



Critical Infrastructure Security Annual Report

For 2023

Contents

Critical Infrastructure Security Annual Report..... 1

1.1 Critical Infrastructure Security – (Cybersecurity and Physical Security)..... 1

1.1.1 Critical Infrastructure Security Policy and Teams 1

1.1.1.1 Critical Infrastructure Security Policy 1

1.1.1.2 Critical Infrastructure Security Team..... 1

1.1.2 Critical Infrastructure Security Policy and Team Changes..... 2

1.1.2.1 Critical Infrastructure Security Policy and Team..... 2

1.1.2.2 Security Policy Evaluation..... 2

1.1.3 Avista’s External Participation 3

1.1.4 Unauthorized actions related to cybersecurity and physical security..... 3

1.1.5 Incident Response 3

1.1.6 Risk Management 4

1.2 Critical Infrastructure Security – Cybersecurity 5

1.2.1 Cybersecurity – Vulnerability Assessments..... 5

1.2.2 Cybersecurity – Penetration tests 5

1.2.3 Cybersecurity – Vulnerability & Penetration (Future)..... 5

1.2.4 Information-sharing and collaboration efforts 6

2024 Avista Corporation. All Right Reserved Permission of the Copyright owner is granted to users to copy, download, reproduce, transmit, or distribute any part of this document provided that: (1) the user includes Avista’s copyright notice on all copies, and (2) the materials are not used in any misleading or inappropriate manner. Furthermore, no portion of the attached work shall be republished in printed or digital form without the written permission of the Copyright owner.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY ANNUAL REPORT

This Critical Infrastructure Security Annual Report (Report) is meant to be responsive to the request by the Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission or UTC) for a Report covering the year 2023.

1.1 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY – (CYBERSECURITY AND PHYSICAL SECURITY)

1.1.1 Critical Infrastructure Security Policy and Teams

1.1.1.1 Critical Infrastructure Security Policy

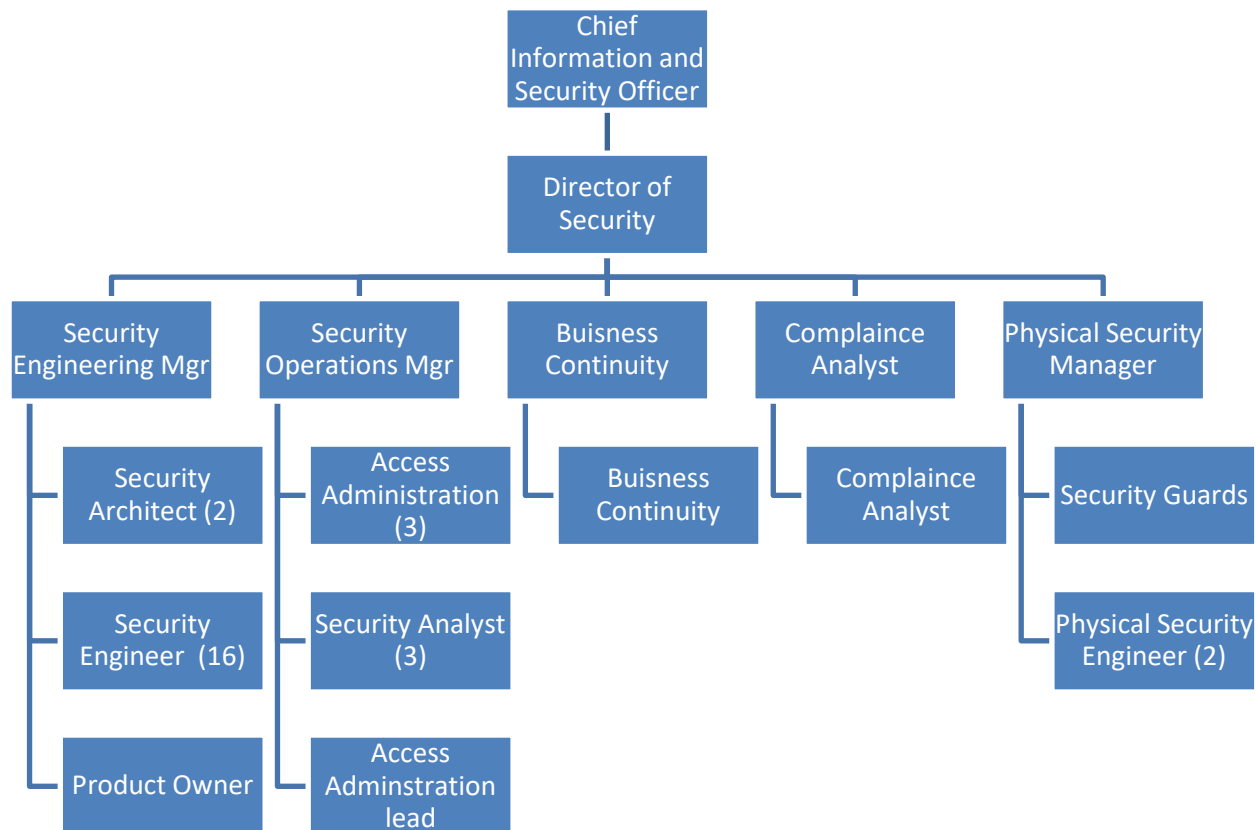
Please provide a copy of the table of contents of the company’s CI Security policy and identify any sections of the policy that have been added or modified since the last report.

