

**Docket Nos. UE-150204 and UG-150205 (Consolidated) -  
Vol. II**

**Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v.  
Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities**

**September 15, 2015**

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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, Complainant, vs. AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a AVISTA UTILITIES, Respondent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS HEARING - VOLUME II September 15th, 2015 6:00 p.m. 808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard Spokane, Washington

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

BUELL REALTIME REPORTING, LLC 1325 FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 1840 SEATTLE, WA 98101

1 SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 2 6:00 P.M. 3

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.

1 APPEARANCES: 2 WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION 3 COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS:

4 DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman 5 ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner 6 Washington Utilities and 7 Transportation Commission 8 1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW 9 P.O. Box 47250 10 Olympia, Washington 98504 11 360.664.1186 12 ddanner@utc.wa.gov 13 arendahl@utc.wa.gov

14 FOR AVISTA UTILITIES: 15 DAVID J. MEYER, 16 VP and Chief Counsel for 17 Regulatory and Governmental Affairs 18 Avista Corporation 19 P.O. Box 3727 20 1411 E. Mission Ave, MSC-27 21 Spokane, WA 99220-3727 22 509.495.4316 23 david.meyer@avistacorp.com 24 25

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

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.)

13  
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.

1 CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
3 ) ss.  
4 COUNTY OF SPOKANE )

5 I, RACHAEL L. HALL, do hereby certify that  
6 pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure, that I  
7 transcribed the oral proceedings in the foregoing matter;  
8 and that the foregoing transcript pages constitute a  
9 full, true and correct record of such oral proceedings  
10 and of the whole thereof.

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

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20 \_\_\_\_\_  
RACHAEL LOUISE HALL  
CSR, CRR NO. 3265

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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25

