



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
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May 18, 2018

Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
P. O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: *Petition of Avista Corporation for an Accounting Order Authorizing the Deferral of Costs Related to Offering a Fee-Free Credit and Debit Card Payment Program for the Company's Residential Customers, Dockets No. UE-160071 and UG-160072 –Avista Utilities Q4 2017 Fee-Free Payment Program Report*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Commission Staff has reviewed the compliance filing of Avista Corporation dated April 30, 2018, titled *Avista Utilities Q1 2018 Fee-Free Payment Program Report*. This report – the second of a series of required reports - provides updates to the Commission about the program's progress through the first quarter of 2017. Subsequent reports are due quarterly. Staff believes that the filing complies fully with the Commission's Order 01, entered March 24, 2016.

Staff would like to bring to the Commission's attention that the customer adoption rate for this program has notably exceeded the presumed 15 percent adoption rate when this program was originally proposed and approved. The adoption rate shown in this report is 22.2 percent for the first quarter, 2018.

Sincerely,

AMY WHITE  
Regulatory Analyst, Energy Regulation