



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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April 9, 2015

NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities*, Dockets UE-150204 and UG-150205 (*consolidated*)

TO ALL PARTIES:

On November 25, 2014, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered its Final Order in Avista Corporation's 2014 general rate proceeding.¹ In that order, the Commission directed Commission Staff to open an investigatory docket for the purpose of convening a forum to address attrition,² citing a clear consensus among the settling parties regarding the need for a formalized discussion of attrition along with other possible ratemaking mechanisms that may address the effects of attrition on earnings.³ The Commission further stated that it expects the forum to be inclusive, open to participation by not only the parties in the proceeding under Dockets UE-140188 and UG-140189, but also the broader community of Commission-regulated utility companies and interested consumer groups.⁴

To understand better the causes of utility earnings attrition and possible ratemaking mechanisms to address them, the Commission has scheduled a workshop as a recessed open meeting on **Thursday, April 16, 2015**.⁵

¹ *Utilities & Transp. Comm'n v. Avista Corp.*, Dockets UE-140188 and UG-140189, Order 05 (November 25, 2014).

² *Id.*, at ¶ 51.

³ *Id.*, at ¶ 50.

⁴ *Id.*, at ¶ 51.

⁵ The Commission also requested written comments from stakeholders by March 27, 2015.

The discussion of attrition is relevant to Avista's current general rate case proceeding in Dockets UE-150204 and UG-150205. The Commission has placed all written comments it received in advance of the workshop on its website, specifically on the home page of the investigatory docket, Docket U-150040. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-310(4), parties have ten days to file a request and rebuttal statement to the ex parte communications received on or before March 27, 2015.

Parties are also invited to attend the workshop on **Thursday, April 16, 2015, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 206, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER
Administrative Law Judge