



Avista Corp.

1411 East Mission P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, Washington 99220-0500
Telephone 509-489-0500
Toll Free 800-727-9170

January 15, 2020

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, Washington 98503

Re: Docket No. UE-011595, Monthly Power Cost Deferral Report, December 2019
Docket No. UE-140188, Monthly REC Report, December 2019

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Enclosed for electronic filing is Avista Corporation’s Power Cost Deferral Report for the month of December 2019. 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 9 of the December 2019 Power Cost Deferral report, actual net power supply costs, including the retail revenue adjustment, were lower than authorized net power costs for the Washington jurisdiction by \$1,693,438. A deferral entry was recorded in the amount of \$1,096,569 in the rebate direction for the month. Year to date actual net power supply costs were lower than authorized power supply costs in the amount of \$5,462,092 with \$4,365,523 retained by the Company and \$1,096,569 recorded in the deferral, as illustrated in the table below.

	Total	Absorbed (Avista)	Deferred (Customer)
First \$4M at 100%	\$ (4,000,000)	\$ (4,000,000)	\$ -
\$4M to \$10M at 25% (rebate)	\$ (1,462,092)	\$ (365,523)	\$ (1,096,569)
\$4M to \$10M at 50% (surcharge)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Over \$10M at 10%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ (5,462,092)	\$ (4,365,523)	\$ (1,096,569)

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In December, actual power supply expense was lower than the authorized level due primarily to low natural gas prices and increased gas-fired generation. The average natural gas price was \$1.87/dth compared to an authorized price of \$2.83/dth. The average power price was \$24.04/MWh compared to an authorized price of \$26.08/MWh. Gas-fired generation was 29 aMW above the authorized level.

Hydro generation was 73 aMW below the authorized level. Colstrip and Kettle Falls generated 21 aMW below and 3 aMW above the authorized level respectively. The net transmission expense (transmission expense less transmission revenue) was below the authorized level. Washington retail sales were 35 aMW below the authorized level.


The report also includes the monthly renewable energy credits (RECs) accounting journal together with backup work papers (Attachment B). Per Order 05, Docket UE-140188, the Company defers 100% of the net monthly RECs not associated with compliance for the Washington Energy Independence Act. For a summary of beginning and ending balances, as well as monthly activity including net revenues for December 2019 of \$127,049 and interest, please see page 16 of the Power Cost Deferral Report.

There was one forward long-term power contract executed in December 2019 which is provided in Attachment C.

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,



Patrick D. Ehrbar
Director of Regulatory Affairs

