

## Public Comments by Case

**Total Comments: 16**

**In Favor: 1**

**Opposed: 15**

**Undecided: 0**

Filing Support	Commenter	Source	Comments
No			
	Robert Flowers	E-mail	<p>Avista Rate Increase Request UE-200900 and UG-200901 18 April 2021</p> <p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>Please consider my comments when deciding Avista’s latest request for more money:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avista’s announcement of a new proposed rate increase, included in this month’s utility billing, reads like the script for a carnival barker. In bold text, Avista seeks to convince unwary consumers that the rate increase is a super deal: “the change in revenue is 0.0% for 15 months” for electric operations” and “the change in billed revenue is 0.0% for two years“ for natural gas operations.” Next, we may read that Avista is offering zero percent financing for your gas and electric bills for a full year (if the total bill is paid off in the 13th month). The wording of Avista’s notice to the public is misleading and lowers the perceived financial impact of the rate increase to consumers.</li> <li>• Individuals requesting new service or enhanced service should bear the cost of that new or enhanced service, not the general rate payer. This reason to increase rates is, in fact, asking ratepayers to finance Avista’s efforts to add new revenue streams.</li> <li>• Avista is requesting a rate increase, in part, to pay for new technology, especially their “Advanced Metering Infrastructure.” Avista implemented this technology, in part, to reduce meter reading costs. Any increase to cover metering technology must consider the savings Avista has reaped as a result of this technology implementation.</li> <li>• It is my understanding that Avista is guaranteed a set rate of return based in large part on their total operational assets. So, it doesn’t take much effort to understand why Avista is constantly asking for a rate increase to replace infrastructure. Please assure that any replacement is necessary from a safety and operational perspective.</li> <li>• Finally, Avista lists their Wildfire Resiliency Plan as a reason for this rate increase. Avista should have already been working to resolve issues which could result in wildfire and the cost of this work should already be factored into their normal and usual operating expenses.</li> </ul>

			<p>What I don't see in Avista's request for more money is any mention of activities, plans or proposals to increase the use of alternative, renewable energy. Avista must begin to better incorporate renewable energy, including battery or other storage, as a part of their overall mix of energy resources to help offset their carbon emissions and help mitigate the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Robert Flowers</p>
Mark Lidbeck	E-mail		<p>I am opposed to the requested rate increases by Avista. We have just been through a terrible year, trying to make ends meet and working as much as we could to pay bills. Why should we have to tighten our belts to get by and good old Avista just applies for increases and they simply appear? the CEO and four other top officers earn a combined total of over FIVE MILLION dollars annually, not to mention the average employee earns around \$ 78,000 (per the Spokesman Review).they even have a bonus structure based on how fast they regain power after an outage. ( I always thought it was just a part of their job description they are paid for ) Their flyer in our bill listed several reasons for needing more money. My gosh, I could do that too. What is sad, is that they also are concerned about making a profit for their shareholders! With what little we can work it would be nice for us to show a profit too. At any rate, please don't allow another rate hike. We are dying out here trying to just survive as it is.</p> <p>THANK YOU.</p> <p>Mark Lidbeck Spokane, WA</p>
Gladys Kelfer	Mail		<p>***See attached letter for comment***</p>
Tommy Walen	Mail		<p>***See attachment for comment***</p>
Aca Ceait	E-mail		<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>It appears that, seemingly, every year utility companies, like Avista, seek to increase their prices claiming a 'need'.</p>

That need is mostly all 'smoke and mirrors' as the real intent is to fill, not only their pockets; but the pockets of their stockholders, shareholders, and investors.

I will give them some credit for having developed a 'Senior' program for the many older people on a fixed income; most important here recently.

As of May 05, 2021, as has been documented: "Avista Corp. (NYSE: AVA) today reported net income of \$68.0 million, or \$0.98 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2021, compared to \$48.4 million, or \$0.72 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2020."

The 'report' continues with: "We are confirming our 2021, 2022, and 2023 earnings guidance with consolidated ranges of \$1.96 to \$2.16 per diluted share in 2021, \$2.18 to \$2.38 per diluted share in 2022, and \$2.42 to \$2.62 per diluted share in 2023," Vermillion added. (president and chief executive officer of Avista Corp.)

By reading the following reported by Avista to its shareholders why would you even consider ANOTHER rate increase, after the initial statements? (so soon):

"Electric utility margin (operating revenues less resource costs) increased for the first quarter and was impacted primarily by the following:

- General rate increase in Washington, effective April 1, 2020.
- Customer growth contributed additional retail electric revenue.

