

July 25, 2011

**NOTICE REGARDING APPEARANCE OF FAIRNESS CONCERNS
(Objections due by July 29, 2011, by Noon)**

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Complainant, v. Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, Respondent, Dockets UE-110876 and UG-110877 (consolidated)*

On May 16, 2011, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista) filed revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-28 and Tariff WN U-29 for a general rate increase for electric and gas service, including approximately \$8.8 million relating to its Smart Grid pilot projects.

As part of their general regulatory oversight of energy utilities in the state, Commissioners and policy staff with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) attend monthly meetings presented by Avista that update the Commission on the progress of Avista's Smart Grid pilot projects. These meetings allow the Commission to discuss policy concerns and emerging issues identified on a regional and national level.

The Commission wishes to continue its participation in these monthly updates during the pendency of Avista's above-captioned rate case. In accordance with WAC 480-07-310, any matter related to Avista's rate request will not be discussed at these meetings.

However, in the interest of preserving every appearance of fairness, the Commission gives this notice and invites any party that has an objection to the continuation of these meetings to respond in writing to this Notice by July 29, 2011, by noon.

Sincerely,

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER
Administrative Law Judge

cc: All Parties