

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. UE-15 _____

DOCKET NO. UG-15 _____

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

KAREN K. SCHUH

REPRESENTING AVISTA CORPORATION

I. INTRODUCTION

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Q. Please state your name, employer and business address.

A. My name is Karen K. Schuh. I am employed by Avista Corporation as a Senior Regulatory Analyst in the State and Federal Regulation Department. My business address is 1411 East Mission, Spokane, Washington.

Q. Please briefly describe your educational background and professional experience.

A. I graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting. After spending six years in the public accounting sector, I joined Avista in January of 2006. Since 2006, I have worked in various positions within the Company in the Finance Department (Plant Accounting and Resource Accounting) and joined the State and Federal Regulation Department as a Regulatory Analyst in 2008. Currently, as a Senior Regulatory Analyst, I am responsible for, among other things, preparing the capital pro forma adjustments in determination of revenue requirements for all jurisdictions.

Q. What is the scope of your testimony?

A. My testimony and exhibits in this proceeding will cover the Company's capital investments in utility plant through December 31, 2016. As explained by Company witness Ms. Andrews, the Company is basing its electric and natural gas revenue increase requested in this case on its electric and natural gas Attrition Studies. However, as a "cross check" to the Company's request, Company witness Ms. Smith has also prepared electric and natural gas Pro Forma Cross Check Studies, which incorporate Washington's share of

1 the 2016 rate year adjustments for expenses and capital additions described further in my
2 testimony.

3 In addition, for informational purposes only, I am providing information on capital
4 investment through 2017 as an indication of the ongoing capital investments by the
5 Company.

6 A table of contents for my testimony is as follows:

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17 **Q. Are you sponsoring any exhibits?**

18 A. Yes. I am sponsoring Exhibit Nos. ____(KKS-2) through (KKS-5) which were
19 prepared by me or under my direction, and have been included to provide supporting
20 information for the capital investment as described in this testimony. Exhibit No.__(KKS-2)
21 shows capital expenditures from 2005 through 2019. Exhibit No.__(KKS-3) depicts the
22 increases in costs of transmission substations, transmission equipment, distribution
23 substations, and distribution equipment that the utility industry has experienced over the past
24 fifty years. Exhibit Nos. ____(KKS-4) and ____(KKS-5) list and describe the capital projects
25 included in this case.

1 **II. CAPITAL ADDITIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**
2 **THROUGH DECEMBER 2016**

3 **Q. How were the capital additions through the 2016 rate year developed in**
4 **this case?**

5 A. As in prior rate cases, Avista started with rate base for the historical test year,
6 which, for this case, is the average-of-monthly-averages (“AMA”) for the twelve months
7 ended September 30, 2014. An adjustment was made to restate plant-in-service at September
8 30, 2014 to an end-of-period (“EOP) basis at December 31, 2014. Adjustments were also
9 made to include additions for the period October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 on an
10 EOP basis, together with the associated accumulated depreciation (“A/D”) and deferred
11 federal income taxes (“DFIT”)^{1/2}. These adjustments include annualizing the associated
12 depreciation expense on the plant-in-service at September 30, 2014 and the additions
13 through December 31, 2014. These adjustments were made to determine rate base at
14 December 31, 2014, which reflects the most recent historical period information.

15 My testimony also includes 2015 capital additions³, together with the associated AD
16 and ADFIT at a 2015 EOP basis. This included associated depreciation expense for the
17 capital additions. These specific capital additions are identified later in my testimony. In

¹ The revenue-producing capital for the period ended September 30, 2014, was adjusted separately to a December 31, 2014 EOP basis in Ms. Andrews Attrition Analysis as shown in Exhibit Nos. ____ (EMA-2) and (EMA-3), because the Attrition Analysis reflects the growth in customers and growth in revenue from the test year to the rate year. The revenue-producing distribution plant for the twelve-months-ended September 30, 2014 capital additions for the Pro Forma Cross Check Analysis was not adjusted for EOP growth, because the Pro Forma Cross Check Analysis does not include growth in customers and revenue beyond the historical test year.

² For each of the periods October-December 2014, as well as 2015 and 2016, distribution-related capital expenditures associated with connecting new customers to the Company’s system were excluded. The Pro Forma Cross Check Analysis does not include the increase in revenues from growth in the number of customers from the historical test year to the 2016 rate year, and therefore, the growth in plant investment associated with customer growth should also be excluded.

1 addition, the plant-in-service at December 31, 2014 was adjusted to a 2015 EOP basis.

2 Finally, my testimony also includes 2016 capital additions⁴, together with the
3 associated AD and ADFIT at a 2016 AMA basis. This included associated depreciation
4 expense for the capital additions. These specific capital additions are identified later in my
5 testimony. In addition, the plant-in-service at December 31, 2015 was adjusted to a 2016
6 AMA basis. Tables depicting the electric and natural gas Pro Forma Cross Check Study
7 adjustments for October 2014 through 2016 are shown later in my testimony at Tables 9
8 through 12.

9

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III. CAPITAL BUDGET AND REVIEW

11

Q. Please describe Avista's capital budgeting process.

12

A. Avista has revised the capital budgeting process over the last few years. The
13 revised process allows for further and more detailed review of capital projects and the
14 progress on those projects, by using "business cases". A business case is a summary
15 document that provides support and analysis for a capital project or program. Components of
16 a business case include: the project description, project alternatives, cost summary, business
17 risk, financial assessment, strategic assessment, justification for the project (e.g., mandatory,
18 resource requirements, etc), milestones, key performance indicators. Business cases, along
19 with a cover sheet for the projects included in this case, have been provided as additional
20 support in Exhibit No. ____ (KKS-5).

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

1 The budget process starts with project sponsors submitting new and updated business
2 cases to the Financial Planning and Analysis (“FP&A”) group for the upcoming five year
3 period. The business cases are reviewed by FP&A and then included in the list of valid
4 projects and programs to be considered for funding by the Capital Planning Group (“CPG”).
5 The CPG is currently a group of Directors that represent all capital intensive areas of the
6 Company. The CPG meets to review the submitted Business Cases and prioritize funding to
7 meet the capital budget targets set by senior management. After approval from senior
8 management, the capital budget is sent to the Board of Directors to approve the capital
9 budget amount for the five year period. The CPG meets monthly to review the status of the
10 capital projects and programs, and approve or decline new business cases as well as monitor
11 the overall capital budget.

12 **Q. Is the Company confident that the capital additions that are presented in**
13 **this case will actually occur for the period October 2014 through December 31, 2016?**

14 A. Yes. The October through December 2014 projects are completed and many
15 of the 2015 projects are already underway, either through actual construction, signed
16 contracts, and/or ordered materials, and in some cases are already completed.

17 **Q. What is the historical and projected level of annual capital spending for**
18 **Avista?**

19 A. Avista’s annual capital requirements have steadily increased from
20 approximately \$158 million in 2006 to approximately \$352 million in 2014. Capital
21 spending of approximately \$726 million is planned for 2015-2016 for customer growth,
22 investment in generation upgrades and transmission and distribution facilities, as well as
23 necessary maintenance and replacements of our natural gas utility systems. Capital

1 expenditures of approximately \$1.77 billion are planned for the five-year period ending
 2 December 31, 2019. Exhibit No. ___(KKS-2) reflects this trend that Avista has experienced
 3 and what is planned for in the near future.