(c) Natural gas utility margin (operating revenues less resource costs) increased for the first quarter and was impacted primarily by the following:

- General rate increases in Oregon, effective Jan. 16, 2021, and Washington, effective April 1, 2020.
- Customer growth contributed additional retail natural gas revenue."

Since 'customer growth' has been a contributing factor then continued customer growth, which is obviously continuing by the local growth in Real Estate and the housing market, not to mention the added revenues from businesses starting back up after this 'covid' isolation, needs to be brought into the spotlight.

Avista, as are most all utilities (as has been reported by most all consumer groups for decades) are greedy! Their basic desire is to FILL their pockets and their shareholders pockets.

Their excuse to raise their prices to their consumers is based upon an exaggerated definition of 'loss'. Even their excuse: "We expect to experience increased costs associated with exploring strategic business opportunities" is a blatant piece of disinformation as when they do gain from new, strategic, business opportunities, they gain in their wealth.

According to marketbeat dot com Avista's 90 day and 365 day gain was substantial, to say the least.

		<p>According to salary dot com Avista's Corporate Executive salaries have increased every year since 2009.</p> <p>I also found it interesting that Montana's Governor Greg Gianforte stated, publicly: "Affordable power generated in Colstrip helped build Seattle's big tech economy, but now woke, overzealous regulators in Washington State are punishing the people of Colstrip with their anti-coal agenda." While I do not 'stand' with coal as we need to eliminate this 'option' I found it interesting that he stated: "overzealous regulators in Washington State".</p> <p>When I called 2 years ago and talked with one of the regulators; he was argumentative and even hung up on me as I was making my point. (just as I am here).</p> <p>This is how I see it.</p> <p>Aca Ceait AsAyeSeaIt@hotmail.com</p>
	<p>Kathy Catalano</p>	<p>E-mail Once again, Avista is requesting a rate increase; a few years back Avista apparently owed Washington consumers \$51 million in refunds; which did not come in the form of an actual refund, was not broken down on the bill so that we could see what adjustments were being made, and since then I have had anywhere from 2-5 rate increases/adjustments. Now I get an insert in my bill they want to do another increase. In looking at my bill due May 11, 2021, there is a "new rate" again which is an increase. The last increase I contacted an individual at the UTC who originally helped me understand the "refund" we were supposed to get, and he indicated I was getting an increase to go into a fund for the people who can't afford their bill. So all the while Avista is continually raising my rates and now I have to pay for other individuals as well? What about me? I'm paying my bill and getting penalized for it. This bill's rates went from Electric: .07886 (old) to 0.8076 (new) - i.e., increase; Gas: .70074 (old) to .072215 (new) - i.e., increase. Then the insert that indicates the increases Avista is again filing for an increase to go into effect by 10/21 shows that the increase is actually 0.0% HOWEVER, if you look at the numbers they say they are currently charging us, it is incorrect. Electric: what I actually pay now .07886, and what Avista says I pay 0.07858. That's less than what I'm paying. And supposedly that's the "current rate." Gas: what I pay now .70194, and what Avista says I'm paying: .70194 but with a \$0 increase. So they are hiding an increase in what they say we are currently paying when that is not the case. Avista is a monopoly obviously and are being very dirty in their "increase" practices, by their numbers not adding up.</p> <p>Kathy Catalano Word Processor   Witherspoon • Kelley KathyC@witherspoonkelley.com   vCard</p>
	<p>Jackie Truelove</p>	<p>E-mail I am against the proposed rate increases. I think that Avista is being premature rather than proactive in making this proposal. According to the information that Avista included in my bill was a chart on how the increases would affect</p>

			<p>my bill. For the first year no impact until the tax rebate was gone. Then nothing about how the increases would impact my bill. Would it not be better to wait until the tax rebate was done? My second reason is that there was an article in the paper about Avista record breaking profits. Those profits would be going to investors instead of being shared between investors and customers.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jackie Truelove</p>
Julie Beffa	E-mail	External Email	<p>Hello, I'm not in the area Avista serves, but all Utilities need to be more productive with the rates that exist. Asking for rate increases every year is tiresome to the consumer and unnecessary. Their ROI is quite enough already. Thank you.</p> <p>Julie Beffa Bellevue, WA 98004</p>
Benjamin Azar	E-mail		<p>To whom it may concern, Avista Utility Company in Spokane Washington is corrupt and needs to be stopped! Avista is the most expensive Utility company in Spokane and constantly raising their rates. They claim the increases are for infrastructure improvements and repairs. With record heat waves of late in the city, they have been shutting people's power off in hour increments multiple days in a row. Some people, have suffered for HOURS at a time in a day. I believe it's time we split up the Avista area and create PUD systems where we can have an actual representative of the people. It is criminal to shut off our power supply when we pay for our use and we have literally NO option but to settle with the power company labeled to provide for our location. Have I mentioned that Avista also sells its energy to other cities and states??</p> <p>It's time for something to be done about this company. Audit them for their "infrastructure improvements" and break that corrupt company up!</p> <p>Sincerely, Benjamin Azar</p>
Duane Statler	Web		<p>Avista has proven track record of constant rate requests. These rate requests after cooking their books seem easy to justify. They have purchased a new fleet of trucks and equipment. Seems like the current rates can cover maintenance and operations. I urge the UTC panel deny this and future requests until there is a true need for more funds. Maybe they can utilize some of the executive pay to cover these increases. Thank You</p>

