

SPOKANE WA 990

18 JUL 2024 PM 4 L



WA UTC
P.O. BOX 47250
Olympia WA 98504-7250

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WASH.UT. & TP. COMM

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P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA, 98504-7250

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July 17th, 2024

Dear members of the UTC,

I am writing about the rate increases that Avista is requesting in my area, Dockets UE-240006/UG-240007.

Avista proposes more than doubling the basic rate. The UTC should not allow an increase in the Basic Rate charge at all. It is already too high.

These large Basic Rates place an unfair burden onto poor customers during a time that they are already struggling financially. In the last year living costs have gone up three times what they were last year. On everything. But retirement stipends and salaries have not increased at all, making budgets tighter and tighter. While the proposed rates do not sound like much to people with decent incomes, each increase like this forces people who are in difficult circumstances to make hard choices about whether to buy food or pay the electric bill. There are tent cities all over Washington. This increase will swell the numbers of homeless.

Avista is demanding that people pay a basic charge (or two if they are unlucky enough to have both electricity and natural gas) every month, just to have access to the electric and/or gas grid. Most of us have no other options, and so must pay this extra fee whether we can afford it or not.

Although Avista offers assistance to low income customers, this assistance only lasts two years and requires a significant invasion of privacy. There is no guarantee that it will continue to be offered.

If Avista needs to recover costs of meters, service drops, meter readings and billings, they could add those costs into the rates charged for the actual gas and electricity. The poor should not be burdened with an enormous "Basic Charge." Those who cannot afford extra charges can still make ends meet by using less gas and electricity.

I hope that the UTC will make the correct decision about this and not allow these large increases in the basic charge for gas and electricity over the next two years.

Thank you,

Celina Thomas



Mr James P Johnson
5018 N Washington St
Spokane, WA 99205

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SEP 09 2024
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UTC
Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Avista proposed rate increases

Regarding Avista's proposed rate increases: Dockets UE-240006 and UE-240007

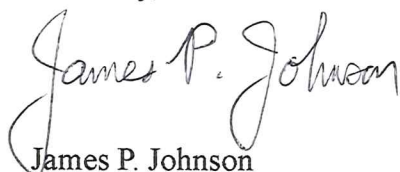
I'm in favor of increased revenue for Avista to maintain the distribution system, build in protections from wildfire, and transitioning to carbon-free energy sources; however, I'm not in favor of ANY increase of the monthly basic fee for electricity and gas.

I'm over 65 and my yearly income is under \$20,000. To keep my utility bills affordable, I don't use or own an air conditioner. (This summer, when we had a streak of 100° plus days, I went to bed with a cold, water-soaked towel spread across my chest and stomach, which I found very helpful for sleeping.) In the cold season, I bundle up and refrain from using the furnace until I'm very chilled, which allows me to keep my utility bills nearly the same as in summer.

If such high basic fees were approved, I'd pay a lot of money even when I'm keeping my energy use very low. For people like myself who scrimp to keep expenses down, the cost of natural gas or electricity can be managed by limiting consumption. but the basic fees are a budget-buster.

Very few businesses in the private sector are able to extract a fee from consumers without selling them something. Please let Avista operate like almost all businesses by allowing them to derive sufficient revenue from the sale and consumption of their products.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James P. Johnson

5018 N. Washington

Spokane, WA 99205

509.319.8153

Note: This letter was also emailed to comments@utc.wa.gov.

Mary Arlt
103 E 6th Avenue
Ritzville, WA 99169

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WASH.UT. & TP. COMM

Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504

98504-



Mary Arlt
103 E. 6th Ave.
Ritzville, WA 99169
September 2, 2024

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504

To Whom It May Concern:

This Sunday the Spokesman Review paper had a front page article telling us about the new CEO of Avista in Spokane. I am very concerned about the upcoming rate increases proposed by Avista. The new and retiring CEO's "understand the impact of rising energy bills at the same time consumers are dealing with near record inflationFor example the utility announced earlier this year that it is seeking rate adjustments that would raise the bill of the average user, based on kilowatts used, to \$110.20 in December 2024 and \$117.07 in 2025. That same customer was paying \$85.52 in December of 2022. That means in a period of just three years, customers will be paying \$31.55 more a month for electricity while the cost of groceries and gas remain high."(Spokesman-Review 9/1/2024). Add in the gas increases next!!!!

I think I am looking at some killer bills ahead as Jan. 2024 was \$317.06, Feb. \$346.50 and March \$290.44. In 3 years going from \$85.52 to \$117.07 is almost a 37% increase. My 2-3% COLA's don't quite cover Avista's percentage increases. Figure in the auto insurance, home insurance, food, gas, etc. Most people don't make what Avista employees make, nor are they shareholders in any company. Giving them these next double digit increases really hurts the person who doesn't qualify for your recent \$200 bonus package or the rate deduction plan. I'm already at no Christmas outdoor lights and now maybe no tree. I know you don't really care but the math amazes me.

Sincerely,



Mary Arlt

Mary Arlt
103 E 6th Avenue
Ritzville, WA 99169

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Washington Utilities and Transportation
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PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504

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Mary Arlt
103 E. 6th Ave.
Ritzville, WA 99169
January 17, 2024

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504

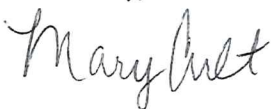
To Whom It May Concern:

There was another notice in my recent Avista bill about another rate increase. Is this a monthly or quarterly thing now? Yes I am against another rate increase of any kind. Now they want an increase for connections to the system of \$3.27 per month (3.5%) if connected before July 25, 2021 and a 16% or \$14.76 per month increase for connections after that. We are already looking at a 3.1% rate increase in July of 2025 and there was a 3.2% increase last July. All this is based on using 64 therms a month. I looked at my 2023 bills. In January I used 154,944 for \$200.95; February 137,771 for \$178.69; March I used 92,389 therms for \$119.85; April 44,963 for \$63.97 (which also included a New Rate line); October 57,389 therms for \$89.98; November 132,251 therms for \$200.16 and December 134,379 for \$204.13. I am totally afraid of what January's usage will be with this very cold weather.

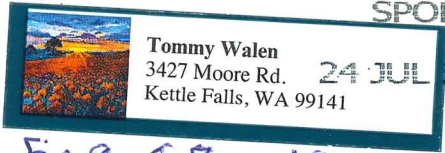
I live in an older home. I'm 72 years old, widowed and freezing. I keep my thermostat between 64-66. During the recent cold snap I had the free standing gas stove in the living room on for 5 days but turned it and the pilot light off yesterday to use less gas. I looked at my Avista account estimates and freaked. When I checked on the discount program, I make a little too much in my retirement income to qualify for any discounts. So guess I am stuck paying very high bills to Avista. Today's minimum wage is probably more than what many people my age retired on. Today's retirees are competing with Avista wages and minimum. Hard to do.

Avista seems more concerned about getting the shareholders money than they are about budgeting for updates, etc. They have stuck everything onto the rate payers. Hopefully you all will do your job and say no.

Sincerely,



Mary Arlt



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U.T.C.
P.O. Box 47250
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(relates to dividend rate increase proposal)

① Hi, we're all hot + haze soaked! / 7/24/24

Just got my latest Avesta bill. Seems like most contain proposals for higher rates. The latest two year plan is very high & I'm opposed.

Perhaps instead they should reduce payments to stockholders. I know they also have higher bills & I appreciate the good service they provide. Maybe the highest paid in management could take a pay cut. Maybe they could establish a sort of 'special stock' offering, that to customers interested, dividends offered in bill reductions. Thanks.

Tommy
Waters