4 The actual and planned capital spending for the utility for the years 2006 through
 5 2014 are shown in Table No. 1 below. The table shows that actual capital spending has been
 6 very close to the planned spending on a consistent basis. The nine-year average of actual
 7 additions is 102% of the planned spending. This table also shows that while Avista has been
 8 increasing its capital spending it is generally remaining on budget.

9

TABLE NO. 1			
Planned vs. Actual Expenditures			
	Planned	Actual	Percentage of
	Expenditures	Expenditures	Planned
	(\$ millions)	(\$ millions)	
2006	\$159.60	\$158.30	99%
2007	183.60	198.40	108%
2008	190.00	205.40	108%
2009	202.00	199.70	99%
2010	235.00	206.80	88%
2011	260.00	247.00	95%
2012	256.50	262.00	102%
2013	274.60	296.00	108%
2014	331.00	352.00	106%
Nine Year Average	\$232.48	\$236.18	102%

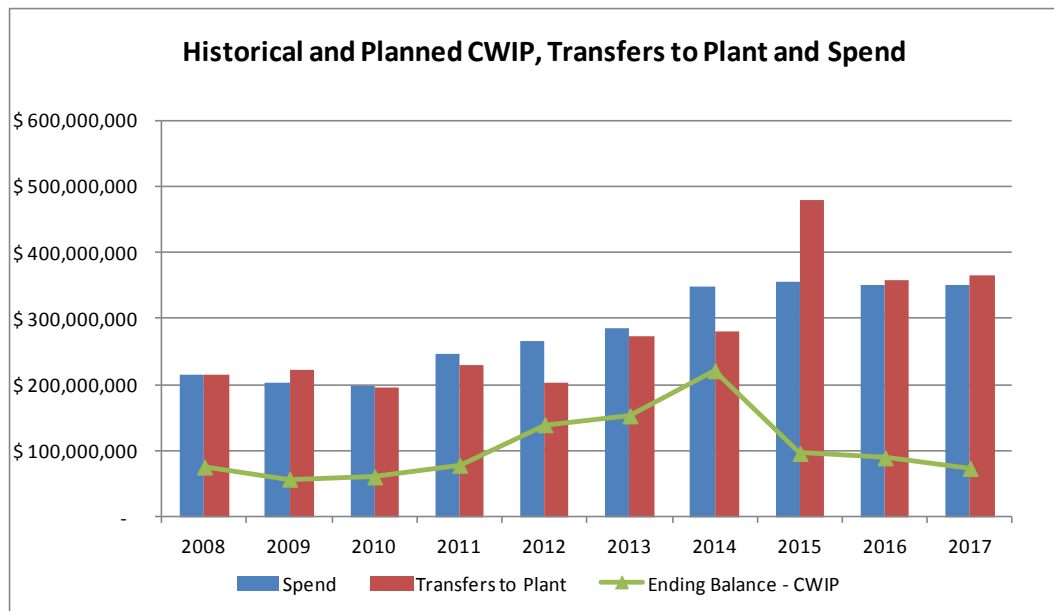
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19 **Q. Please discuss how the increase in capital spending impacts transfers-to-**
 20 **plant included in this case.**

21 A. The increase in spending will increase the level of Construction Work in
 22 Progress (“CWIP”) and eventually the levels of transfers-to-plant. Illustration No. 1 below,
 23 shows capital spending, CWIP, and transfers-to-plant for historical and planned levels. The

1 level of CWIP will increase during the years of construction of larger multi-year projects
 2 such as Project Compass and the Nine Mile Generation Project. This is shown below where
 3 the trend in CWIP increases starting in 2012, and ramps up until these projects go into
 4 service in 2015. In 2015, the amount in CWIP will return to more normal levels after these
 5 large projects have transferred to service. However, the spending and transfer-to-plant
 6 amounts shown below will be at a higher level in the upcoming years, as compared to
 7 previous years, thus accelerating the growth in rate base.

8 **Illustration 1:**



17 **Q. How does new investment in utility plant change rate base over time?**

18 A. Avista’s investment in utility plant continues to significantly exceed
 19 depreciation expense. Because of this, rate base in the rate year will be significantly greater
 20 than the historical test period rate base.

21 **Q. What is driving the significant investment in new utility plant?**

22 A. As Company witnesses Mr. Thies, Mr. Kinney and Mr. Cox, in particular,
 23 explain in their testimony, it is necessary to add or upgrade generation facilities and expand

1 transmission and distribution facilities, due in part to customer growth and reliability
2 requirements. Other issues driving the need for capital investment include aging
3 infrastructure, and municipal compliance issues (e.g., street/highway relocations), and
4 investment in new technology.

5 A significant factor in the growth in net plant investment or rate base is the cost of
6 new utility equipment and facilities today, as compared to the cost of the older facilities that
7 are now being replaced. Some of the facilities we are replacing or upgrading were installed
8 40-60 years ago, or even before that time. The cost to replace this equipment and facilities
9 today is many times more expensive than when they were installed decades ago.

10 **Q. What data is available that depicts the increase in the cost of utility plant**
11 **assets that have been added in recent years, as compared to the cost of the facilities**
12 **being replaced?**

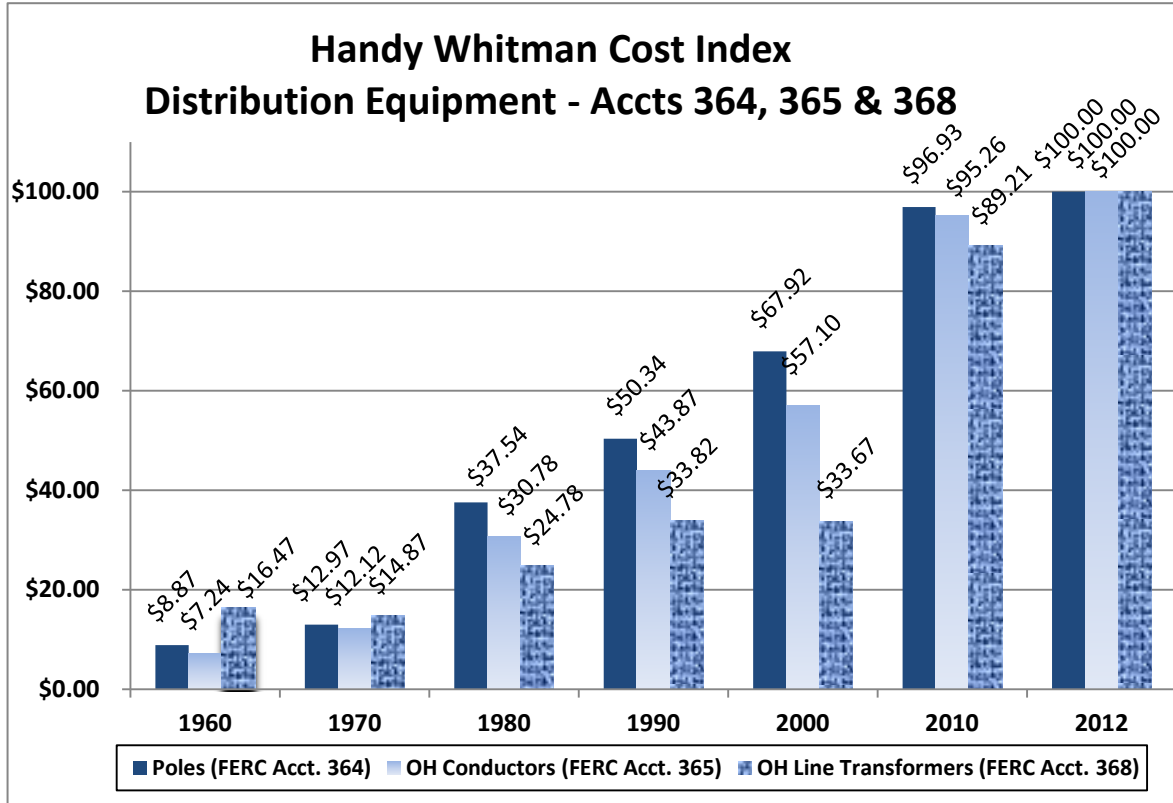
13 A. Using the Handy-Whitman Index Manual⁵, the Company analyzed several
14 major categories of plant. Exhibit No. ____ (KKS-3) depicts the increases in costs of
15 transmission substations, transmission equipment, distribution substations, and distribution
16 equipment that the utility industry has experienced over the past fifty years. These charts
17 show what these categories of plant have cost historically on a relative scale. For example,
18 on Page 4 of Exhibit No. ____ (KKS-3), and also shown in Illustration No. 2 below,

