

ROBERT K. FLOWERS • 618 EAST 18TH AVENUE • SPOKANE, WA 99203

01 September 2016

Commissioner David W. Danner, Chair
Commissioner Ann Rendahl
Commissioner Philip B. Jones
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Complex and Confusing Regulatory Processes, Rules and Laws

Dear Commissioners:

I received notice today of three (yes three) additional rate increase filings by Avista Utilities. These rate increase requests are in addition to the existing rate increase filings Avista has made in the past few months. I am writing this letter directly to you to ask for your help.

My letter to you today is a request for a lifeline or a buoy to help me and other common citizens like me survive in this sea of regulation and law. To be able to understand the processes, what the law and regulations allow and how to intelligently comment on this and the anticipated deluge of future rate increases I expect from Avista Utilities. Currently, I am forced to respond without significant understanding of the regulatory process.

I do understand that regulating a monopolistic utility is a complex and often difficult process. Still, this remains a public process and the public, especially the rate-paying public, should not be excluded as a result of the complexity and convolutions surrounding utility regulation. The public needs to have available to it an enlightened understanding of the Commissions investigations and rulings and how and why their rulings were made. If this simplified explanation is routinely made, I have yet to be able to locate it.

I wish to be able to make informed and relevant comments to the Commission which will serve the best interest of myself and other ratepayers. In order to do this, I need to understand the processes you utilize to complete your analysis of specific rate increase requests. To understand, these analyses need to be understandable to the citizenry at large. Please guide the UTC toward this goal in future cases. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Flowers



RECEIVED
REGULATORY MANAGEMENT
2016 SEP - 7 AM 10:55
STATE OF WA
UTIL. AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION