

AVISTA CORP.
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

JURISDICTION:	WASHINGTON	DATE PREPARED:	07/02/2015
CASE NO.:	UE-150204 & UG-150205	WITNESS:	Don Kopczynski
REQUESTER:	Public Counsel/Energy Project	RESPONDER:	Larry La Bolle
TYPE:	Data Request	DEPT:	State & Federal Regulation
REQUEST NO.:	PC/EP – 061	TELEPHONE:	(509) 495-4710
		EMAIL:	larry.labolle@avistacorp.com

REQUEST:

Please describe the functionality of the web portal that is included in the AMI business case, the cost of the web portal, and how this functionality compares to the potential “additional” presentation of interval usage data reflected in the Avista’s Response to Public Counsel Data Request No. 63.

RESPONSE:

Avista’s advanced metering web portal currently allows customers with advanced meters (Pullman, Washington) to access their electricity use information in five-minute intervals, and in daily intervals for natural gas use. The web portal also provides load analysis charts that include a daily usage chart with a high/low/average weather overlay, and average daily usage charts that also include average use per day of the week. The charts are also dynamic, meaning the results represent the data in whatever date range the customer selects. Customers also have the option to download all of this data in CSV format, and Green-Button download. The cost to implement the web portal functionality was included as part of the implementation of the Pullman Smart Grid Demonstration Project, and was approximately \$793,000. Of this total amount, Avista paid half (\$396,500), and the balance was paid with ARRA funding through the smart grid development grant.

Avista has discussed the customer benefit associated with the functionality of the web portal, as associated with the Washington advanced metering project, in two places in its business case. The first is in the area of energy conservation, where the Company has estimated the percentage of its customers that would likely use the web portal to access interval energy data, in support of making energy efficiency investments that will save them money. That value of that benefit is quantified in the business case as described in the Company’s response to Staff_DR_112 Attachment A. The second area of customer value, as noted in the request, speaks to the circumstances where a customer may choose to access their interval energy data via the web portal, but for whatever reason, not follow up with any particular conservation investments. Avista did not attempt to quantify the value to the customer of this latter use of the web portal, hence, it is listed as an intangible benefit in the business case.