19

⁵ “The Handy-Whitman Index of Public Utility Construction Costs”, is published by Whitman, Requardt and Associates, Baltimore, Maryland, published in May 2013. The Handy-Whitman Indices of Public Utility Construction Costs show the level of costs for different types of utility construction. Separate indices are maintained for general items of construction, such as reinforced concrete, and specific items of material or equipment, such as pipe or turbo-generators. Handy-Whitman Index numbers are used to trend earlier valuations and original cost at prices prevailing at a certain date.

1 distribution poles fifty years ago would have a cost of approximately 9% of the
 2 current replacement cost.

3 **Illustration No. 2:**



15 Illustration No. 2 above and Exhibit No. ___(KKS-3), show that the cost of the
 16 equipment and facilities that are being added today are many times more expensive than
 17 those same facilities installed in the past. Our retail rates are "cost-based" and reflect the low
 18 cost of the old equipment serving customers. When the equipment is replaced, it requires an
 19 increase in rates to reflect the much higher cost of the new equipment.

20 **Q. With respect to Avista’s capital additions through 2016, would there be**
 21 **operation and maintenance (O&M) savings associated with the replacement of some of**
 22 **the aging equipment?**

1 A. In some instances there will be a reduction to O&M associated with the
2 investment, and O&M cost savings have been identified and reflected in this filing.
3 However, on a net basis, we will continue to experience increased O&M costs to maintain a
4 system that continues to age. Our general practice is to attempt to replace our aging
5 equipment before it fails, because it is not only less costly to replace this equipment on a
6 systematic, planned basis, but it also results in more reliable service to customers, which is
7 expected by all utility stakeholders. If our practice were to avoid replacing utility equipment
8 until it failed, the reliability of our system would suffer.

9 Therefore, it is imperative that we continue every year to reinvest and upgrade a
10 portion of our utility system, in addition to the investments needed to meet mandatory
11 reliability requirements. The reinvestment and upgrades actually serve, to a large extent, to
12 slow the growth of annual O&M costs, but does not result in a year-over-year reduction to
13 overall O&M costs.

14 **Q. Please provide a summary of the October 2014 through December 2016**
15 **capital projects.**

16 A. Exhibit No.__(KKS-4), details the system-level capital projects that were, or
17 will be, transferred to plant from October 2014 through December 2016. A listing and/or
18 description of the capital projects and their system costs as provided below:

19 **Generation:**

20 The electric generation projects that will transfer to plant-in-service are described in
21 detail in Mr. Kinney's direct testimony, Exhibit No.__(SJK-1T). A listing of these
22 projects on a system basis are included in Table No. 2 below.
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TABLENO. 2				
Generation / Production Capital Projects (System)				
Business Case Name	October-December	2015	2016	
	2014 \$(000's)	\$(000's)	\$(000's)	\$(000's)
Hydro - Base Load Hydro	\$ 1,126	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,149	
Hydro - Clark Fork Settlement Agreement	8,001	13,988	6,054	
Hydro - Generation Battery Replacement	100	250	250	
Hydro - Hydro Safety Minor Blanket	65	70	75	
Hydro - Little Falls Plant Upgrade		14,300	9,000	
Hydro - Nine Mile Rehab	5,175	51,323	9,871	
Hydro - Regulating Hydro	3,027	4,136	3,533	
Hydro - Spokane River License Implementation	(9)	462	16,898	
Other - Base Load Thermal Plant	201	2,200	2,200	
Other - Peaking Generation		500	500	
Thermal - Kettle Falls Water Supply	1,000			
Thermal - Colstrip Thermal Capital	1,459	2,497	10,480	
Other - Coyote Springs LTSA			2,000	
Hydro - Noxon Spare Coils		1,350		
Hydro - Post Falls South Channel Replacement		11,008		
Hydro - Cabinet Gorge Unit 1 Refurbishment		11,400		
Kettle Falls Generating Station Ash Collector	19			
	\$ 20,164	\$ 114,633	\$ 62,010	

Electric Transmission:

The electric transmission projects that will transfer to plant-in-service are described in detail in Mr. Cox's direct testimony, Exhibit No.__(BAC-1T). A listing of these projects and system costs are included in Table No. 3 below.

TABLE NO. 3				
Transmission Capital Projects (System)				
Business Case Name	October-December 2014 \$(000's)	2015 \$(000's)	2016 \$(000's)	
Colstrip Transmission/PNACI	\$ 75	\$ 491	\$ 497	
Environmental Compliance	8	350	350	
Reconductors and Rebuilds	10,686	11,763	21,161	
Storms	427	1,000	890	
Substation - 115 kV Line Relay Upgrades	262	1,525		
Substation - Asset Mgmt. Capital Maintenance	74	1,200	3,300	
Substation - Capital Spares	245	3,900	4,915	
Substation - Distribution Station Rebuilds	23	275	3,565	
Tribal Permits and Settlements	110	1,430	316	
Spokane Valley Transmission Reinforcement	1,900	2,900	7,440	
Clearwater Sub Upgrades	506	500	500	
Moscow 230 Substation Rebuild	6,363			
Transmission - Asset Management	1,279	1,709	1,772	
Transmission - NERC High Priority Mitigation	1,900			
Transmission - NERC Low Priority Mitigation	250	500	2,000	
Transmission - NERC Medium Priority Mitigation	1,717	3,294	2,251	
SCADA - SOO & BUCC	1,229	1,020	1,002	
Noxon Switchyard Rebuild		8,325	500	
Westside Rebuild Phase One			1,780	
	\$ 27,054	\$ 40,183	\$ 52,239	

Electric Distribution:

The electric distribution projects that will transfer to plant-in-service are described in detail in Mr. Cox's direct testimony, Exhibit No.__(BAC-1T). A listing of these projects and system costs are included in Table No. 4 below.

