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1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

3

4 WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND )Docket Nos. UE-150204

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )and UG-150205

5 )(Consolidated)

Complainant, )Volume II

6 )Pages 17-23

vs. )

7 )

AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a )

8 AVISTA UTILITIES, )

)

9 Respondent. )

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14 PUBLIC COMMENTS HEARING - VOLUME II

15 September 15th, 2015

16 6:00 p.m.

17 808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard

18 Spokane, Washington

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22 REPORTED BY: RACHAEL L. HALL, CCR NO. 3265

23 BUELL REALTIME REPORTING, LLC

24 1325 FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 1840

25 SEATTLE, WA 98101

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS:

3

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

4 ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

Washington Utilities and

5 Transportation Commission

1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW

6 P.O. Box 47250

Olympia, Washington 98504

7 360.664.1186

ddanner@utc.wa.gov

8 arendahl@utc.wa.gov

9

10 FOR AVISTA UTILITIES:

11 DAVID J. MEYER.

VP and Chief Counsel for

12 Regulatory and Governmental Affairs

Avista Corporation

13 P.O. Box 3727

1411 E. Mission Ave, MSC-27

14 Spokane, WA 99220-3727

509.495.4316

15 david.meyer@avistacorp.com

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1 SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

2 6:00 P.M.

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4 CHAIRMAN DANNER: Good evening. This is the

5 public comment hearing for the general rate case filed

6 by Avista Utilities on February 9th of 2015. Today is

7 September 15th, 2015, and these are dockets UE-150204

8 and UG-150205 of the Washington Utilities &

9 Transportation Commission.

10 The Washington Utilities & Transportation

11 Commission is the agency of the state that regulates the

12 rates and services of the investor-owned utilities in

13 Washington. Because electric and gas rates, or gas

14 services, are essential services and because they are

15 not subject to the same kind of competition other

16 services in our society are, UTC regulates them to

17 ensure that the rates that they charge their customers

18 are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. And what

19 that means is they are no higher than necessary for the

20 company to be able to provide services that it offers in

21 a safe and reliable way; that they can meet their

22 expenses and their obligations and also for their

23 investors to earn an appropriate return on their

24 investment.

25 The Commission is comprised of three members.

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1 Two of us are here tonight. I'm Dave Danner, I'm chair

2 of the Commission, and with me is Commissioner Ann

3 Rendahl.

4 There is a handout that you received which is

5 prepared by the Office of Public Counsel that has a

6 synopsis of the rate case and key points that I won't

7 repeat them here. I mean we'll say that in this case,

8 the Office of Public Counsel represents the interest of

9 consumers in our proceedings.

10 In addition, the UTC regulatory staff

11 operates as an independent party. They're rather like

12 lawyers in a courtroom taking up one side and they make

13 a case to us, the judges, and during the pendency of the

14 proceeding until we actually get into a courtroom, we

15 have no ability to have discussions with our regulatory

16 staff about the merits of the case. other than parties

17 to the case and the investor or customers of Northwest

18 Utilities representing industrial customers of Avista

19 and the energy project representing low-income consumers

20 and the Northwest industrial gas user representing

21 industrial gas customers.

22 So again, the information about the rate case

23 I think is set up well in the council's fact sheet. We

24 have a short video that describes the rate case process,

25 if you would like to see it. I see tonight, even though

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1 what we're seeking to do is hear directly from customers

2 affected by the rate case, I see on the sign-up sheet we

3 only have three people signed up and none of you want to

4 comment.

5 So I don't know if you're interested in

6 seeing the video we have, otherwise, it's going to be a

7 very short meeting tonight because we don't have the

8 members of the public testifying in the case as we put

9 this together to provide that opportunity if you would

10 like to speak. Then Mr. Cupp, let's roll the video.

11

12 (Video played but not reported.)

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14 CHAIRMAN DANNER: All right. Thank you. I

15 found that informative. I see some people have walked

16 in since we began that video. At this point, I would

17 like to invite any member of the public who wishes to

18 provide us comments about this proceeding to come

19 forward.

20 So anyone wishes to comment? All right.

21 Otherwise, what we will do then is adjourn. We will

22 have another hearing tomorrow at the Spokane Valley

23 Council Chambers at 12:00 o'clock, so if you know of

24 anyone else who didn't make it tonight who wishes to

25 come to speak to us, please pass that information along.

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1 Again, if you don't want to comment tonight, but you

2 have comments that you'd like share, you still have a

3 way to comment with the Commission.

4 So I also would let you know that there are

5 members -- there are people in the audience here from

6 the Office of Public Counsel, would you raise your hand,

7 and from the company as well. So if you have questions

8 for either the company or public counsel who represents

9 the interest of consumers, then I ask you to talk to

10 them.

11 So I see there's still more people coming

12 forward. There is somebody standing outside so I don't

13 know if we'll hold up for that person, otherwise, we're

14 going to adjourn.

15 Okay, then. All right. Then we are going to

16 stand adjourned, and we will reconvene tomorrow at

17 12:00 o'clock at Spokane Valley Council Chambers.

18 (Proceedings concluded at 6:20 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF WASHINGTON )

3 ) ss.

COUNTY OF SPOKANE )

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I, RACHAEL L. HALL, do hereby certify that

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pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure, that I

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transcribed the oral proceedings in the foregoing matter;

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and that the foregoing transcript pages constitute a

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full, true and correct record of such oral proceedings

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and of the whole thereof.

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12 Witness my hand this 25th day of September, 2015.

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20 RACHAEL LOUISE HALL

CSR, CRR NO. 3265

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