- 200. AUTHENTICATION, ACCOUNTS, AND ACCESS CONTROL
 - 200.1. AUTHENTICATION
 - 200.2. ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT
 - 200.3. ACCOUNT AND SESSION TIME-OUTS
 - 200.4. PASSWORD MANAGEMENT
 - 200.5. ACCESS CONTROL
- 300. VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT
 - 300.1. VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT
- 400. SYSTEM AND INFORMATION PROTECTION
 - 400.1. ENTERPRISE NETWORKS AND SYSTEM SECURITY
 - 400.2. SECURITY LOG MANAGEMENT
 - 400.3. ENDPOINT SECURITY
 - 400.4. DATA SECURITY
 - 400.5. NETWORK SECURITY
 - 400.6. SECURITY OF ADMINISTRATION INTERFACES
 - 400.7. CLOUD SECURITY

All sections of the company’s security policy, standards and guidelines were reviewed and updated as needed in 2023 to reflect changes in the security landscape.

1.1.1.2 Critical Infrastructure Security Team

Please provide an organizational diagram of the company’s CI Security team(s). The diagram, or accompanying list, should include the titles of staff on the team.



1.1.2 Critical Infrastructure Security Policy and Team Changes

1.1.2.1 Critical Infrastructure Security Policy and Team

Please provide a written description of any changes made in the past year to the company's CI Security policy, and any changes to the team structure or the placement of the team in the company's organizational structure.

Policy – All sections of the company's security policy and standards and guidelines were reviewed and 2023 but no changes were required.

Organization Structure Updates – Avista shifted a position from a lead of compliance to a lead of access administration and added some additional security engineering and physical security roles.

1.1.2.2 Security Policy Evaluation

What internal processes does the company use to evaluate its CI Security policy and structure?

Avista's security policy is generally static since it is written at a high-level. It describes the guiding principles that do not change often, rather than the "how". Avista's standards and guidelines document is constantly being updated since it describes how things must be done and because best practices are always evolving. Typically, this document is updated throughout the year as our security staff identifies areas that need improvement.

1.1.3 Avista's External Participation

Please describe the company's participation in regional or national tabletop exercises, conferences, committees, or other events related to CI Security.

Avista is an active participant in many events related to Critical Infrastructure Security. Below is a list of committees and conferences that Avista participated in during 2023:

- Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) Security Executive Working Group
- Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Security and Technology Advisory Executive Committee
- EEI Security Committees
- American Gas Association (AGA) Security Committee
- Joint EEI/AGA security conference
- UTC Security Committee
- Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) Physical Security Working Group
- WECC Critical Infrastructure Protection Users Group (CIPUG)
- Cyber Risk Information Sharing (CRISP) meetings and briefings
- Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) meetings and briefings
- Down Stream Natural Gas Information Sharing and Analysis Center (DNG-ISAC) meetings and briefings
- DHS threat briefings

1.1.4 Unauthorized actions related to cybersecurity and physical security

Please include a list of any unauthorized actions related to cybersecurity and physical security that have occurred since the last report which led to one or more of the following:

- i. loss of service;*
- ii. interruption of a critical business process;*
- iii. breach of sensitive business or customer information;*
- iv. or serious financial harm.*

No unauthorized actions related to cybersecurity and physical security occurred in 2023.

1.1.5 Incident Response

"Does the company have retainers or contracts for outside help in the event of an incident?"

Avista has retainers and contracts with third parties, and should the company need help in the event of an incident, we would be able to execute retainers or work authorization in a short amount of time.

What kind of support is provided by the company's incident response retainers or contracts that provide similar services?

Retainers provide service-level agreements for response times. Additional support would be tailored to the type of incident that Avista is dealing with through work authorizations.