TABLENO. 4			
Distribution Capital Projects (System)			
Business Case Name	October-December 2014 \$(000's)	2015 \$(000's)	2016 \$(000's)
Distribution Grid Modernization	\$ 4,252	\$ 10,925	\$ 11,000
Distribution Line Protection	147	125	125
Distribution Minor Rebuild	1,545	8,300	8,300
Distribution Transformer Change-Out Program	597	4,700	4,700
Distribution Wood Pole Management	1,198	11,000	11,000
Meter Minor Blanket	1,039	5,806	5,806
Electric Replacement/Relocation	437	2,400	2,500
Environmental Compliance	38	150	150
Primary URD Cable Replacement	74	1,000	
Reconductors and Rebuilds		2,500	2,500
Segment Reconductor and FDR Tie Program	2,689	2,920	2,675
Spokane Electric Network	441	2,300	2,298
Storms	530	2,000	1,900
Substation - Asset Mgmt. Capital Maintenance	155	1,508	1,519
Substation - Capital Spares	6	1,200	1,200
Substation - Distribution Station Rebuilds	5,850	2,112	2,284
Substation - New Distribution Stations	412	2,026	75
Tribal Permits and Settlements			
Worst Feeders	1,351	1,999	2,000
Franchising for WSDOT	759	427	494
Harrington 4 kV Cutover		2,025	1,000
Smart Grid Demonstration Project	554		
Transmission - NERC Medium Priority Mitigation			
Spokane Smart Circuit	192		
Street Light Management		1,500	1,500
Washington AMI			32,243
	\$ 22,266	\$ 66,924	\$ 95,268

General Plant:

The detailed listing of the general plant projects and system costs that will transfer to plant-in-service are included in Table No. 5 below, with narrative summaries following the table.

TABLE NO. 5				
General Plant Capital Projects (System)				
Business Case Name	October-December		2015	2016
	2014	\$(000's)	\$(000's)	\$(000's)
Capital Tools & Stores Equipment		\$ 589	\$ 2,348	\$ 2,400
COF Long-Term Restructuring Plan		2,085	8,500	4,000
Dollar Road Service Center Addition & Remodel		1		
Structures and Improvements/Furniture		575	4,600	3,600
Battery Storage			2,063	406
Apprentice Training		5	60	60
HVAC Renovation Project		3	9,250	
New Deer Park Service Center			2,750	
COF Long-term Restructure Ph2			2,000	
		\$ 3,258	\$ 31,571	\$ 10,466

Capital Tools & Stores Equipment – 2014: \$589,000; 2015: \$2,348,000; 2016: \$2,400,000

This category includes equipment utilized in warehouses throughout the service territory, such as forklifts, manlifts, shelving, cutting/binding machines, etc. Expenditures in this category also include large tools and instruments used throughout the Company for gas and/or electric construction and maintenance work, distribution, transmission, or generation operations, telecommunications, and some fleet equipment (hoists, winch, etc.) not permanently attached to the vehicle.

Central Office Facility (COF) Long Term Campus Restructuring Plan – 2014: \$2,085,000; 2015: \$8,500,000; 2016: \$4,000,000

The central operating facility (COF) campus restructuring plan, phase one, is a two-year, multiple project plan to address material storage, field recovery operations, and office space needs. Over the past few years, our warehouse material inventory has increased and presently the materials are scattered in multiple locations on the COF, due to them outgrowing their allocated space. The campus restructuring will increase and consolidate their storage area, resulting in greater efficiencies for the warehouse and field crews. In addition, two new structures will be built to consolidate transformer recovery (both PCB and non-PCB), hazardous waste & material, and investment recovery (recycling) operations. This will improve the safety and efficiencies for collection of all field recovery materials, as well as provide a one-stop drop location for field crews (instead of the three different locations on the COF right now). Due to employee increases and off-site leased space, Avista is also remodeling two existing areas in our service building that will provide approximately

1 30 new cubicles, meeting rooms, and offices. This will help accommodate our new
 2 growth and may allow leased space employees to return to the COF. In addition,
 3 savings are gained due to line trucks and employees not having to travel and off-load
 4 waste matter that is recyclable or hazardous. After revenue requirement was
 5 finalized, it was determined that the savings were should have been allocated to all
 6 services and jurisdictions rather than only to Washington Electric and Gas. Savings
 7 are \$6,000 in 2014, \$77,000 in 2015 and \$21,000 in 2016 on a system level. The
 8 allocation to Washington is 48.25% for Electric and 14.31% for Gas making the
 9 Washington allocated savings \$2,900 Electric and \$900 Gas in 2014, \$37,000
 10 Electric and \$11,000 Gas in 2015, and \$10,000 Electric and \$3,000 Gas in 2016.

11
 12 **Dollar Road Service Center Addition & Remodel – 2014: \$1,000**

13 From 2012 - 2014, Avista constructed a 12,900 sq. ft. 6-bay fleet facility. The facility
 14 enables Avista to service CNG vehicles and gas department vehicles on-site. The
 15 service of the gas vehicles was taking place at a leased facility several miles north of
 16 the Dollar Rd. property. The Dollar Rd. expansion includes a CNG filling station for
 17 the Avista fleet. The justification of the fleet facility was found in efficiencies gained
 18 by having mechanics on-site to maintain Avista vehicles.

19
 20 **Structures and Improvements/Furniture – 2014: \$575,000; 2015: \$4,600,000;**
 21 **2016: \$3,600,000;**

22 This program is for the Capital Maintenance, Improvements, and Furniture budgets
 23 at 50 plus Avista offices and service centers (over 700,000 square feet in total). Many
 24 of the included service centers were built in the 1950's and 1960's and are starting to
 25 show signs of severe aging. The program includes capital projects in all construction
 26 disciplines (roofing, asphalt, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, energy efficiency projects
 27 etc.).

28
 29 **Battery Storage –2015: \$2,063,000; 2016: \$406,000**

30 This project will purchase eight storage units (shipping containers) and two Power
 31 Control System units. The eight storage units will be filled with an electrolyte
 32 containing vanadium suspension, which will maintain the electro-chemical charge.
 33 This will augment the current portfolio of supply assets in addition to local load
 34 management. The project is also available for matching funds made available by the
 35 Department of Commerce grant opportunity.

36
 37 **Apprentice Training – 2014: \$5,000; 2015: \$60,000; 2016: \$60,000**

38 This program is for on-going capital improvements to support the essential skills
 39 needed for journeyman workers, apprentices and pre-apprentices now and for the
 40 future. It is important to provide the types of training scenarios that employees face
 41 in the field. Capital expenditures under this program include items such as building
 42 new facilities or expanding existing facilities, purchase of equipment needed, or
 43 build out of realistic utility field infrastructure used to train employees. Examples
 44 include: new or expanded shops, truck canopies, classrooms, backhoes and other
 45 equipment, build out of “Safe City” located at the Company’s Jack Stewart training

1 facility in Spokane, which could include commercial and residential building
2 replicas, and distribution, transmission, smart grid, metering, gas and substation
3 infrastructure.

4
5 **HVAC Renovation Project – 2014: \$3,000; 2015: \$9,250,000**

6 The HVAC Renovation Project began in 2007. The HVAC Project is a systematic
7 replacement of the original 1956 Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning System
8 for the Service Building, Cafeteria/Auditorium and General Office Building. The
9 original HVAC equipment has been operating 24/7 since original construction in
10 1956. The Project entails a floor by floor evacuation and relocation of employees and
11 a complete demolition of each floor; including a massive Asbestos Abatement
12 component, and removing the original fire proofing on the basic steel structure. The
13 Project requires exhaustive demolition and reconstruction of each floor. Sustainable
14 energy savings and conservation are built into the Project as we apply for LEED
15 certification for each floor. The 5th, 4th, and 3rd floor has obtained LEED-CI Gold
16 status recognizing all of the renewable strategies we employed during the design and
17 construction phases. The goal of this project is to re-purpose and recycle the entire
18 Facility for the next generation of Avista employees to use for 50 more years. Life
19 cycle costs weighed heavily on our Construction Specifications and equipment
20 choices during the design phase. The design team chose energy efficient equipment
21 that was designed for 30 to 50 year life cycles. After revenue requirements was
22 finalized, it was determined that the savings were should have been allocated to all
23 services and jurisdictions rather than only to Washington Electric and Gas. The
24 O&M offset is calculated as \$66,000 occurring in 2015 with Washington's portion
25 being \$32,000 Electric and \$9,500 Gas. An additional \$10,000 will occur in 2016
26 with Washington's portion being \$4,800 Electric and \$1,400 Gas. This has been
27 included in the O&M Offsets adjustment as shown in Company witness Ms. Smith's
28 workpapers.

