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April 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, March 2020
Docket No. UE-140188, Monthly REC Report, March 2020

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Enclosed for electronic filing is Avista Corporation’s Power Cost Deferral Report for the month of March 2020. 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 11 of the March 2020 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 \$2,815,348. A deferral entry was recorded in the amount of \$2,111,511 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 \$8,678,544 with \$5,169,636 retained by the Company and \$3,508,908 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)	\$ (4,678,544)	\$ (1,169,636)	\$ (3,508,908)
\$4M to \$10M at 50% (surcharge)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Over \$10M at 10%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ (8,678,544)	\$ (5,169,636)	\$ (3,508,908)

In March, actual power supply expense was lower than the authorized level due primarily to low natural gas prices. The average natural gas price was \$1.49/dth compared to an authorized price of \$2.83/dth. Hydro generation was 12 aMW below the authorized level. The average power price was \$19.46/MWh compared to an authorized price of \$20.40/MWh.

Colstrip and Kettle Falls generated 2 aMW above and 7 aMW below the authorized level respectively. Gas-fired generation was 157 aMW above the authorized level. The net transmission expense (transmission expense less transmission revenue) was below the authorized level. Washington retail sales were 11 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 March 2020 of \$174,686 and interest, please see page 25 of the Power Cost Deferral Report.

There were two forward long-term power contracts executed in March 2020, which are provided in Attachment C. These contracts are both extensions of existing Washington small hydro PURPA power purchases.

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,

/s/Patrick D. Ehrbar

Patrick D. Ehrbar
Director of Regulatory Affairs

