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May 24, 2012

David W. Danner, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: *Avista Corporation 2012 General Rate Case*
Dockets UE-120436 and UG-120437 (consolidated)
Avista Corporation 2011 General Rate Case (Decoupling)
Dockets UE-110876 and UG-110877 (consolidated)

Dear Mr. Danner:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced dockets are the original and 20 copies of Commission Staff's Response to Avista Corporation's Motion for Leave to File Letter of Clarification and Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

DONALD T. TROTTER
Assistant Attorney General

DTT:klg
Enclosures
cc: Parties

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a AVISTA
UTILITIES,

Respondent.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA
UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-120436/UG-120437
(consolidated)

DOCKETS UE-110876/UG-110877
(consolidated)

COMMISSION STAFF RESPONSE
TO AVISTA CORPORATION
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE
LETTER OF CLARIFICATION

Commission Staff responds to Avista's May 15, 2012, "Motion for Leave to File Letter of Clarification" (Motion). Avista seeks a Commission order placing into the record an Avista letter, which the Company attached to its Motion. That letter is Avista's response to what the Company thinks is "confusion" allegedly created by a statement made by Commission Staff employee Ms. Breda at the Commission's April 26, 2012, open public meeting. At that meeting, the Commission suspended Avista's tariff revisions.

Though styled as a “Motion for Leave to File Letter of Clarification,” Avista’s motion is a simple recitation of information contained in Avista’s direct case, which has been on file with the Commission since early April. The Company already has missed one opportunity to address the alleged “confusion” it has identified: Avista personnel attending the April 26, 2012, open public meeting, particularly Mr. Kelly Norwood (the signatory to the letter which Avista wants admitted into the record) easily could have approached the podium and offered a comment. The Commission has provided Avista yet another opportunity: the Company’s rebuttal case is due to be filed October 19, 2012.

Though ultimately, Staff believes the substance of the Motion is innocuous, Staff’s preference is for the Commission to deny the Motion, because it is unnecessary and it burdens the record (albeit slightly).

Dated this 24th day of May 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. MCKENNA
Attorney General

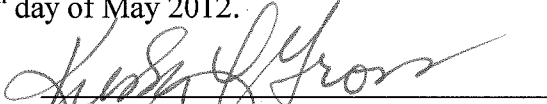


DONALD T. TROTTER
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel for Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission Staff

Dockets UE-120436/UG-120437 and UE-110876/UG-110877
(Consolidated)
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the attached document upon the persons and entities listed on the Service List below via e-mail and by depositing a copy of said document in the United States mail, addressed as shown on said Service List, with first class postage prepaid.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 24th day of May 2012.



KRISTA L. GROSS

HC=Highly Confidential

C=Confidential

NC=Non-Confidential

Receive HC, C and NC documents:

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