29
30 **New Deer Park Service Center- 2015: \$2,750,000**

31 This investment will replace the existing Deer Park Service Center. The current
32 building is over 40 years old, and the existing storage yard is too small for ever-
33 growing inventory. There are environmental concerns with the existing site located
34 near railroad tracks, and the close proximity to city water well. The existing building
35 is tight for current line truck sizes, the warehouse is undersized, and has code
36 compliance and security issues. Deer Park is one of our lower-performing service
37 centers on the Facilities Building Survey Report. No O&M offsets are presented on
38 the attached copy of the Business Case, however after further discussion it was
39 determined that \$16,000 of annual savings would occur after the in-service date of
40 September 2015. The O&M offset is calculated as \$16,000 occurring in 2015 with
41 Washington's portion being \$12,600 Electric and \$3,400 Gas. This has been included
42 in the O&M Offsets adjustment as shown in Company witness Ms. Smith's
43 workpapers.

1 **Central Office Facility (COF) Long-Term Restructure Phase 2- 2015:**
 2 **\$2,000,000**

3 Avista's Central Office Facility (COF) Long Term Restructuring Plan, Phase 2
 4 involves the construction of a new Fleet Vehicle Garage and four story parking
 5 structure. By the end of 2015, facilities projects will add approximately 183 new
 6 cubicles. Our parking lots will be beyond maximum capacity. The Company
 7 currently leases space from Burlington Northern for employee parking. This lease
 8 space could be at risk in the future, if Burlington needs the space. The Fleet Garage is
 9 over 50 yrs old and is constrained. The new garage will allow for maintenance of
 10 Compressed Natural Gas vehicles as the current building does not allow for this.
 11 Once Fleet is relocated there will be a distinct separation between operational/service
 12 vehicles and employee vehicles. This separation will increase safety by eliminating
 13 intermingling of pedestrians in work areas. The office building & parking garage is
 14 projected to allow the Call Center and any leased facilities to come back to Mission
 15 campus. The Ross Park conversion to office will cover any future employee
 16 expansion that will occur. After revenue requirement was finalized, it was
 17 determined that the savings were should have been allocated to all services and
 18 jurisdictions rather than only to Washington Electric and Gas It was determined that
 19 O&M costs of \$11,000 will occur in 2015 and again in 2016 for a total of \$22,000.
 20 These O&M costs are the result of additional maintenance costs associated with
 21 employees returning to Mission campus. Washington's apportionment of this amount
 22 is \$10,600 Electric and \$3,148 Gas.

23
 24 **Transportation:**

25
 26 The detailed listing of the transportation projects and the system costs that will
 27 transfer to plant-in-service are included in Table No. 6 below, with narrative
 28 summaries following the table.

29
 30 **TABLE NO. 6**
 31 **Transportation Capital Projects (System)**

Business Case Name	October-December	2015	2016
	2014 \$(000's)	\$(000's)	\$(000's)
Fleet Budget	\$ 1,404	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,700
CNG Fleet Conversion	9		
	\$ 1,413	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,700

32
 33
 34
 35
 36
 37
 38

39 **Fleet Budget – 2014: \$1,404,000; 2015: \$7,700,000; 2016: \$7,700,000**

40 Expenditures are for the scheduled replacement of trucks, off-road construction
 41 equipment and trailers that meet the Company's guidelines for replacement including
 42 age, mileage, hours of use and overall condition. This also includes additions to the
 43 fleet for new positions or crews working to support the maintenance and construction
 44 of our electric and natural gas operations.
 45

CNG Fleet Conversion – 2014: \$9,000

This project is to convert 119 light duty trucks to CNG over the next seven years. If more vehicles are acquired in the fleet, there is a potential for more CNG to be served from these refueling stations. Vehicle conversion began in 2012 and will continue on 15-20 vehicles per year for the foreseeable future. After the revenue requirement was finalized it was determined that there will be additional costs of approximately \$90,000 in 2015 and approximately \$90,000 in 2016, not otherwise reflected in the revenue requirement.

IS/IT:

The IS/IT projects that will transfer to plant-in-service are described in detail in Mr. Kensok's direct testimony, Exhibit No.__(JMK-1T). A listing of these projects and the system costs are included in Table No. 7 below:

Business Case Name	October-December 2014 \$(000's)	2015 \$(000's)	2016 \$(000's)
AvistaUtilities.com Upgrade	\$ 1,538	\$ 4,125	\$ 2,000
Enterprise Business Continuity Plan	121	450	450
Mobility in the Field	189	450	320
Technology Refresh to Sustain Business Process	5,421	18,595	16,095
Customer Information and Work & Asset Management Sy		95,108	
Enterprise Security	666	3,800	3,200
Technology Expansion to Enable Business Process	1,661	6,069	5,552
Trove Sunstone Integration	245		
High Voltage Protection Upgrade	485	719	415
Next Generation Radio Refresh		4,200	
Microwave Refresh	653	2,363	3,050
	\$ 10,979	\$ 135,879	\$ 31,082

Jackson Prairie Storage – 2014: \$205,000; 2015: \$1,356,000; 2016: \$1,175,000

These projects include various capital improvements that Avista and its partners will complete at the Jackson Prairie facility.

Natural Gas Distribution:

The detailed listing of the natural gas distribution projects and system costs that will transfer to plant-in-service are included in Table 8, with narrative summaries following the table.

TABLE NO. 8				
Natural Gas Distribution Capital Projects (System)				
Business Case Name	October-December		2015	2016
	2014	2014	2015	2016
	(\$'000's)	(\$'000's)	(\$'000's)	(\$'000's)
Aldyl A Replacement	\$ 4,342		\$ 16,817	\$ 17,385
Cathodic Protection	210		950	1,000
Gas Non-Revenue Program	1,060		7,664	8,594
Gas Reinforcement	122		1,000	1,000
Gas Replacement Street & Highway	1,010		4,500	4,500
Gas Telemetry	53		400	400
Isolated Steel Replacement	550		3,450	3,550
Overbuilt Pipe Replacement	81		900	900
Regulator Station Reliability Replacement	59		800	800
Replace Deteriorating Steel Gas Systems	107		1,000	1,000
Gas HP Pipeline Remediation Program				3,000
Gas PMC Program - Capital Replacements	121		1,030	1,061
Goldendale HP			3,505	
NSC Greene St HP Gas Main	9			
ERTs Replacement Program			402	444
Washington AMI				8,758
	\$ 7,724		\$ 42,418	\$ 52,392

Aldyl A Replacement – 2014: \$4,342,000; 2015: \$16,817,000; 2016: \$17,385,000

The Company is continuing with a twenty-year program to systematically remove and replace select portions of the DuPont Aldyl A medium density polyethylene pipe in its natural gas distribution system in the States of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. None of the subject pipe is “high pressure main pipe,” but rather, consists of distribution mains at maximum operating pressures of 60 psi and pipe diameters ranging from 1¼ to 4 inches. This program is described further by Mr. Kopczynski in his testimony, Exhibit No.__(DFK-1T).

