’t meet rising costs. Inflation has steadily increased over the past twenty years, while the pay of working families has not been increasing nearly as much, making budgets tighter and tighter. While the proposed rates do not sound like much to people with decent incomes, each incremental increase like this forces people who are in difficult circumstances to make hard choices about whether to buy food or pay the electric bill. There are tent cities all over Washington. This will swell the numbers of homeless.</p> <p>Avista is demanding that people pay a basic charge (or two if they are unlucky enough to have both electricity and natural gas) every month, just to have access to the electric and/or gas grid. Continually raising that cost adds insult to injury. Most of us have no other options, and so must pay this extra fee whether or not we can afford it.</p> <p>If Avista needs to recover costs of meters, service drops, meter readings and billings, they could add those costs into the rates charged for the actual gas and electricity. The poor should not be burdened with an enormous "Basic Charge." Those who cannot afford extra charges can still make ends meet by using less gas and electricity.</p>

			<p>I hope that the UTC will make the correct decision about this and not allow an increase in the basic charge for gas and electricity.</p> <p>Thank you, Celina Thomas</p>
Gail McGougan	E-mail	External Email	<p>I am sending this to your committee regarding the increase that Avista is requesting. I for one am against the amount they are requesting, simply put, way too much especially after their last request was only pared down minimally. Please consider the consumer in your decision this go round; we are heading into a recession which is going to affect everyone of us including you. We have no recourse other than you; we are a captive because there is no other choice for us supplying our electric and natural gas, not that any other group would be different. Go ahead and give them yet again what they request, it boils down for myself and many, many others either we stay warm and cool, or we don't eat. Something is definitely wrong with this picture. If your economists think that we are not heading into a recession, well, there is no hope. So please pare down or give them nothing this year and next year, we have to live on a budget and it appears that all Avista has to do is submit yet again another increase. Thank you for reading this at least, even if you have your collective minds made up already. Gail Mcgougan Spokane WA 99205</p>
Cassie Camerer	E-mail		<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'd like to say that I appreciate the WA Attorney General is challenging Avista (and PSE) increasing their utility rates.</p> <p>Many Avista customers are trapped by the monopoly that the company holds on the area. Despite using local/public resources, many of which are renewable (ie our rivers), they continue to crank up our utility rates on a regular basis. Please do not allow them to do this to us again.</p> <p>Thanks! Cassie Camerer</p>
Sharyl McBride	E-mail		<p>Once again Avista is asking for rate increases. Those of us on fixed incomes do not continue to get increases to match the rising prices of everything. The State of Washington continues to raise our taxes continually and the UTC has approved many of Avista's requests for increases.</p> <p>When driving and seeing Avista at work, they have the best and newest vehicles. Since the installation of the smart meters, we have had more outages without the fulfillment of guarantees provided by Avista that they would know we have an outage and would respond faster. When reporting the outages they still want the customer to go look at the meter and make sure there is no power on their end. Based on the number of outages and the foreseeable future of outages due to not enough power available for a multitude of reasons, primary functions of water and heat will be needed for individuals by means of solar or generator. These are another additional cost to customers, if they can even afford to get them, which most cannot.</p>

			<p>It appears that Avista has overstated rate increases in the past and has to return money to accounts. The rate increases requested should be a minimum and tougher budget constraints made so these continuous requests are eliminated. The public cannot afford these practices to continue.</p> <p>Respectfully, Sharyl McBride 2264 Scott Rd Lot H</p>
	<p>Jill Weiszmann</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>Please oppose Avista’s rate increases on Docket numbers UE: 220053 and EG 220054.</p> <p>Rates do not need to increase profits every year. Utilities are high already.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jill Weiszmann</p>
	<p>Edward Wolfe</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>To: The Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission Re: Avista rate increase hearing</p> <p>I am writing in opposition to the proposed rate increases requested by Avista Corporation. Please add these comments to the record - Avista plays the "rate increase game" all too well, and it is time to put a stop to it. Attorney General Bob Ferguson agrees with me - he sees the pattern and also opposes Avista's actions.</p> <p>There is not enough space or time to deliver my argument in detail, so I will just outline the progression Avista's profits and dividend giveaways from 2009 to 2021.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avista corporation's outstanding shares of common stock have risen from 55 million in 2009 to 70 million at the end of 2021.</li> <li>2. Earnings per share in 2009: \$1.72/share (\$94,000,000 net income) Earnings per share in 2021: \$2.10/share (\$147,000,000 net income)</li> <li>3. Dividends paid in 2009: \$ .81/share (\$44,550,000) Dividends paid in 2020: \$1.69/share (\$118,300,000)</li> </ol> <p>E-mail doesn't really have graph capability, but if it did, you would see a steep, steady increase in net income in spite of Avista's protestations, hand-wringing and excuses. Avista makes more and more and more each year (2022</p>