Is the company currently participating in any resource sharing agreements such as the Northwest Mutual Assistance Agreement (NMAA), Western Region Mutual Assistance Agreement (WRMAA), or Spare Transformer Equipment Program?

Avista has four Mutual Aid Agreements. Two (WRMAA, NMAA) are with the Western Energy Institute (WEI) and the other two are with the EEI and AGA. In addition, Avista is a member of the EEI STEP program, which provides for the use of shared transformers in the event of an act of terrorism and annually takes part in an exercise that allows us to evaluate a mock event and the required response.

Does the company have an incident response plan? If so, when was it most recently used or tested, and what is the timeframe for the next scheduled test?

Avista has multiple incident response plans. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection (NERC CIP) Response Plans are tested annually, and the Avista Data Response Plan was tested in 2023 because we added an SEC reporting section.

1.1.6 Risk Management

Please identify the risk assessment tools used by the company that relates to CI Security (i.e., ES-C2M2, NIST Framework, etc.).

Avista is currently using the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cyber Security Framework and Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (C2M2).

Has an independent third party reviewed the company's risk management policy? If so, who performed the review, when did it occur, and how many follow-up actions were identified.

Avista did have an independent review conducted in 2023 that focused on Avista's ability to detect intrusions. Avista would be happy to discuss or share in more detail outside of a public document.

How many of these follow-up actions are scheduled (please provide the calendar quarter of projected start and completion dates), in active implementation (please provide the calendar quarter of the projected completion date), or completed?

Avista's security roadmap is currently a 5-year plan consisting of expansion and refresh projects. Avista would be happy to discuss or share its 5-year plan outside of a public document.

Please describe any voluntary security standards that the company has adopted.

Avista has been using Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology (COBIT) for several years to establish internal controls for Sarbanes Oxley compliance.

Please describe any security training provided to Company employees.

On an annual basis, all Avista employees and contractors with cyber access are required to take security training. In addition, on at least a quarterly basis we provide security awareness by publishing relevant security articles and distribute them to all employees.

Avista also performs phishing education and testing monthly. In addition, Avista provides NERC CIP-specific training.

1.2 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY – CYBERSECURITY

1.2.1 Cybersecurity – Vulnerability Assessments

Please provide the calendar quarter of the company’s most recent vulnerability assessment. Please identify whether it was an internal or external audit, and how many follow-up actions were identified.

Avista has implemented technology to perform vulnerability assessments. This technology is the same as used by third parties performing vulnerability assessments. This allows us to measure our vulnerability footprint in near real-time and track progress rather than having a snapshot of the vulnerability footprint once a year.

How many of these follow-up actions are scheduled (please provide the calendar quarter of projected start and completion dates), in active implementation (please provide the calendar quarter of the projected completion date), or completed?

Vulnerability remediation is more operational and there are not discreet projects to address vulnerabilities. Instead, the work is ongoing since new vulnerabilities are published almost daily. Avista’s approach is to treat vulnerability management as a continuous process and use trending to make sure we are always working on addressing all new and old vulnerabilities.

1.2.2 Cybersecurity – Penetration tests

Please provide the calendar quarter of the company’s most recent penetration test. Please identify whether it was an internal or external test, and how many follow-up actions were identified.

Avista did have an external penetration test in Q4 of 2023 and would be happy to discuss the results of this test in a private setting.

How many of these follow-up actions are scheduled (please provide the calendar quarter of projected start and completion dates), in active implementation (please provide the calendar quarter of the projected completion date), or completed?

All high-severity findings were resolved upon discovery.

1.2.3 Cybersecurity – Vulnerability & Penetration (Future)

Please provide the timeframe for the company’s next planned vulnerability assessment and penetration test and if the company or a third party will perform each.

Avista is continuously performing vulnerability assessments internally. Avista plans to have another third-party assessment performed in 2024.

1.2.4 Information-sharing and collaboration efforts

For the following information-sharing and collaboration efforts, please provide a description of the company’s level of involvement with each, and complete the table below.

	Was the company involved in the effort during the calendar year?	Did the company receive alerts or information from this effort during the calendar year? If so, how often (monthly, quarterly, etc) was information from this source received and reviewed by the company?	Has the company contributed information to this effort during the calendar year?
Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ES-ISAC)	N/A	Sometimes daily. Briefings monthly.	Yes
Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program (CRISP)	Yes	Sometimes daily. Briefings monthly.	Yes
Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT)	N/A	Varies	No
Seattle FBI Cyber Task Force's FLASH Alerts	N/A	Varies	No
Public, Regional Information Security Event Management (PRISEM)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cyber Incident Response Coalition for Analysis Services, (CIRCAS)	No	No	No