Cathodic Protection – 2014: \$210,000; 2015: \$950,000; 2016: \$1,000,000

This annual project upgrades, replaces, or installs cathodic protection systems required to ensure compliance with Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration regulations regarding proper cathodic protection of steel mains.

Gas Non-Revenue Program - 2014: \$1,060,000; 2015: \$7,664,000; 2016: \$8,594,000

This annual project will replace sections of existing natural gas piping that require replacement to improve the operation of the natural gas system but are not linked to new revenue. The project includes improvements in equipment and/or technology to improve system operation and/or maintenance, replacement of obsolete facilities, replacement of main to improve cathodic performance, and projects to improve public safety and/or improve system reliability.

Gas Reinforcement – 2014: \$122,000; 2015: \$1,000,000; 2016: \$1,000,000

This annual project will reinforce portions of the existing natural gas system to ensure continued reliable service during a design day for areas that have had low pressure problems due to increased growth and/or system demand. This project will identify and install new sections of gas main to improve the operating reliability and performance of the gas distribution system. Execution of this program on an annual

1 basis will ensure the continuation of reliable gas service that is of adequate pressure
2 and capacity.

3
4 **Gas Replacement Street/Highways – 2014: \$1,010,000; 2015: \$4,500,000; 2016:
5 \$4,500,000**

6 This annual project will replace sections of existing natural gas piping that require
7 replacement due to relocation or improvement of streets or highways in areas where
8 natural gas piping is installed. Avista installs many of its facilities in public right-of-
9 way under established franchise agreements. Avista is required under the franchise
10 agreements, in most cases, to relocate its facilities when they are in conflict with road
11 or highway improvements.

12
13 **Gas Telemetry – 2014: \$53,000; 2015: \$400,000; 2016: \$400,000**

14 The projects will include the installation of six flow computers to replace existing
15 aging infrastructure. Additionally this project includes all new telemetry installations,
16 to include both wireless and hard-wired.

17
18 **Isolated Steel Replacement – 2014: \$550,000; 2015: \$3,450,000; 2016: \$3,550,000**

19 The Company is implementing a special cathodic protection program for the purpose
20 of finding and addressing isolated steel in its natural gas piping systems.

21
22 **Overbuilt Pipe Replacement – 2014: \$81,000; 2015: \$900,000; 2016: \$900,000**

23 This annual project will replace sections of existing gas piping that have experienced
24 encroachment or have been “overbuilt”, i.e., where a structure has been built over
25 existing gas piping. It will address the replacement of sections of gas main that no
26 longer can be operated safely and will identify and replace sections of main to
27 improve public safety. All types of overbuilds will be addressed, with the primary
28 focus of the project being overbuilds in manufactured home developments.

29
30 **Regulator Station Reliability Replacement - 2014: \$59,000; 2015: \$800,000;
31 2016: \$800,000**

32 This annual project upgrades or replaces various regulator stations within the natural
33 gas distribution system, improving station reliability and reducing operation and
34 maintenance costs. Existing stations require upgrades due to many factors, such as
35 replacement of obsolete equipment and improvement in regulation technology.

36
37 **Replace Deteriorating Steel Gas Systems – 2014: \$107,000; 2015: \$1,000,000;
38 2016: \$1,000,000**

39 This annual program will replace sections of existing steel gas piping that are suspect
40 for failure or are showing signs of deterioration within the gas system. This program
41 will address the replacement of sections of gas main with corrosion-related issues
42 that no longer operate reliably and/or safely. Sections of the gas system require
43 replacement due to many factors including material failures, environmental impact,
44 increased leak frequency, or coating problems. This program will identify and replace
45 sections of steel pipe to improve public safety and system reliability. The primary

1 focus is to address corrosion related pipe issues.
2

3 **Gas High Pressure (HP) Pipeline Remediation Program – 2016: \$3,000,000**

4 The Gas High Pressure Pipeline Remediation Program will replace and/or relocate
5 sections of high pressure (>100 psig operating pressure) pipelines as determined and
6 prioritized by various asset management programs. Reasons for the replacements
7 might include, but are not limited to: lack of complete construction documents, lack
8 of complete test documentation, pipe quality deficiencies from the manufacturing
9 process, and reducing risk in highly populated areas.

10
11 **Gas Planned Meter Change-Out (PMC) Program-Capital Replacements – 2014:
12 \$121,000; 2015: \$1,030,000; 2016: \$1,061,000**

13 This annual program will provide for replacement of gas meters and associated
14 measurement equipment that are completed in association with the Gas Planned
15 Meter Change-out (PMC) program. Avista is required by commission rules and an
16 approved Tariff in WA, ID, and OR to test meters for accuracy and ensure proper
17 metering performance. Execution of this program on an annual basis will ensure the
18 continuation of reliable gas measurement. This program will include the labor and
19 minor materials associated with the PMC program.

20
21 **Goldendale HP - 2015: \$3,505,000**

22 The coating on the existing high pressure (HP) main that feeds the town of
23 Goldendale is disbonded and is showing signs of early stages of corrosion. This line
24 has been exposed in several different locations, and all sections have similar
25 characteristics. Avista will replace nearly 3 miles of 4" HP feeding the town of
26 Goldendale with new 4" steel main. Federal code mandates that the coating on steel
27 mains must be properly adhered to the main to protect the pipe from corrosion.

28
29 **NSC Green Street HP Gas Main – 2014: \$9,000**

30 Due to WSDOT's North-South Corridor project, a relocation of the 20" natural gas
31 main on N Greene St is required. Avista is working with WSDOT and a railroad
32 company to determine a route for the new gas main that will have the least impact to
33 the gas system.

34
35 **ERTs Replacement Program - 2015: \$402,000; 2016: \$444,000**

36 This program covers labor required for the replacement of 19,500 natural gas
37 Encoder Receiver Transmitters (ERTs) annually for a 12-year cycle, beginning in the
38 year 2015. Analyses has identified that a leveled replacement strategy will
39 minimize the effect of unit failures as well as introduce new, leveled populations of
40 ERTs into the system for future predictive maintenance.

41
42 **Washington Natural Gas AMI – 2016: \$8,758,000**

43 This project will replace existing metering system in Washington State with an
44 advanced metering system. This Natural gas portion of this project involves adding a
45 encoder receiver to the existing natural meter, and not replacing the meter itself. The

1 replacement will install an AMI metering system that will include: encoder receivers,
 2 network, back-office systems, and a data repository. The project will take several
 3 years to complete. There will be O&M savings that will come from the reduced field
 4 operations costs around billing process and the Natural Gas Meter Shop required to
 5 operate and maintain the metering systems. O&M savings start in stages as the
 6 metering technology is deployed. The first reduction will be in reading and
 7 collection costs as areas are completed. These savings in 2016 are estimated to be
 8 approximately \$197,000 on a system level of which \$155,000 is allocated to
 9 Washington Electric and \$42,000 is allocated to Natural Gas. Please see Company
 10 witness Mr. Cox for further details on the electric offsets included in this case.
 11

12 **Q. What is the net impact to electric rate base for the twelve months ended**
 13 **September 30, 2014, in order to restate capital to an end-of-period basis, as well as the**
 14 **impact of the October through December 31, 2014 additions?**

15 A. Electric net rate base for capital investment as of year-end December 31,
 16 2014 increased \$35,098,000, from \$1,217,603,000 on an September 30, 2014 AMA basis to
 17 \$1,252,701,000 on an December 31, 2014 EOP basis as shown in Table No. 9 below.