		<p>is shaping up to top last year's income and EPS numbers significantly) and yet every year they claim to need higher and higher rates.</p> <p>This process has become a game for Avista, and it's a game they're winning. They ask for as much as is allowed, then appear to do the consumer "a favor" by backing down just a little, making it seem like they're here to help. The truth is, AVISTA DOES NOT NEED TO INCREASE ELECTRIC OR GAS RATES BY ONE CENT. Just examine their operating statements. Whatever arguments Avista managers make about increases in costs of materials and inflation, they've weathered all of that better than the rest of us.</p> <p>And while you're there, take a look at what Avista has funded while making record profits... a brand-new headquarters complete with elaborate shop and storage facilities, the purchase of land and right-of-way for a campus expansion, new vehicles, new equipment, more technicians. There is no reason for them to actually curtail expenses because the money keeps rolling in, courtesy of an otherwise clueless customer base.</p> <p>Does Avista need to keep paying out more and more money each year in dividends to shareholders holding a steadily increasing number of outstanding shares? No. This is a tactic designed to keep the stock price inflated. There is no reason to squander customer's money this way. If Avista simply can't bring themselves to control expenses and deal with rising costs like the rest of us, the least they could do is plow a much larger share of those dividends back into the infrastructure that serves our area. Why grant rate increases for proposed maintenance when that money is readily available, but being given away?</p> <p>I ask you to please look at Avista's history of profiteering coupled with their incessant begging for higher and higher utility rates. Just for once, make Avista operate like a REAL public utility, one that puts customers first.</p> <p>Sincerely, Edward Wolfe 11820 N Lancelot Dr Spokane, WA 99218</p> <p>Edward Wolfe ZagsFan@aol.com</p>
Charles Taggart	E-mail	<p>I strenuously object to the 12.3% rate increase for gas customers in Washington, and Idaho's 15%. That is more than the overall rate of inflation and seriously affects myself and others on fixed incomes. Please consider not allowing this increase to be authorized.</p> <p>Charles Taggart Spokane Valley, WA</p>

