

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA
UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKET UE-240006 and UG-240007
(Consolidated)

THE ENERGY PROJECT'S
PROPOSED BUDGET

1 Pursuant to RCW 80.28.430, the Washington Extended Interim Participatory Funding Agreement (Funding Agreement) approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission),¹ The Energy Project (TEP) respectfully submits its Proposed Budget for this matter, pursuant to Section 6.3 of the Funding Agreement.

Statement of Work for Which Funding is Sought

2 TEP intends to request a Fund Grant to partially offset the expense of expert consulting services to address performance-based ratemaking issues, including performance metrics, as well as other issues affecting low-income and vulnerable customers. In all areas, TEP's emphasis will be on the low-income and vulnerable customer impacts of Avista's proposals in this docket. Additionally, The Energy Project intends to request a Fund Grant to partially offset its expenses, including retaining counsel and expert witnesses, to represent TEP in this docket.

General Areas to be Investigated

3 TEP is investigating or may investigate all matters which have an impact on Avista's low-income and vulnerable customers, including but not limited to the multiyear rate plan, low-income assistance program funding and design, low-income weatherization, billing, credit and

¹ Docket U-210595, Order 02 (February 9, 2023).

collection issues, arrearage management, performance based regulation and performance measures, cost of service, rate spread, rate design, decoupling, renewables, electric vehicles, and distributed generation, and power costs. The Energy Project reserves the right to investigate and address additional issues not stated here as the case progresses.

Specific Fund/Available Funds

4 As stated in its Request for Case Certification and Notice of Intent to Request Fund Grant, TEP intends to request a Fund Grant from the Customer Representation Sub-Fund of the Customer Access Fund for Avista. Section 4.2 of the Funding Agreement provides a Customer Representation Sub-Fund of \$200,000 for all parties for all Avista proceedings in 2024. At this time, TEP does not have definitive information upon which to base an estimate of the amount of available funds in the account. TEP believes that the Alliance for Western Energy Consumers, NW Energy Coalition, and TEP intend to submit budgets for grants from Avista's 2024 Customer Representation Sub-Fund in this case. TEP is coordinating its request with the other case-certified parties as required under section 6.6 of the Funding Agreement.

Budget

5 As reflected in Exhibit A, TEP submits an \$85,000 estimated budget for its requested Fund Grants in this matter. This amount represents partial reimbursement of expenses and does not include hours for in-house or professional staff. TEP projects that its total expenses for this case will exceed the amounts stated.

DATED: March 21, 2024

By: /s/ Yochanan Zakai

Yochanan Zakai

Washington State Bar No. 61935*

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* Mr. Zakai is not a member of the State Bar of California.

EXHIBIT A

The Energy Project’s Calendar Year 2024 Proposed Budget for UE-240006 and UG-240007

Personnel	Estimate of Hours	Rate	Cost
<i>Attorney Fees²</i>			
Attorney	250	\$230-330	\$65,000
<i>Expert Consultant/Witness Fees</i>			
Experts	80	\$240-350	\$20,000
Total Request			\$85,000

This budget represents a partial reimbursement of expense; The Energy Project projects that its total expenses for this case will exceed the amounts stated.

² Attorney fees do not represent Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger LLP’s market rates. In support of The Energy Project’s representation of vulnerable populations and low-income customers, and the firm’s commitment to equity, Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger LLP represents The Energy Project at discounted rates.