**BEFORE THE**

# WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  Complainant,  v.  AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a  AVISTA UTILITIES  Respondent. | )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  ) | DOCKETS UE-160228 and  UG-160229 (*Consolidated*)  THE INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS OF NORTHWEST UTILITIES’  RESPONSE TO BENCH REQUEST NO. 9  (REDACTED) |

**BENCH REQUEST NO. 9**

*1. To the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (“ICNU”): Please provide a copy of the Moody’s Investors Service Report entitled “U.S. Regulated Utilities: Lower Authorized Equity Returns Will Not Hurt Near-Term Credit Profiles,” dated March 10, 2015, and referenced in the Response Testimony of Michael P. Gorman on behalf of ICNU at page 7, footnote 1.*

The above-referenced report is being filed as Confidential Attachment A to ICNU’s Response to Bench Request No. 9. Please note that the report contained within Confidential Attachment A was originally included within the confidential workpapers of Mr. Gorman, pursuant to the protective order issued in Dockets UE-160228 and UG-160229, due to the proprietary and commercially sensitive nature of the Moody’s report. Accordingly, Confidential Attachment A is also filed on a confidential basis under the protective order in these consolidated dockets.

**CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT A**

Confidential Attachment A to ICNU’s Response to Bench Request No. 9 has been designated confidential under WAC § 480-07-160 and pursuant to the protective order in Dockets UE-160228/UG-160229, and has been redacted in its entirety.