18 **TABLE NO. 9**
Restating Electric Adjustment (000's)

	Rate Base 9.30.2014 AMA	Adjust 9.30.14 to EOP Basis ²	Adjust 9.30.14 Vintage to 12.31.14 EOP	Oct-Dec 2014 Capital Additions to 12.31.14 EOP	Rate Base 12.31.14 EOP
Plant	\$ 2,242,311	\$ 47,891	\$ -	\$ 47,178	\$ 2,337,380
A/D	(780,322)	(25,928)	(16,999)	8,857	\$ (814,392)
DFIT	(244,386)	(24,438)	(1,463)	-	\$ (270,287)
Rate Base	\$ 1,217,603	\$ (2,475)	\$ (18,462)	\$ 56,035	\$ 1,252,701

19

20

21

22

23 ² The decrease in electric and natural gas rate base from AMA to EOP at September 30, 2014, is primarily
 24 due to an increase in accumulated deferred federal income taxes. That increase is the result of Avista
 25 recording in the test period an estimate of the impact of a tax deduction the Company intends to file in its
 26 2014 federal income tax return. Avista plans to make a "Change of Accounting" filing to implement certain
 IRS Tangible Property Regulations associated with revised rules on property capitalization versus repair
 requirements. The study to implement this tax accounting change, which is commonly referred to as a
 "Repairs Study", will be finalized during the first quarter of 2015. In September 2014, the Company
 recorded its estimate with the best information available and currently does not expect the overall estimate
 to change materially.

1 **Q. What was the net impact to natural gas rate base for the twelve months**
 2 **ended September 30, 2014, in order to restate capital to a December 31, 2014 end-of-**
 3 **period basis?**

4 A. Natural gas net rate base for capital investment as of twelve-months-ended
 5 September 30, 2014, increased \$2,960,000, from \$218,071,000 on an AMA basis to
 6 \$221,031,000 on a December 31, 2014 EOP basis. Table No. 10 below summarizes the
 7 adjustment included in the case.

8

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TABLE NO. 10					
Restating Natural Gas Adjustment (000's)					
	Rate Base 9.30.2014 AMA	Adjust 9.30.14 to EOP Basis ³	Adjust 9.30.14 Vintage to 12.31.14 EOP	Oct-Dec 2014 Capital Additions to 12.31.14 EOP	Rate Base 12.31.14 EOP
Plant	\$ 416,051	\$ 11,109	\$ -	\$ 5,341	\$ 432,501
A/D	(139,625)	(5,130)	(3,427)	2,416	(145,766)
DFIT	(58,355)	(7,504)	155	-	(65,704)
Rate Base	\$ 218,071	\$ (1,525)	\$ (3,272)	\$ 7,757	\$ 221,031

15 ³ id.

16 **Q. What is the net change to electric rate base for 2015 and 2016 capital**
 17 **investment?**

18 A. Electric net rate base increases \$146,661,000, from \$1,252,701,000 to
 19 \$1,399,362,000 for the 2015/2016 two-year period, as shown in Table No. 11 below.

20

TABLE NO. 11									
2015/2016 Planned Electric Investment in (000's)									
	Rate Base 12.31.14 EOP	2015			2016				Rate Base 2016 AMA
		Adjust 9.30.14	Oct-Dec 2014 Capital Additions to 12.31.15 EOP	2015 Capital Additions to 2015 EOP	Adjust 9.30.14	Oct-Dec 2014 Capital Additions to 2016 AMA	2015 Capital Additions to 2016 AMA	2016 Capital Additions to 2016 AMA	
Plant	\$ 2,337,380	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 214,880	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,861	\$ 2,584,121
A/D	\$ (814,392)	(68,318)	(2,198)	15,860	(34,528)	(1,099)	(5,785)	13,768	\$ (896,692)
DFIT	\$ (270,287)	(2,795)	-	(7,696)	(267)	-	(5,478)	(1,544)	\$ (288,067)
Rate Base	\$ 1,252,701	\$(71,113)	\$(2,198)	\$ 223,044	\$(34,795)	\$(1,099)	\$(11,263)	\$ 44,085	\$ 1,399,362

8 **Q. What is the net change to natural gas rate base for 2015 and 2016 capital**
9 **investment?**

10 A. Natural gas net rate base increases \$34,396,000, from \$221,031,000 to
11 \$255,427,000 for the 2015/2016 two-year period, as shown in Table No. 12 below.

TABLE NO. 12									
2015/2016 Planned Natural Gas Investment in (000's)									
	Rate Base 12.31.14 EOP	2015			2016				Rate Base 2016 AMA
		Adjust 9.30.14	Oct-Dec 2014 Capital Additions to 12.31.15 EOP	2015 Capital Additions to 2015 EOP	Adjust 9.30.14	Oct-Dec 2014 Capital Additions to 2016 AMA	2015 Capital Additions to 2016 AMA	2016 Capital Additions to 2016 AMA	
Plant	\$ 432,501	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,935	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,330	\$ 488,766
A/D	\$ (145,766)	(13,713)	(473)	3,984	(6,857)	(237)	(1,486)	1,913	\$ (162,635)
DFIT	\$ (65,704)	(1,045)	-	(1,997)	(162)	-	(1,409)	(387)	\$ (70,704)
Rate Base	\$ 221,031	\$(14,758)	\$(473)	\$ 43,922	\$(7,019)	\$(237)	\$(2,895)	\$ 15,856	\$ 255,427

19
20 **Q. Did you factor in retirements for the October 2014 through December**
21 **2016 Electric and Natural gas pro forma adjustments?**

1 A. Yes. The Company used an estimate based on planned transfers-to-plant and
2 historical retirements, and then allocated these by functional group to service and
3 jurisdiction. Further detail is provided in my workpapers.

4 **Q. How were the offsets determined for the October 2014 through**
5 **December 2016 plant investment?**

6 A. Each capital addition was analyzed to determine any offsets (e.g., reduced
7 O&M costs, reduced load losses, etc.). Maintenance records were reviewed to determine
8 whether any specific maintenance costs were incurred in the test period that would be
9 reduced or eliminated by the investment at the facility. For transmission projects, analyses
10 were conducted to determine the amount of potential load loss savings that would be
11 achieved. Those costs were quantified and included as a reduction to O&M costs in the
12 O&M Savings pro forma adjustment included by Ms. Smith in the revenue requirement as a
13 part of her Pro Forma Cross Check Study.

14 In addition, the output from generation assets is included in the AURORA_{XMP} power
15 cost model. Therefore, to the extent that the additional investments serve to either preserve
16 or increase generation from the generation projects, the benefits are already reflected in the
17 AURORA_{XMP} model.

18 **Q. What is the rationale behind the removal of capital expenditures for**
19 **connecting new customers in the Pro Forma Cross Check Study?**

20 A. The capital expenditures for the period October 2014 through December 2016
21 exclude distribution-related capital expenditures that are associated with connecting new
22 customers to the Company's system. Excluding these capital expenditures from the Pro
23 Forma Cross Check Study recognizes the fact that new customers provide incremental

1 revenue that helps offset the costs associated with these distribution-related capital additions.
2 Retail revenues for the Pro Forma Cross-Check Study are based on historical test period
3 loads, and do not include revenues from new customers beyond the test period.

