



November 2, 2011

Via Email and Overnight Mail

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

Re: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Avista Corporation,
d/b/a Avista Utilities*
Docket Nos. UE-110876 and UG-110877 (Consolidated)

Dear Mr. Danner:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the NW Energy Coalition (“Coalition”) in response to Public Counsel’s letter of October 28, 2011, requesting that the time for discovery responses be shortened to five (5) business days for all aspects of the bifurcated proceedings on decoupling.

The Coalition objects to this request, and instead asks that the time allowed for discovery responses be set as follows, consistent with the Commission’s discovery rules, WAC 480-07-400-425, and the prior schedule order in this matter.

First, prior to the proposed December 21, 2011 due date for responsive testimony to the Coalition’s testimony on decoupling, the Coalition requests that discovery responses be due ten (10) days after a data request as provided in the Commission’s discovery rules. The Coalition requests this schedule because (1) that is what the rules provide and (2) the Coalition’s proposed schedule provides approximately seven weeks for parties to prepare testimony responsive to the Coalition’s testimony on decoupling, whereas the original schedule provided only thirty days.¹ While the original schedule shortened the time for responding to data requests to seven days during this thirty-day period, no such shortened time is necessary for the longer seven-week

¹ In the original schedule for this case, responsive testimony was to be filed October 14, 2011 and rebuttal testimony on November 14, 2011 whereas the schedule the Coalition has proposed for addressing decoupling provides that the Coalition testimony will be filed November 2, 2011 and responsive testimony filed December 21, 2011.

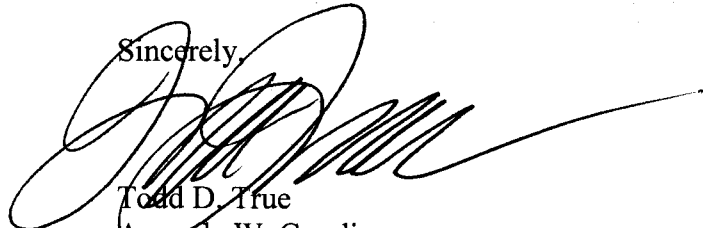
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period proposed in the Coalition's schedule. Because the Coalition is likely to be the primary recipient of data requests during this period and there is more time than under the original schedule, the Coalition respectfully suggests that responses to data requests be due on the ordinary ten (10) day schedule. This turn-around for responses also is warranted in light of the fact that the Coalition is a participant in the parallel general rate case initiated by Puget Sound Energy, UE-111048/UG-111049, and must prepare materials in those proceedings as well as respond to data requests in this proceeding.

Second, following the filing of testimony in response to the Coalition's testimony on decoupling, the proposed schedule allows a much shorter period for preparing and filing rebuttal testimony – approximately three weeks. The Coalition agrees that a five-day turn-around on data requests during this period would be appropriate.

The Coalition has no objection to a discovery cut-off date. In keeping with the original schedule in these proceedings, the Coalition would suggest a date shortly after the filing of rebuttal testimony. Under the Coalition's proposed schedule (submitted to the Commission on October 28), this testimony would be due on January 11, 2012.

Sincerely,



Todd D. True
Amanda W. Goodin