Shalena	Web	<p>Regarding docket UE-200900 and UG-200901</p> <p>The companie proposal advertises to the end customer that we will not see an increase in our bill. However- as soon as a tax credit expires we will see this increase- as well as increases the company proposes in the meantime. The rate of increases in unsustainable. In addition the false advertising to the public that the proposed increase will not affect their bill is unfair. We need to see what the increase looks like in year 2 when the tax credit expires. Also- let's check to see how many pieces of pricey equipment are thrown away at the end ( after not even being used) of the fiscal year so that the company can intentionally " invest". Please hold this company accountable rather than passing the expense to the public without investigating further. In what other industry can we pass an average of 10% increase a year without major look at how we conduct business.</p>
Carrie Daniel	Web	<p>Avista wants to raise their rates again to give their shareholders more money. When they were denied an increase in the past they implemented flat rate fees for everyone. You even pay it for natural gas during the months you aren't using it for your furnace. This is ridiculous. People are struggling right now. The last thing we need is to pay more on our bills so that stakeholders can earn more money.</p>
david g darlow	Web	<p>Under Satre, in he70's, it was a very referred co. --Under Redmnod, it turned into profit of bust so he could upgrade his Golden Parachute and now under this guy they spend very elaborately on everything as they are guaranteed a percentage of profit---The more you spend/ the more we make and we will bill accordingly. Dave.</p>
Jon Wagner	Web	<p>AVISTA - UTC .HEARING 6-16-21</p> <p>1. Current staff recommendations on the UTC website say they are recommending a rate reduction but the rate actually includes an increase that will remain in place after the "tax refund" is returned to rate payers. This increase will be left as part of the base rate which will make it permanent and part of new rate increase requests by Avista. So, my recommendation is this, implement a real rate decrease Then, Avista can REFUND the "tax refund" (which is not theirs anyway) to customers instead of this complicated strategy? As it is, this just seems like a shell game with a pre-determined outcome to favor Avista. The quarterly press releases issued by Avista generally show quarterly net income around \$30,000,000.00 to \$40,000,000.00. On an annual basis with all of their expenses paid for and generating this kind of "net income", it would seem a large rate cut could be in order.</p> <p>2. Let's take a minute to talk about rate schedules, of which this rate change will become part. Avista, being a natural gas AND electric company has a rate structure that seriously needs to be re-evaluated for the coming "greening" of the country. As it is right now, Avista rate schedules are archaic and seriously punitive to anyone who would choose to heat their home with a more environmentally responsible heating source than natural gas, for instance Ground Source Heat pumps (GHPs). When we built our home in 2002 we had done considerable research into the efficiency of GHPs. We found according to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory that these efficiencies could be as much as 500%. It sounded too good to be true but after all, this is data from our federal government not a GHP manufacturer or heating contractor. As it would happen, we didn't get the best contractor for our GHP system so we don't see those efficiencies.</p>

3. THE PROBLEM WITH GHPs and Avista is this. GHPs use electricity not natural gas. Avista has made it their policy, which the rate structures confirm, that home heating is to be done with natural gas, not electricity. By using electricity, even though it is supposed to be more efficient (and less harmful to the environment) than natural gas, it takes more electricity than Avista allows ratepayers to use in the lowest rate schedule. Because we heat with GPH / electricity, we use more than the base allotment of 800 kWh, and we end up in the highest rate Avista has which is nearly 30% more than the base rate. This means we are being PUNISHED for not using gas to heat our home. Avista markets itself as an environmentally responsible company, through advertising, which is a rate payer cost. If this were true it seems they would have been offering incentives for people to use more energy efficient heating even if it needs to use electricity rather than gas. As far as I know they still offer no incentive for GSHp systems. I believe they do for “air to air“ heat pumps. This approach still furthers their profit plan since it lets them sell more electricity at the highest rate allowed. If they were truly looking out for the environment they would have changed these rates or incentives long ago to encourage more use of more efficient and environmentally friendly systems. They couldn’t do that though because it would cut into profits they get from charging the highest rate they can. I would ask the UTC correct this punitive rate structure and set a rate or structure that will encourage people to make the big investment of more environmentally friendly power usage. As it is now this is a “win win” for Avista and a “lose lose” for rate payers, or as I have said a hearings in Spokane, Avista gets the gold mine and the rate payers get the shaft.