4

5 **IV. ADVANCED METER INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI)**

6 **Q. Please briefly describe the Electric and Natural Gas AMI projects.**

7 A. The Company has entered the initial planning phase of a program to deploy
8 advanced meters for its electric and natural gas customers in Washington. The project, which
9 will encompass approximately six years, beginning in 2015, will install equipment and
10 deploy advanced meters to approximately 253,000 electric customers, and 155,000 natural
11 gas customers. Through the Company's advanced meter project, a complete replacement of
12 the existing electric meters will occur, and these meters will be replaced with a new digital
13 advanced meter. Existing natural gas meters will be upgraded with a new digital
14 communicating module referred to as an "Encoder Receiver Transmitter" or "ERT".

15 **Q. Has the Company included any Pro Forma transfers-to-plant for AMI in**
16 **the adjustments above?**

17 A. Yes. The Company has included \$32.2⁶ million as shown in Table No. 4
18 above. Company witness Mr. Kopczyński discusses this project within his testimony.

19 **Q. Please describe the life expectancy of the AMI Meters and**
20 **infrastructure.**

⁶ The approximate \$32.2 million relates to gross plant on an End of Period basis as of December 31, 2016. The amount reflected in this case is the AMA level of capital totaling \$19.06 million.

1 A. AMI meters are expected to have a 15 year life. The Company is proposing in
2 this case that a 15 year life be used instead of the current approved rate of approximately 29
3 years on Washington standard meters. The backend equipment (hardware and software) that
4 will be supporting the AMI meters has a lifetime expectancy of normal hardware and
5 software, and will be depreciated in accordance with the Company's most recent
6 depreciation study.

7 **Q. Upon installation of the new electric distribution meters, will the existing**
8 **electric meters be fully depreciated on Avista's books?**

9 A. No. As of December 31, 2015, prior to the installation of new the AMI
10 meters, the Company will have approximately \$20.2 million on its books related to the net
11 book value of its existing electric distribution meters.

12 **Q. How does the Company propose to account for the existing meters?**

13 A. The Company is requesting approval in this case, effective January 1, 2016 to
14 transfer the net book value of the existing meters from electric distribution plant, and record
15 as a regulatory asset in FERC Account 182.3 – Other Regulatory Assets, for regulatory
16 purposes. The net impact to net rate base is therefore \$0.⁷

17 The Company is proposing to amortize this regulatory asset balance over a ten-year
18 period through FERC Account 407, starting in January of 2016, or approximately \$2.0
19 million in amortization expense per year. The net impact to expense, therefore, is an
20 increase in amortization expense of \$2.0 million, offset by a reduction in depreciation

⁷ These rate base adjustments reflect a transfer of assets from one category to another therefore; no ADFIT was calculated on the adjustments to move these from traditional rate base to a regulatory asset. As these meters are retired (upon installation of the new meters), appropriate ADFIT will be recorded.

1 expense of \$900,000 (related to the reduction in net plant), for an overall increase in
2 depreciation/amortization expense of \$1.1 million.

3 For this case, Ms. Smith’s Pro Forma Cross Check Study has accounted for the
4 reduction in net plant and depreciation expense in adjustment 4.02 – Electric Pro Forma
5 2016 Capital Adjustment, and included the regulatory asset and amortization expense in
6 adjustment 4.03 –Meter Retirement Deferral. Ms. Andrews has incorporated the rate base
7 and amortization of these meters within her Attrition study at Exhibit No. _(EMA-2), pages
8 4-5, column [C]. The Company is requesting that the Commission to issue an order
9 approving the regulatory asset and the depreciation rate associated with the AMI project.

10

11 **V. COMPLIANCE WITH PAST COMMISSION ORDER ON CAPITAL**

12

EXPENDITURE REPORTING

13

Q. Please summarize the Company’s compliance with the most recent

14

Commission order regarding capital addition compliance reports?

15

A. In Order No. 05, Dockets UE-140188 and UG-140189, paragraph 50, the

16

Commission directed the Company to do the following:

17

*“Avista agrees to provide semi-annual reporting of 2014 and 2015
18 capital expenditures with actual data by expenditure request, in the
19 categories provided in its pro forma “cross check” plant adjustments.
20 The settling parties agree to meet no later than January 31, 2015, to
21 establish any additional details of the capital reporting
22 requirements.”*

23

24

The Company conferred with all parties on January 26, 2015, to discuss the details of

25

the capital reporting requirements. Avista provided a proposal that included additional

26

information, and the detail by expenditure request, a construction work in progress (CWIP)

1 roll-forward, and the 2013 -2015 expenditure request detail for capital spend and transfers-
2 to-plant. The parties agreed that Avista will add the business case description, as well as the
3 service and jurisdiction to the report for transfers-to-plant. Avista will also breakout the
4 actual and budgeted data provided in the CWIP roll-forward. Avista will issue its first
5 Capital Compliance Report on March 1, 2015, for the year ended December 31, 2014, and
6 will file the additional required reports on September 1, 2015, and March 1, 2016.

7

8

VI. 2017 CAPITAL ADDITIONS

9

Q. Why has Avista included information regarding 2017 capital additions?

10

A. The Company has included 2017 information regarding capital additions to
11 provide an indication of the Company's ongoing capital investments beyond December 31,
12 2016. The 2017 plant additions have been included for information purposes only and have
13 not otherwise been included in the Company's revenue increase request. As discussed
14 further in Ms. Andrews and Mr. Thies' testimony, the Company's plans call for significant
15 capital expenditure requirements over the next five years.

16

Q. Please summarize the planned Capital Additions for 2017.

17

A. The capital investment for 2017 was derived as a part of the capital budget
18 process that was completed in the fall of 2014. The current forecasted capital spend for 2017
19 has been approved by the Board of Directors. Table No. 13 below, summarizes the gross
20 capital additions by functional group. Additional details are provided in Exhibit No. __KKS-
21 4.

22

TABLE NO. 13	
Capital Additions (System)	
Functional Group:	2017 \$ (000's)
Generation/Production	\$ 67,213
General Plant	21,060
Natural Gas Distribution	45,800
Gas Underground Storage:	1,117
Transportation	7,700
Enterprise Technology	44,202
Transmission	41,412
Distribution	94,799
	\$ 323,303
Idaho/Oregon Direct Capital Additions	\$ 9,275
Total Capital Additions	\$ 332,578

The items listed in this table are for the same types of projects as those described for the October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016 additions discussed earlier in my testimony.

Q. What is the net increase in Washington electric rate base from AMA 2016 to AMA 2017 related to 2017 capital expenditures?

A. Washington electric rate base will increase \$135,598,000 from the December 31, 2016 AMA balance of \$1,399,362,000 to \$1,534,960,000 at AMA December 31, 2017. This adjustment has two components. First, the December 31, 2016 AMA net plant balances, net of ADFIT, that were included in the Pro Forma Cross Check Analysis were adjusted to a December 31, 2017 AMA basis. Next, the 2017 additions together with the associated A/D and ADFIT were included to arrive at December 31, 2017 AMA rate base.

Q. What is the net increase in Washington natural gas rate base from AMA 2016 to AMA 2017 related to 2017 capital expenditures?

A. Washington natural gas rate base increases \$26,415,000 from the December 31, 2016 AMA balance of \$255,426,000 to \$281,841,000 at AMA December 31, 2017. This

1 adjustment has two components. First, the December 31, 2016 AMA net plant balances, net
2 of ADFIT, that were included in the Pro Forma Cross Check Analysis were adjusted to a
3 December 31, 2017 AMA basis. Next the 2017 additions together with the associated A/D
4 and ADFIT were included to arrive at December 31, 2017 AMA rate base.

5 **Q. Does this conclude your pre-filed direct testimony?**

6 A. Yes, it does.