			ctagg@msn.com
	Katherine Catalano	E-mail	Just received ANOTHER insert in my Avista bill after receiving one 2 months ago. This one indicates ANOTHER rate increase (just like the last one did) and this one is to take effect November 1, 2022. How is it that Avista is allowed to raise their rates, literally, almost every single month now? Where are the statistics of where my money is going that Avista keeps digging into my pocket for? How do you expect people to be able to stay in their homes when Avista is forcing them out with price increases every single month? This is ridiculous. Seems Avista becoming part of the "depopulation" attempt by literally raising rates so high, people (elderly especially) will end up freezing to death, literally in their own homes because Avista rates are so astronomical! The company needs to stop doing rate increases every month! It's not acceptable or feasible for the public to be able to afford such outrageous rates.
	Diane Barrick	E-mail	I ask that you not confirms Avista's most recent request for rate hikes. Thank you
	Mark Hendren	Web	<p>Last year Avista had an increase and now they get another increase? They want another 11% for gas and 3.4% for power. Are they taking the construction in Spokane into consideration? With the increasing construction in the area, there are more customers to spread the costs. They need to take the new construction in Spokane into consideration and with the increasing number of retirees, our pay doesnt increase, why should Avista's rate go up? Is this just going straight into their pocketbooks? As a monopoly this is unfair.</p> <p>Avista is always jabbing the customers for a little here and a little there, which adds up over the years. We need competition is what we need. Please call me to discuss these seemingly annual increases.</p>
	Matthew Walton	Web	Avista is once again seeking to fully pass on the cost of infrastructure maintenance to their customers while continuing to provide record dividends to their stockholders as a publicly traded company. This formula creates an unfair burden on Avista Utility customers who do not have a choice in utility providers due to state-granted monopolies. Avista can afford to tighten their belts like all of their customers during these times.
	James P. Johnson	Web	I do not believe Avista should be permitted to increase the basic charge for electricity or gas. I'm not against the proposal for rate increases for gas and electric use, however, for those of us who are low income and work hard to limit usage, paying more while getting nothing in return, which is how the basic charge works, is frustrating. Avista maintains that customers should help defer costs of their distribution infrastructure irregardless of usage. Very few businesses are allowed to operate this way. Grocery stores, or almost any kind of business doesn't charge a fee at the door to recoup the cost of constructing and maintaining the building - it's built into the prices you pay for merchandise. I believe Avista should operate the same way. I would appreciate it if Avista would be told to derive 100% of their gross revenue from their usage rates and NO MORE BASIC CHARGE!!
	Robert Harvey	Web	On the electric bill rate increases Avista wants to raise the basic monthly charge from \$9 to \$11 per month. That is one dollar too much! The first Avista electric rate increase of 7.9 percent should be 3 percent or less.



			On the natural gas bill rate increase Avista wants to raise the basic charge from \$9.50 to \$11 per month, but it should only be allowed to raise it to \$10 per month. The 3.6 percent rate increase for natural gas should be 3 percent or less on the last rate increase.
	Steven R. Bowman	Web	It seems that every year Avista wants to raise prices by 10 percent or more. While I am on fixed income and got a COLA of 6% and that is the largest increase in years they say. Medicare was raised another \$40 a month. An 11 percent increase is almost twice my raise before the Medicare increase. I understand companies need to update equipment, but I don't know how I will be able to continue to heat our home with these annual price increases. I ask that you reject their request for rate increase. And ask them how are "we" suppose to pay increases like that every year
	Charles R. Wolfe	Web	Taken by CTC In March of 2022, Avista had some kind of a problem and that destroyed approximately \$1,000 worth of my electrical components. When I called them about it, I got a rather turse letter from Avista saying, basically, pound sand; we're not responsible. When we first moved to Spokane, we lived in the Valley and were on modern electric and electricity was less than \$0.01/kWh. I think their request to go to over 8 is extortionist. We moved to Chattaroy and had to go onto Avista. So we now have to pay over \$0.08/kWh and I think their service is terrible and I object vigorously to a Canadian company raising rates like this. This is Charles R. Wolfe, 228 North River Estates Drive Chattaroy, WA 99003
	Carolyn Diaz	Web	They are going to raise power services by 7.9% in 2022 and an additional 3.1% next year. I am on disability and I can already not afford the current sky rocketing living costs.  <a href="https://www.krem.com/article/money/avista-proposes-two-year-plan-that-will-increase-the-electricity-cost-of-households/293-fc0642f9-c357-4f7d-86cc-4c75e0b1907a">https://www.krem.com/article/money/avista-proposes-two-year-plan-that-will-increase-the-electricity-cost-of-households/293-fc0642f9-c357-4f7d-86cc-4c75e0b1907a</a>
	Charles Taggart	Web	In reference to the natural gas increases. I understand that the cost of everything is increasing. I don't see a reason for the Basic Charge to increase by +8%. The gas meter is a static piece of equipment that seldom, if ever, need service or replacement. That is my objection to Avista's request.
	Carole Gauche	Web	What Avista is asking for is an outrageous amount to expect the consumer to pay. This request will just push more people into poverty status. Stop this now!!!
	L Suksdorf	Web	I am against the requested rate increases requested by Avista for residential customers. For several years the state of Washington, local media, and Avista are all repeatedly marketing saving energy, replacing lights with LEDs, caulking your windows, adding insulation and many of us have done all of those things. I have even replaced half of my windows with higher efficiency windows. The summer after buying my home (all electric as no gas in my area) with a new heat pump.(supposedly there was a rebate available but when I got the application from from Avista the form showed the program had expired so no rebate available). All to reduce my energy consumption. Yet each month's Avista bill implies I should do more. However, using less energy means Avista is not making as