4. The individuals that make this investment should receive a benefit not a punishment! The profit for the LARGE investment should belong to the individual ...not the power company!

5. As we move to more and more electricity usage for transportation and new technologies, the increased usage will “automatically” move more and more of Avista rate payers into the higher rate schedules. This will naturally translate into a much larger income, or shall we say, “rate increase”, for Avista. It is time to start factoring in these “new” usages into the overall rate structure for Avista and all for PROFIT companies who provide PUBLIC utilities.

6. My property is adjoined on five of six sides by properties served by Inland Power Company. They charge a single rate of \$0.85 for all power used, no variable rates, from the first to the last kWh.

7. This may not be the correct place for this recommendation but I believe Avista should be required to separate its electrical business from its natural gas business. The rate structure they have developed over the years makes very clear the conflict of interest they have by owning both energy sources. It has allowed them to set punitive rates on electricity use over gas which makes Avista a monopoly which should not be allowed.

8. Avista regularly asks for rate increases needed or not, because that is their “normal”... to always ask for more from their rate payers. Part of this profit then goes to investors to pay nice dividends to stockholders. My neighbor tells me his Avista stocks are consistently at or near the top performers in his investment portfolio. Maybe their energy rates can be a little lower and still pay fair dividends to stock holders, just not among the highest dividends!

9. We are in a position now, concerning “green” energy that will set the stage for years to come. Electric companies look to profit exponentially as we move toward more solar, wind and other green sources for power. Rates in place now will no doubt be represented by Avista and other electricity suppliers as insufficient for the rapid development, they will project, is needed to move into a future with much more electricity being needed for cars, truck, battery storage and things probably not yet thought of. This will no doubt be used as justification for higher rates. We have a

			<p>great power grid in place in this country but moving too fast just for the sake of moving is not always smart or economically, nor necessarily environmentally, sensible.</p> <p>10. THE WIND DOES NOT ALWAYS BLOW AND THE SUN DOES NOT ALWAYS SHINE...where are we going to get all this power? Are we going nuclear power to meet all the new demand?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jon Wagner</p>
	Katherine Catalano	Web	<p>Once again, Avista is requesting a rate increase; a few years back Avista apparently owed Washington consumers \$51 million in refunds; which did not come in the form of an actual refund, was not broken down on the bill so that we could see what adjustments were being made, and since then I have had anywhere from 2-5 rate increases/adjustments. Now I get an insert in my bill they want to do another increase. In looking at my bill due May 11, 2021, there is a "new rate" again which is an increase. The last increase I contacted an individual at the UTC who originally helped me understand the "refund" we were supposed to get, and he indicated I was getting an increase to go into a fund for the people who can't afford their bill. So all the while Avista is continually raising my rates and now I have to pay for other individuals as well? What about me? I'm paying my bill and getting penalized for it. This bill's rates went from Electric: .07886 (old) to 0.8076 (new) - i.e., increase; Gas: .70074 (old) to .072215 (new) - i.e., increase. Then the insert that indicates the increases Avista is again filing for an increase to go into effect by 10/21 shows that the increase is actually 0.0% HOWEVER, if you look at the numbers they say they are currently charging us, it is incorrect. Electric: what I actually pay now .07886, and what Avista says I pay 0.07858. Avista's number is less than what I'm paying. And supposedly that's the "current rate." Gas: what I pay now .70074, and what Avista says I'm paying: .70194 but with a \$0 increase, but that's an actual increase of what I actually currently paying. So they are hiding an increase in what they say we are currently paying when that is not the case. Avista is a monopoly obviously and are being very dirty in their "increase" practices, by their numbers not adding up.</p>
Yes			
	Karin Morris	Web	<p>4/29/2021</p> <p>RE: Avista Dockets 2020-200900 and 2020-200901</p> <p>Greetings,</p> <p>I fully support the Commissioners'/UTC staff's proposed rate decrease that is scheduled for an online hearing on June 16, 2021.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!</p>



			Sincerely,  Karin
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