

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-240006, UG-240007,
(*Consolidated*)

OFFER OF PUBLIC COMMENT
EXHIBIT NO. BR-1

1. The Washington State Attorney General’s Office, Public Counsel Unit (Public Counsel) hereby offers the Public Comment Exhibit as Bench Response Number 1 (Exh. BR-1) for admission into the record of the proceeding.
2. Public Comment Exhibit No. BR-1. This exhibit consists of letters, e-mails, phone calls, and other written materials submitted by the public to provide comment on the Avista Corporation (Avista or the Company) General Rate Increase (GRC) in the consolidated Dockets UE-240006 and UG-240007. These letters, attachments, and other materials were submitted to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC or Commission) and to Public Counsel throughout the proceeding and are through the submission of this exhibit submitted into the record for contemplation.
3. The Commission received several public comments via e-mail or other internet methods, for which there are no original hard copies to submit. Additionally, the Commission Consumer Protection and Communications Staff received comments either by phone or mail. When consumers call the UTC for public comment, Staff interprets and provides summations of these interactions and documents them into a matrix.¹ Hard copy documents, such as mailed in

¹ See, UTC Attachment 1 (Public Comment Matrix).

comments, are in the matrix and marked as ‘***SEE ATTACHMENT 2.’² Please note that in some instances the Commission and Public Counsel received comments from the same individuals, or individuals submitted more than one comment throughout the course of this proceeding.³

Additionally, Public Counsel could only verify with certainty that some comments were from the same customers or multiple customers with the same name. For this reason, we preserved the Commission’s tally of the comments and removed the duplicative or potentially duplicative comments from the count detailed below and on the UTC Comment Matrix.

4. Public Counsel received two comments in total, which are grouped together in .pdf format. One of the comments Public Counsel received appears to be a duplicate of a comment received by the Commission.⁴ For transparency and completeness, we submitted both comments as a single attachment to this exhibit but removed duplicate comments from the count tally below and counted only the zero (0) unique comments referenced earlier.

5. The submitted material has been counted as follows:

a. Comments received by WUTC

Opposing the rate increase	130
Supporting the rate increase	0
Duplicate comments	10

b. Comments received by Public Counsel

Opposing the rate increase	2
Supporting the rate increase	0
Duplicate comments	1

² See, Attachment 2 (Combined Mailed Comments).

³ The Commission received duplicative, potentially duplicative, or multiple comments from the following individuals: Mary Arlt, James P. Johnson, Sidney Lee, Penni Guenther, Joseph Spencer, Johnny Angioi, Mike Lindle, Denise Snead, Lori Freshman, and Barry Remboldt.

⁴ See, Attachment 3 (Combined Emailed Comments). Public Counsel and the Commission received comments from James P. Johnson; The one unique, non-duplicative comment Public Counsel received was from Mary Gibson.

6. Public Counsel tallies a total of one (1) unique non-duplicative comment. This comment was not in support of Avista's request. The UTC received a total of one hundred twenty (120) unique non-duplicative comments. With all 120 opposing Avista's GRC request. In total, both the Commission and Public Counsel received eleven (11) duplicative comments, and one-hundred twenty-one (121) non-duplicative comments. All comments received were not in favor of Avista's request.

DATED this 8th day of October 2024.

ROBERT W. FERGUSON
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