



Avista Utilities Equity Advisory Group Equity Lens Session Update

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Background

On May 13, 2021 Avista held its inaugural Equity Advisory Group (EAG) meeting, in compliance with WAC 480-100-655(1)(b), directing Investor-Owned Utilities in Washington to maintain and regularly engage an external equity advisory group to advise utilities on equity issues pertaining to the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA). The Company's EAG is comprised of environmental justice and public health advocates, tribes, and representatives from highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations (Named Communities) in addition to other relevant groups. EAG members meet on a monthly basis with two different meeting dates and times available for members to participate. Meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday (4:30pm – 6:00pm) and Friday (7:30am – 9:00am) of each month. Each meeting is facilitated by a third-party facilitator who ensures equity is a focus during the EAG meetings. During the initial development of Avista's Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP), non-public EAG meetings were held along with public participation meetings to obtain feedback on the steps Avista is taking to provide an equitable transition to a cleaner energy future for all customers with a focus on highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations. In May 2021 Avista implemented Equity Lens Sessions that are intended to help provide an equity focus on Company programs that directly support its CEIP initiatives. A new program or Customer Benefit Indicator metric is highlighted each month with in-depth conversations on how removing barriers to participation and how to ensure programs are equitably distributed.

On August 16, 2021 Avista filed its draft 2021 CEIP with its final 2021 CEIP¹ being filed on October 1, 2021. On June 23, 2022 the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission approved Avista's 2021 CEIP subject to 38 conditions. Condition 31 directs the Company to:

“On or before October 1, 2022, Avista agrees to provide in its CEIP docket a report on the changes regarding the EAG Equity Lens Sessions discussed and made with the EAG in March 2022, the facilitator, and the Company.”

¹ Docket UE-210628.

In compliance with Condition 31, Avista provides the changes agreed to between Avista, its EAG members, and facilitator during its March 2022 EAG meetings in the Equity Lens Session Updates section below.

Equity Lens Session Updates

In March 2022, Avista held Equity Lens Sessions with its EAG members to assess the success of the Equity Lens Session format and discuss the value and structure of the EAG moving forward in 2022. The members expressed that they felt valued, heard, and comfortable sharing their thoughts and insights with Avista regarding the variety of topics. The time spent on the value and structure of the EAG was appreciated by both members and Avista. The Company was able to express its gratitude for the time and efforts of the EAG members, and members were able to express what additional thoughts they had pertaining to potential changes in the future. The full presentation can be viewed at mwww.myavista.com/ceta. As agreed upon during the March 2022 EAG meetings, Avista has implemented the additional requests of the members as outlined below.

1. Avista will keep the two available options for meetings days (Wednesday/Friday) and times (morning/evening).
2. Avista will send an email prior to the meeting with the agenda and who is tentatively scheduled to attend each session.
3. Avista will send any “pre-work” that might be related to the session ahead of time, if needed.
4. After the sessions, Avista will send a high level wrap up email that summarizes the main discussion areas from each session.
5. EAG members agreed to continue to meet monthly but will discuss with the group moving forward when a break may be needed (summer/holidays).
6. Avista and EAG members would like to meet in person one time a year. Potentially in October for the 2022 calendar year. This conversation is ongoing.
7. It would be beneficial for Avista and EAG members to learn more about some of the organizations represented amongst the group. In the future, Avista may ask for members to give a 20-minute overview of their organization during the Equity Lens Sessions.
8. Avista would like EAG members to learn about one another. Avista implemented the “EAG Member Spotlight” starting with its April 2022 meeting.

Conclusion

Ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits to Named Communities is a key focus of the CETA legislation. Avista is dedicated to an equitable transition for all customers as it moves towards a 100 percent clean energy future. The Company will continue to engage its Equity Advisory Group on important matters pertaining to equity throughout the 2022-2025 CEIP implementation period. Monthly presentations and meeting notes will continue to be posted to Avista's clean energy website along with a current Equity Advisory Group membership list. The EAG has played a significant role in the formation of Avista's Customer Benefit Indicators and Avista values the insights provided by members and their engagement as we move into the implementation phase.