

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-240006 and UG-
240007 (*Consolidated*)

NW ENERGY COALITION
PROPOSED BUDGET

1. Pursuant to RCW 80.28.430, and the Washington Extended Interim Participatory Funding Agreement (“Extended Funding Agreement”) approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (the “Commission”),¹ NW Energy Coalition (“NVEC”) hereby submits its Proposed Budget for this matter. NVEC filed a Request for Case Certification and Intent to Request a Fund Grant in this docket on February 15, 2024. Though no order has yet been issued on Case Certification, NVEC nonetheless files this proposed budget in accordance with the 30-day after Prehearing Conference provision in Section 6.3 of the Extended Funding Agreement.

I. PROPOSED BUDGET

A. Statement of Work

2. NVEC hereby requests a Fund Grant to partially offset the expense of staff time and expenses to address: 1) issues related to rate spread and rate design; 2) gas system planning and corresponding compliance with Climate Commitment Act obligations; 3) replacement power costs for and other issues related to the Colstrip Generating Station; and 4) equity considerations as the relate to gas and electric service within Avista’s service territory.

¹ *In re Petition for Approval of an Interim Participatory Funding Agreement Pursuant to RCW 80.28.430*, Docket No. U-210595, Order No. 02 (Feb. 9, 2023).

B. General Areas to Be Investigated

3. As stated in NWEC’s Petition to Intervene, NWEC’s interests in this case include, but are not limited to: 1) Avista’s performance related to implementation of Washington climate and clean energy policies; 2) issues related to Avista’s interest in the Colstrip coal-fired power plant in Montana; 3) Avista’s performance metrics and other Senate Bill 5295 implementation issues; and 4) issues related to customer-side resources, distribution system investment, energy efficiency assistance, and other affordability issues for low- and moderate-income customers. NWEC continues to review the multi-year rate plan filing, conduct discovery, and may address other issues not stated here.

C. Specific Fund/Available Funds

4. As stated in its Request for Case Certification and Notice of Intent to Request Fund Grant, NWEC requests a Fund Grant from the Customer Representation Sub-Fund of the Customer Access Fund for Avista. Section 4.2 of the Funding Agreement provides for a Customer Representation Fund of \$200,000 for all parties for all Avista proceedings in 2022.² At this time, NWEC does not foresee requesting a Fund Grant for any other Avista proceedings in 2024.

D. Proposed Budget

5. As reflected in Exhibit A, attached hereto, NWEC submits the following estimated budget for its requested Fund Grants in this matter:

Estimated Staff Participation Costs:	\$29,770
Estimated Postage Fees (paper copies):	\$230
Total:	\$30,000

² See Extended Interim Funding Agreement § 4.2 (Dec. 20, 2022).

II. CONCLUSION

6. For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should accept NWEA's proposed budget.

Dated this 21st day of March 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ F. Diego Rivas

F. Diego Rivas

Montana State Bar No.: 68806741

Regulatory Counsel

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Exhibit A

NW Energy Coalition Proposed Budget for Issue Fund Grant

Personnel	Hours	Rate	Cost
<i>Staff</i>			
Regulatory Counsel	175 (approx.)	\$66	\$11,220
Policy Director	100 (approx.)	\$66	\$6,600
Senior Technical Analyst	150 (approx.)	\$62	\$9,300
Policy Associate	50 (approx.)	\$53	\$2,650
<i>Other Expenses</i>			
Travel			\$0
Printing and Postage			\$230
Total NWEK Request			\$30,000