

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DOCKET UE-240006

DOCKET UG-240007

EXH. JRT-4

JASON R. THACKSTON

REPRESENTING AVISTA CORPORATION

Avista Advisory Groups

Energy Assistance Advisory Group (EAAG)

Washington Focused

Intent:

This group was established as a formalized forum focused on low-income energy assistance efforts, to monitor and explore ways to improve Avista's Low-Income Rate Assistance Program (LIRAP), including discussion of potential program modifications, collaboratively troubleshooting challenges, and examining alternatives that may better serve customers. The EAAG group is guided by the primary goals of 1) keeping customers connected to their energy service; 2) providing assistance to more customers than are currently served; 3) lowering the energy burden of LIRAP participants, and; ensuring that LIRAP has appropriate data to assess program effectiveness—all while keeping an eye on administrative costs to continuously ensure that operating expenses of the program are as efficient as possible so that maximum funding is distributed directly to those in need.

Members:

Includes representatives from Avista, Community Action Agencies, WUTC Commission Staff, Aging and Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington, The Energy Project (TEP), Northwest Energy Coalition (NWEC), Department of Commerce, and the Public Counsel Unit of the Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel).

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Energy Efficiency Advisory Group (EEAG)

Washington and Idaho Focused

Intent:

An advisory group of stakeholders to advise the utility on conservation issues including, but not limited to: (a) Conservation programs and measures. (b) Updates to the utility's evaluation, measurement, and verification framework. (c) Modification of existing, or development of new evaluation, measurement, and verification methods. (d) Independent third-party evaluation of portfolio-level biennial conservation achievement. (e) Development of conservation potential assessments. (f) The methodology, inputs, and calculations for cost-effectiveness. (g) The data sources and values used to develop and update supply curves. (h) The need for tariff modifications or mid-biennium program corrections. (i) The appropriate level of and planning for: (i) Marketing

conservation programs; (ii) Incentives to customers for measures and services; and (iii) Impact, market, and process evaluations. (j) Programs for low-income residential customers. (k) Establishment of the biennial conservation target and program achievement results compared to the target. (l) Conservation program budgets and actual expenditures compared to budgets. (m) Development and implementation of new and pilot programs.

Members:

Includes representatives from Avista, Commission Staff of both IPUC and WUTC, Northwest Power & Conservation Council, TEP, Department of Commerce, NVEC, Public Counsel, SBW Consulting, Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP), Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho (CAPAI), Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), SBW Consulting, E-source, Idaho Conservation League (ICL), Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC), Roseaur's, Idaho Power, PacifiCorp (PAC), and Puget Sound Energy (PSE).

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Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

Washington Focused

Intent:

As a result of the 2019 Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), Avista must maintain and regularly engage an external equity advisory group to advise the utility on equity issues including, but not limited to, vulnerable population designation, equity customer benefit indicator development, data support and development, and recommended approaches for ensuring that all customers are benefiting from the transition to clean energy through (i) the equitable distribution of energy and nonenergy benefits and reduction of burdens to vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities; (ii) long-term and short-term public health and environmental benefits and reduction of costs and risks; and (iii) Energy security and resiliency. The utility must encourage and include the participation of environmental justice and public health advocates, tribes, and representatives from highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations in addition to other relevant groups.

See EAG Charter for more information: <https://www.myavista.com/-/media/myavista/content-documents/about-us/ceta/equity-advisory-group-charter-fall-2021.pdf>

Members:

Includes representatives from organizations, small business owners, or community members from across Avista's WA service territory. Members fluctuate, but current membership includes representation from the following: Spokane Indian Housing Authority, Spokane Clean Air, Center for Special Education Services, Community Action Agencies (Rural Resources and SNAP), Salem Arms, Spectrum, Reimagine Spokane, Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, Takesa Village (low-income mobile home park), Haiwatha Elementary School, Department of Ecology, Sunrise Spokane, Spokane Public Library, Providence Sacred Heart, Girl Scouts, Red Cross, small business owners, youth (high school) participants, and general community members.

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Equity Advisory Group (EAG)**Oregon Focused****Intent:**

Avista is in the beginning stages of forming its Oregon Equity Advisory Group as a direct result of its 2023 General Rate Case. The scope, members, and planned activities are still being determined and will be finalized throughout 2024 for implementation in 2025.

Members:

To be determined as this is a new advisory group anticipated to begin in 2025.

Electric IRP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**Washington and Idaho Focused****Intent:**

Each electric utility has the responsibility to identify and meet its resource needs with the lowest reasonable cost mix of conservation and efficiency, generation, distributed energy resources, and delivery system investments to ensure the utility provides energy to its customers that is clean, affordable, reliable, and equitably distributed. Avista must demonstrate and document how it considered input from advisory group members in the development of its IRP and two-year IRP progress report. Examples of how the utility may incorporate advisory group input include using modeling scenarios, sensitivities, and assumptions advisory group members proposed and using data and information supplied by advisory group members as inputs to plan development.

