

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a
AVISTA UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-220053 and
UG-220054

REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF FUND
GRANT OF THE ENERGY PROJECT

1 Pursuant to the Washington Interim Participatory Funding Agreement (Funding Agreement),¹ approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) in Order 01 in Docket No. U-210595, and Order 05 Granting Requests for Case Certification and Order 06 Approving and Rejecting Proposed Budgets for Fund Grants in Dockets UE-220053 and UG-220054, The Energy Project (TEP) hereby respectfully requests payment of a Fund Grant from the Customer Access Fund for Avista Corporation (Avista)² in the amount of \$50,000. In support of this request, TEP states the following:

2 On January 21, 2022, Avista filed its request for a general rate revision for both its gas and electric service. The Commission docketed these filings as UE-220053 and UG-220054.

3 On February 25, 2022, TEP filed a Request for Case Certification and Notice of Intent to Request a Fund Grant. On March 16, 2022, the Commission issued Bench Requests No. 1 and No. 2, requesting additional information from TEP and certain other parties. On March 18, 2022, TEP filed its response to Bench Request No. 1. On March 24, 2022, the Commission approved TEP's request for case certification.³

4 On April 21, 2022, TEP filed a Proposed Budget and requested a Fund Grant in this docket in the amount of \$50,000 to partially offset the costs of its participation in the proceeding. The

¹ Docket U-210595, Order 01, Approving Agreement with Modifications (Feb. 24, 2022).

² See Funding Agreement § 4.2.

³ Order 05, Granting Requests for Case Certification (Mar. 24, 2022).

Commission approved TEP's Proposed Budget for a Fund Grant in the amount of \$50,000 on May 27, 2022.⁴

5 TEP focused on all matters having an impact on Avista's low-income and vulnerable customers, including, among other issues, low-income assistance program funding and design, low-income weatherization, billing, credit and collection issues, arrearage management, COVID-19 impacts and costs, performance-based regulation, time varying rates, and Avista's revenue requirement.

6 TEP respectfully submits that this request for payment satisfies the requirement of the Funding Agreement Section 7.1 as follows:

- a. Section 7.1(a). The itemized expenses, payees and hourly rates for amounts to be reimbursed, including billing details, and including separately identified amounts for consultant or expert fees and travel expenses are attached as Confidential Exhibit A. TEP does not include any apportioned wages for in-house staff related to participation in this proceeding.
- b. Section 7.1(b). TEP was a full and active participant in this docket and the expenses are reasonable and directly attributable to issues and positions pursued on behalf of low-income customers and vulnerable populations, including efforts to develop and expand rate assistance, energy efficiency programs, and other matters impacting low-income customers. As the only party focusing solely on the interests of low-income customers in this proceeding, TEP issued and reviewed discovery, participated in settlement conferences, participated in several prehearing/status conferences, filed testimony supporting the settlement, reviewed testimony of other parties, prepared for and attended an evidentiary hearing, and filed a closing brief. The expenses included in Confidential Attachment A are Eligible Expenses as defined in Funding Agreement Section 7.3 and are reasonable and directly attributable to TEP's participation in this proceeding on behalf of low-income customers and vulnerable populations.

⁴ Order 06, Approving and Rejecting Proposed Budgets for Fund Grants (May 27, 2022).

- c. Section 7.1(c). As set forth in this request for payment, TEP has provided information sufficient to demonstrate that TEP complied with all conditions and requirements of its Approved Fund Grant.
- d. Section 7.1(d). This request is a final request for payment under the Approved Fund Grant for the full amount of the Approved Fund Grant.
- e. Section 7.3. All of the expenses included in Confidential Attachment A are Eligible Expenses as defined in Section 7.3 of the Funding Agreement.

7 Upon approval of this request for payment by the Commission, please send payment to TEP as follows:

The Energy Project
Opportunity Council Administrative Office
PO Box 2134, Bellingham, WA 98227

8 TEP has satisfied the terms of the Funding Agreement and respectfully requests that the Commission approve payment of TEP's Fund Grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the Avista Customer Representation Sub-Fund within 30 days of receiving this Request for Payment as provided in Section 7.6 of the Funding Agreement.

DATED: February 9, 2023

By: /s/ Yochanan Zakai
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