



Avista Corp.

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April 12, 2018

Steven V. King
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Docket No. UE-011595, Monthly Power Cost Deferral Report, March 2018
Docket No. UE-140188, Monthly REC Report, March 2018

Dear Mr. King:

Enclosed for electronic filing is Avista Corporation's Power Cost Deferral Report for the month of March 2018. The report includes the monthly Energy Recovery Mechanism (ERM) accounting journal together with supporting work papers (Attachment A). The native format of the Excel worksheets for the deferral calculation and the journal in "pdf" format are attached to the electronic filing. Please note "pdf" is the native form for the deferral journal.

As summarized on page 15 of the March 2018 Power Cost Deferral report, actual net power supply costs were lower than authorized net power costs for the Washington jurisdiction by \$2,173,662. A deferral entry was recorded in the amount of \$1,630,247 in the rebate direction for the month. Year to date actual net power supply costs were lower than authorized power supply costs for in the amount of \$7,517,585 with \$4,879,396 absorbed by the Company and \$2,638,189 recorded in the deferral, as illustrated in the table below.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Absorbed (Avista)</u>	<u>Deferred (Customer)</u>
First \$4M at 100%	\$ (4,000,000)	\$ (4,000,000)	\$ -
\$4M to \$10M at 25% (rebate)	\$ (3,517,585)	\$ (879,396)	\$ (2,638,189)
\$4M to \$10M at 50% (surcharge)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Over \$10M at 10%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ (7,517,585)	\$ (4,879,396)	\$ (2,638,189)

Per the multiparty settlement stipulation in Docket No. UE-120436, the Company's rate adjustment trigger is \$30 million. Combined with the current year deferral balance, the current deferral rebate balance is approximately \$26.64 million (including interest).

Actual power supply expense was lower than the authorized level due primarily to higher than authorized hydro generation and lower than authorized natural gas and power prices. Hydro generation was 170 aMW above the authorized level. The average purchased power price was \$15.20/MWh compared to an authorized price of \$23.70/MWh. The average natural gas price was \$2.02/dth compared to an authorized price of \$2.82/dth.

Colstrip and Kettle Falls generation was 16 aMW and 22 aMW above the authorized level, respectively. Natural gas-fired generation was 69 aMW above the authorized level. The net transmission expense (transmission expense less transmission revenue) was above the authorized level. Washington retail sales were 5 aMW below the authorized level.

The report also includes the monthly renewable energy credits (REC) accounting journal together with backup work papers (Attachment B). Per Order 05, Docket UE-140188, the Company defers 100% of the net monthly renewable energy credits (REC) not associated with compliance for the Washington Energy Independence Act. The amount of net revenues/(expense) for March 2018 was \$222,880.

Interest for the ERM is calculated pursuant to the Settlement Stipulation approved by the Commission's Fifth Supplemental Order in Docket No. UE-011595, dated December 18, 2002. Interest is applied to the average of the beginning and ending month deferral balances net of associated deferred federal income tax. The Company's actual cost of debt is used as the interest rate. The interest rate is updated semi-annually and interest is compounded semi-annually.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Johnson at (509) 495-4046 or Annette Brandon at (509) 495-4324.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Ehrbar', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick D. Ehrbar
Director of Regulatory Affairs

