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STATE OF WASH.
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COMMISSION

BEFORE THE

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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REGISTRATION DIVISION

99 OCT 11 AM

STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

**In the Matter of the Application of Avista Corporation)
For Authority to Sell Its Interest in the Coal-Fired) UE - 991255
Centralia Power Plant Steam Electric Generating)**

PETITION FOR INTERVENTION

The NW Energy Coalition (NVEC) hereby requests permission to intervene in the above referenced proceeding concerning the proposed sale of the Centralia power plant.

The Petitioner

NVEC is a not-for-profit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. NVEC has 31 organizational members representing over 500,000 citizens in Washington. NVEC members include environmental, consumer, low-income and civic organizations and energy efficiency businesses and electric utilities. NVEC's primary purpose is to promote an energy future that is reliable, affordable, and equitable with the least overall cost to society and our natural environment. For the past fifteen years, NVEC has been actively involved in regulatory and legislative proceedings to secure support for the efficient use of energy, development of non-hydroelectric renewable energy resources, the provision of low income energy services, and proper accounting for environmental costs in resource choices. NVEC has participated in numerous mergers, rate cases, and resource planning proceedings in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. NVEC has worked with its members in Washington during a number of formal and informal proceedings before the Commission regarding specific utility actions and broader public policy investigations. NVEC offers this proceeding expertise in the area of resource planning and policy analysis. Due to its historic and ongoing work with utility companies and others to achieve these goals, NVEC possesses special interest in the outcome of this proceeding. NVEC's primary business address is 219 First Ave., South, Suite 100, Seattle, WA 98104.

Our Interests

Besides representing many ratepayers in Avista's service territory, NVEC has special interests in this proceeding. Centralia is one of the largest and dirtiest fossil fuel plants in the western United States, and its disposition and the replacement of its power may have important environmental and consumer ramifications. Avista has not yet determined its power replacement strategy. Market power purchases will most likely come from fossil fuel generation which puts Avista at risk of future environmental regulation and which adds to the environmental impacts associated with the Centralia Plant. The ratemaking treatment of the gain may have important ramifications for competition and restructuring in general. Avista's proposal to defer the gain and

ratemaking treatment until a future proceeding may impact the public interest benefits of this transaction.

Intervention

NWEC does not seek to delay this proceeding or to prejudice any party through its intervention, nor do we seek to broaden unduly the issues being considered in this docket. We do not believe we will prejudice any party in this proceeding. NWEC will represent itself in this proceeding and may conduct discovery of Avista and other parties. Further, NWEC is willing, where appropriate, to coordinate our presentation of testimony and briefing with other parties. We encourage as much coordination as possible as among the three Centralia sale dockets before the Commission. NWEC submits that our intervention will assist the Commission in its deliberations concerning whether Avista's application for sale of Centralia is in the public interest.

Service of Documents

NWEC requests that all documents in this proceeding be served on its policy director:

Nancy Hirsh
NW Energy Coalition
219 First Ave., South
Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98104

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, NWEC requests the Commission to grant this petition for intervention.

DATED this 8th day of October, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

NW Energy Coalition



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