Members:

Includes representatives from Avista, Commission Staff, customers, consumer advocates, academics, environmental groups, utility peers, government agencies, independent power producers, and other interested parties. Members fluctuate, but current membership includes representation from the following: Avista, Avista Residential and Small Commercial Customers, Commission Staff of both IPUC and WUTC, 4Sight Energy Group, 350.Org Spokane, AEG, Biomethane LLC, Bonneville Power Administration, Building Industry Association of Washington, Carbon WA, Chelan PUD, City of Spokane, Clenera, Clear Result, Clearwater Paper, Climate Solutions, Creative Renewable Solutions, Cyprus Creek Renewables, Direct Energy, Energy Keepers Inc., GE Energy, Heelstone Renewable Energy, Huntwood, Idaho Conservation League (ICL), Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Office of Energy and Mineral Resources, Idaho Power, Inland Empire Paper, Inland Power & Light, Innovari, Kalesnikoff, Kiemle Hagood, McKinstry, Measure Meant, Mitsubishi Power Americas Inc., MRW Associates, National Grid, New Sun Energy, NWECA, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Northwest Renewables, Pacific Energy Research Associates, Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee, Pera Inc, Perennial Power Holdings, Phil Jones Consulting, Pivotal Investments, Public Counsel, Puget Sound Energy, Pullman City Council, Renewable Energy Coalition, Renewable Northwest, Shasta, Sierra Club, Sovereign Power, Spokane Tribe of Indians, SpokEnergy, Strata Solar, Tesla, The Energy Authority, Tollhouse Energy, Tyr Energy, Utilicom Consulting Group, Wartsila Energy Solutions, Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, Washington State Department of Enterprise Services, Water Planet, Western Grid Group, Whitman County Commission.

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Natural Gas IRP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Washington, Idaho, and Oregon Focused

Intent:

Each natural gas has the responsibility to meet system demand with the least cost mix of natural gas supply and conservation. In furtherance of that responsibility, each natural gas utility must develop an "integrated resource plan." Consultations with commission staff and public participation are essential to the development of an effective plan.

Members:

Includes representatives from Avista, Commission Staff, customers, consumer advocates, academics, environmental groups, utility peers, government agencies, and other interested parties. Members fluctuate, but current membership includes representation from the following: Avista,

Commission Staff of the IPUC, OPUC, and WUTC, Public Counsel, The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board, Energy Strategy, RNG Coalition, OR DEQ, NW Energy Coalition, Intermountain Gas, Attorney General WA, Idaho Conservation League, Fortis BC, Biomethane LLC, Lewis & Clark Law School, Northwest Power & Conservation Council, Energy Trust of Oregon, RNG Coalition, Northwest Natural Gas, Cascade Natural Gas, Northwest Gas Association, Alliance of Western Energy Consumers.

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Clean Energy Implementation Plan Public Participation Meetings

Washington Focused

Intent:

The Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) describes the utility's plan for making progress toward meeting Washington's clean energy transformation standards and is informed by the utility's clean energy action plan. Avista must involve advisory groups in developing the timing and extent of meaningful and inclusive public participation throughout the development and duration of the CEIP, including outreach and education serving vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities. The CEIP workgroup was utilized during the development of Avista's 2021 CEIP and will be engaged quarterly during the implementation of the CEIP from 2022 through 2025.

Members:

The CEIP Public Participation Meetings are open to all interested customers and stakeholders. All of Avista's electric focused advisory groups are invited to attend, including the Equity Advisory Group, Energy Efficiency Advisory Group, Energy Assistance Advisory Group, and Electric IRP Technical Advisory Committee.

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EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment) Stakeholder Group

Washington Focused

Intent:

As a result of the implementation of **RCW 80.28.360**, Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment, a Policy and Interpretative Statement Concerning Commission Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Services (Policy Statement) was issued in Docket No. UE-160799 on June 14, 2017. This Policy Statement required the three electric utilities (Avista, Puget Sound Energy, and PacifiCorp) to convene a single joint stakeholder group, intended to address the statewide concern in planning for ESVE by reviewing proposed utility programs and making recommendations to inform those programs.

Members:

Pursuant to the Policy Statement referenced above, the ESVE Stakeholder Group must, at minimum, include representatives from Commission Staff, Public Counsel, WSDOT, the Department of Commerce, and the utilities. This group is facilitated by WUTC Commission Staff, and current representation includes: Avista, PSE, PAC, Public Counsel Department of Commerce, WUTC Commission Staff, WSDOT, The Energy Project, Shell Recharge Solutions, Washington Environmental Council, National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), WeaveGrid, King County, City of Seattle, FLO Services USA Inc., Tesla, NWECA, Renewable Hydrogen Alliance, Regulatory Assistance Project, Proterra, Snohomish PUD, Chelan PUD, FlexCharging, Climate Solutions, General Motors, Energy Northwest, Forth Mobility, Collaborative Efficiency, The Ad Hoc Group Inc., City of Tacoma, Atlas Public Policy, ChargePoint Inc., Puget Sound Solar LLC, ev.energy, and Ions for EVs.

Distribution Planning Advisory Group (DPAG)

Washington and Idaho Focused

Intent:

Established pursuant to RCW 19.280.100(2)(e), regarding participation in the Company's 10-year plan for distribution system investments and an analysis of nonwires alternatives for major transmission and distribution investments. The distribution system investment planning process should utilize a transparent approach that involves opportunities for stakeholder input and feedback.

Members:

Includes representatives from Avista, Commission Staff, customers, consumer advocates, academics, environmental groups, utility peers, government agencies, and other interested parties. Members fluctuate, but current membership includes representation from the following: Avista, Office of the Attorney General of Washington, Cascade Natural Gas, Clearwater Paper Corp., Department of Commerce, DeltaG Consulting, Department of Ecology, Idaho Public Utility Commission, Inland Empire Paper, Lewis and Clark Law School, Northwest Gas Association, Northwest Laborers' and Employees Cooperation Fund, Northwest Power and Conservation

Council, Northwest Renewables, Northwest Energy Coalition, PacifiCorp, Rural Resources Community Action, SNAP, and Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

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