



UE-230212

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**SENT VIA UTC WEB PORTAL**

Amanda Maxwell  
Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

**Re: *WN U-28 – Avista’s Proposed Time-of-Use and Peak Time Rebate Pricing Pilots and Monitoring and Reporting Plans, Docket UE-230212; Public Counsel’s Comments***

Dear Director Maxwell:

The Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General’s Office (Public Counsel) respectfully submits these comments in advance of the May 25, 2023, Open Meeting. These comments address Avista Corporation’s (Avista or the Company) filing in Docket UE-230212 Tariff No. WN U-28 to implement two separate Time-of-Use (TOU) Pilot Programs and a Peak Time Rebate (PTR) Pilot Program and associated Monitoring and Reporting Plans. Public Counsel provided input to Avista during our review of the filing, and we appreciate Avista’s willingness to discuss our input and Avista’s responsiveness to our recommendations.

***Public Counsel’s Recommendation***

Public Counsel recommends that the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) allow the Company’s revised TOU and PTR Pilot Programs filing to become effective.

On March 31, 2023, Avista filed a proposal to implement two separate TOU Pilot Programs and a PTR Pilot Program pursuant to terms in the settlement agreement approved by the Commission in Final Order 08/05 in Dockets UE-200900, UG-200901, and UE-200894 (*consolidated*).<sup>1</sup> Over the two years of the Pilot Program<sup>2</sup> the Company hopes to collect customer data aimed at four program objectives of 1) System Cost minimization, 2) Customer Choice, 3) Equity and Accessibility, and 4) Integration of Renewables. After reviewing the filing, Public Counsel

<sup>1</sup> *Wash. Utils. & Transp. Comm’n v. Avista Corp. d/b/a Avista Utils.*, Dockets UE-200900, UG-200901 & UE-200894 (*consol.*), Final Order 08/05 ¶¶ 62–66 (Sept. 27, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> After review at the end of the two-year program, the Commission may recommend extending the Pilot Programs an additional two years. See Avista revised cover letter (filed May 17, 2023).

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discovered some consistency issues and requested that key components of the Pilot Program be clarified in the filing. After discussions between Public Counsel and Avista, the Company filed its May 17, 2023, revisions to resolve inconsistencies and provide clarifications on TOU and PTR Pilot Program requirements, objectives, and resources for participants.

In the May 17, 2023, revised filing, the Company states that it will provide participants with a net cost or savings comparison summary annually as well as an online tool that shows monthly TOU charges compared to a counterfactual of standard tiered rate charges. The original filing stated that Avista may have provided participants with a cost and savings summary at the end of the first year. Public Counsel views the regular and timely provision of cost comparison data as essential to enabling Pilot Program participants to alter energy use behaviors and optimize for potential benefits of the Pilot Programs.

We also appreciate the clarifications and additions in the May 17, 2023, revised filing that Public Counsel recommended regarding low income program participant eligibility, 10 percent bill guarantee requirements, bill comparison data provided to participants, outreach activities to promote the programs, and enrollment limits. Public Counsel believes that the updates to the filing will help potential participants, interested parties, the Commission, and the public better understand how Avista's Pricing Pilot Programs operate and which components of the pilot contribute the most to achieving the program objectives.

Public Counsel appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments. Public Counsel will be present at the Open Meeting on May 25, 2023, to offer brief oral comments. If you have any questions about this filing, please contact Ann Paisner at (206) 573-1127 or via email at [Ann.Paisner@ATG.WA.GOV](mailto:Ann.Paisner@ATG.WA.GOV) or Aaron Tam at (206) 464-6215 or via e-mail at [Aaron.Tam@ATG.WA.GOV](mailto:Aaron.Tam@ATG.WA.GOV).

Sincerely,

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/s/  
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