			<p>much revenue, and because they have less revenue they request rate increases to make up that difference. Replacing equipment is part of any business and should be budgeted within each year's budget. Perhaps a reduced ROI for Avista investors is in order to meet the challenges caused by energy reductions by service users.</p> <p>Also, in just the past 12 months, inflation in food prices, gasoline, basic clothing like underwear and jeans, cleaning and laundry supplies, has taken a much larger portion of consumers net pay, Heaven help anyone on a fixed income who makes just over the eligibility level for energy assistance. We use less energy, Avista makes less revenue, and they request the state commission to raise their rates 7+%. Seems illogical as consumers suffer because we reduce our use as requested!</p> <p>What will Avista ask for when the Washington Clean Building Act is fully implemented and commercial users reduce their energy consumption?</p> <p>A 7+% increase in rates this year only contributes to Washington's inflationary cycle and certainly does not support the consumers who rely on Avista for power (no choice of provider) and certainly no competition in this market!</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the new Avista Rate Increase request.</p>
	Barbara Egolf	Web	<p>I understand Avista wants a rate increase by 12/23. I would like to suggest tying the increase to free home energy audits by Avista. A win for both sides and climate change. Many utility company's across the US offer free energy audits .</p>
	Ann Heehn	Web	<p>Avisita continues to ask for increases in electric and natural gas while their profits are soaring, their management salaries increase beyond the maximum wage for Spokane County and surrounding areas. Their greed is far and above what I, as a retired senior citizen, can afford on a fixed income. Their greed is adding to the homeless population.</p> <p>We need a P.U.D. in Spokane County.</p> <p>Please do not allow the rates of Avisita to increase.</p>
	Bernie Labrucherie	Web	<p>Avista Utilities, Spokane, is asking for a rate increase; they have most every year that I have been alive. In lieu of (not only) Washington St. Attorney Generals Office stating: "Avista's multiparty settlement is "not fair, just and reasonable" for customers," and "the company is seeking unjustified profit margins." These comments regarding Avista are those I have complained about for DECADES! Once when I called to submit a comment the person on the other end, at YOUR offices, chided me &amp; sided WITH Avista. THAT IS NOT PROPER! They ARE just GREEDY, pure &amp; simple.</p>
	Reed McPherson	Web	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I oppose Avista's requested rate increase. Avista already charges more for electric service than most other regional utilities. This is starting to create a burden on me as a consumer. If I had the ability to switch utility service company I absolutely would. In conclusion, please reject their requested rate increases at this time.</p>
	carole gauche	Web	<p>When is Avista going to quit asking for more money. And when are you going to not approve their request. These constant increases keep on squeezing us tax payers and Washington residents budgets more and more. Enough is enough. We all have to cut back and do without during these high inflection times. How do they epext people on a fixed income to pay for all these increases. We don't get an increase in our retirement monies. Stop this now!!!</p>

	Scot Wayne Hattenburg	Web	Until Avista honors their commitment to the 19.122.030 and when they violate the law giving remedy to the contractors/ rate payers and stockholders their money owed under the law.... no more rate increases
	Laura Crafton	Web	Hello, I am against the rate increase that Avista Utilities has proposed. Everything is already extremely expensive. I don't qualify for help from SNAP. I am over the income by a very small amount but still over. My rent went up \$200 this year 2022 alone. These utility companies ask for and usually get a rate increase every year. I don't believe they need rate increase nearly so often. I know I am not the only one in this boat. Keeping the heat turned to low and trying not to get pneumonia every single Winter while Utility companies are living well. Thank you, Laura Crafton