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p><b>ability</b> 20:15  <b>able</b> 19:20  <b>addition</b> 20:10  <b>adjourn</b> 21:21  22:14  <b>adjourned</b> 22:16  <b>Affairs</b> 18:12  <b>agency</b> 19:11  <b>Ann</b> 18:4 20:2  <b>APPEARANCES</b>  18:1  <b>appropriate</b> 19:23  <b>arendahl@utc.w...</b>  18:8  <b>audience</b> 22:5  <b>Ave</b> 18:13  <b>AVENUE</b> 17:24  <b>Avista</b> 17:7,8 18:10  18:12 19:6 20:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> <p><b>began</b> 21:16  <b>Boulevard</b> 17:17  <b>Box</b> 18:6,13  <b>BUELL</b> 17:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p> <p><b>C</b> 23:1,1  <b>case</b> 19:5 20:6,7,13  20:16,17,22,24  21:2,8  <b>CCR</b> 17:22  <b>certify</b> 23:5  <b>chair</b> 20:1  <b>Chairman</b> 18:2,3  19:4 21:14  <b>Chambers</b> 21:23  22:17  <b>charge</b> 19:17  <b>Chief</b> 18:11  <b>Civil</b> 23:6  <b>come</b> 21:18,25  <b>coming</b> 22:11  <b>comment</b> 19:5 21:4  21:20 22:1,3</p>	<p><b>comments</b> 17:14  21:18 22:2  <b>Commission</b> 17:2,4  18:2,5 19:9,11,25  20:2 22:3  <b>Commissioner</b> 18:4  20:2  <b>COMMISSION...</b>  18:2  <b>company</b> 19:20  22:7,8  <b>competition</b> 19:15  <b>Complainant</b> 17:5  <b>comprised</b> 19:25  <b>concluded</b> 22:18  <b>Consolidated</b> 17:5  <b>constitute</b> 23:8  <b>consumers</b> 20:9,19  22:9  <b>Corporation</b> 17:7  18:12  <b>correct</b> 23:9  <b>Council</b> 21:23  22:17  <b>council's</b> 20:23  <b>counsel</b> 18:11 20:5  20:8 22:6,8  <b>COUNTY</b> 23:3  <b>courtroom</b> 20:12  20:14  <b>CRR</b> 23:20  <b>CSR</b> 23:20  <b>Cupp</b> 21:10  <b>customers</b> 19:17  20:17,18,21 21:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p> <p><b>d/b/a</b> 17:7  <b>Danner</b> 18:3 19:4  20:1 21:14  <b>Dave</b> 20:1  <b>DAVID</b> 18:3,11  <b>david.meyer@av...</b>  18:15  <b>day</b> 23:12  <b>ddanner@utc.wa...</b></p>	<p>18:7  <b>describes</b> 20:24  <b>directly</b> 21:1  <b>discussions</b> 20:15  <b>Docket</b> 17:4  <b>dockets</b> 19:7  <b>Drive</b> 18:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>E</b></p> <p><b>E</b> 18:4,13 23:1,1  <b>earn</b> 19:23  <b>either</b> 22:8  <b>electric</b> 19:13  <b>energy</b> 20:19  <b>ensure</b> 19:17  <b>essential</b> 19:14  <b>evening</b> 19:4  <b>Evergreen</b> 18:5  <b>expenses</b> 19:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>F</b></p> <p><b>F</b> 23:1  <b>fact</b> 20:23  <b>fair</b> 19:18  <b>Falls</b> 17:17  <b>February</b> 19:6  <b>filed</b> 19:5  <b>foregoing</b> 23:7,8  <b>forward</b> 21:19  22:12  <b>found</b> 21:15  <b>FOURTH</b> 17:24  <b>full</b> 23:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>G</b></p> <p><b>gas</b> 19:13,13 20:20  20:21  <b>general</b> 19:5  <b>going</b> 21:6 22:14,15  <b>Good</b> 19:4  <b>Governmental</b>  18:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>H</b></p> <p><b>HALL</b> 17:22 23:5  23:20</p>	<p><b>hand</b> 22:6 23:12  <b>handout</b> 20:4  <b>hear</b> 21:1  <b>hearing</b> 17:14 19:5  21:22  <b>higher</b> 19:19  <b>hold</b> 22:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b></p> <p><b>II</b> 17:5,14  <b>independent</b> 20:11  <b>industrial</b> 20:18,20  20:21  <b>information</b> 20:22  21:25  <b>informative</b> 21:15  <b>interest</b> 20:8 22:9  <b>interested</b> 21:5  <b>investment</b> 19:24  <b>investor</b> 20:17  <b>investor-owned</b>  19:12  <b>investors</b> 19:23  <b>invite</b> 21:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>J</b></p> <p><b>J</b> 18:11  <b>judges</b> 20:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b></p> <p><b>key</b> 20:6  <b>kind</b> 19:15  <b>know</b> 21:5,23 22:4  22:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>L</b></p> <p><b>L</b> 17:22 23:5  <b>lawyers</b> 20:12  <b>let's</b> 21:10  <b>LLC</b> 17:23  <b>LOUISE</b> 23:20  <b>low-income</b> 20:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <p><b>matter</b> 23:7  <b>mean</b> 20:7</p>	<p><b>means</b> 19:19  <b>meet</b> 19:21  <b>meeting</b> 21:7  <b>member</b> 21:17  <b>members</b> 19:25  21:8 22:5  <b>merits</b> 20:16  <b>MEYER</b> 18:11  <b>Mission</b> 18:13  <b>MSC-27</b> 18:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b></p> <p><b>necessary</b> 19:19  <b>Northwest</b> 20:17  20:20  <b>Nos</b> 17:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <p><b>o'clock</b> 21:23 22:17  <b>obligations</b> 19:22  <b>offers</b> 19:20  <b>Office</b> 20:5,8 22:6  <b>Okay</b> 22:15  <b>Olympia</b> 18:6  <b>operates</b> 20:11  <b>opportunity</b> 21:9  <b>oral</b> 23:7,9  <b>outside</b> 22:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>P</b></p> <p><b>p.m</b> 17:16 19:2  22:18  <b>P.O</b> 18:6,13  <b>pages</b> 17:6 23:8  <b>Park</b> 18:5  <b>parties</b> 20:16  <b>party</b> 20:11  <b>pass</b> 21:25  <b>pendency</b> 20:13  <b>people</b> 21:3,15 22:5  22:11  <b>person</b> 22:13  <b>played</b> 21:12  <b>please</b> 21:25  <b>point</b> 21:16  <b>points</b> 20:6</p>
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