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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

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UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

) Docket Nos. UE-150204

) and UG-150205

5

Complainant,

) (Consolidated)

) Volume II

6

vs.

) Pages 17-23

)

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AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a

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AVISTA UTILITIES,

)

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Respondent.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS HEARING - VOLUME II

15

September 15th, 2015

16

6:00 p.m.

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808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard

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Spokane, Washington

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0019

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

0021

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.

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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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