

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKET NOS. UE-200900 and UG-200901 (*Consolidated*)

PAUL J. ALVAREZ AND DENNIS STEPHENS

**ON BEHALF OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PUBLIC COUNSEL UNIT**

EXHIBIT PADS-8

Avista Response to Public Counsel Data Request No. 253

April 21, 2021

**AVISTA CORP.
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

JURISDICTION:	WASHINGTON	DATE PREPARED:	3/18/2021
CASE NO.:	UE-200900 & UG-200901	WITNESS:	H. Rosentrater / D. Howell
REQUESTER:	Public Counsel	RESPONDER:	Kyle Jonas
TYPE:	Data Request	DEPT:	Asset Maintenance
REQUEST NO.:	PC - 253	TELEPHONE:	(509) 495-2695
		EMAIL:	kyle.jonas@avistacorp.com

RE: Wildfire Plan

Please refer to Avista's Response to Public Counsel Data Request No. 084 (m), which provides a count of distribution pole fires.

- a) Provide the number of wooden distribution poles Avista has on its distribution system by WUI risk tier (low, tier 1, tier 2, tier 3).
- b) Provide the number (or estimate the percent) of wooden distribution poles equipped with cross arms by WUI risk tier (low, tier 1, tier 2, tier 3).
- c) Provide the number of fiberglass cross arms Avista has installed on wooden distribution poles to date by WUI risk tier (low, tier 2, tier 2, tier 3).
- d) Provide the number of wooden distribution poles Avista replaced by year in 2017, 2018, and 2019.
- e) Provide the number of wooden distribution cross arms Avista replaced with fiberglass cross arms in 2017, 2018, and 2019.
- f) Provide the cost of replacing wooden distribution cross arms with fiberglass distribution cross arms Avista incurred by year in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Response:

- a).
Low: 64,619
Tier 1: 21,974
Tier 2: 22,459
Tier 3: 8,615

This data was extracted on 3/17/2021.

- b)
A very high level estimate of the wooden poles with crossarms is approximately 90%. The exact number and the count in each WUI risk tier is not readily available.

- c) Please refer to the response for PC-258 (b).

- d)
The exact number of wooden distribution poles replaced in 2017, 2018, and 2019 is not readily available. Approximate yearly totals for distribution wood pole replacements is shown below:
2017: 2857
2018: 3381
2019: 3041

e) Please refer to the response in PC-258 (b).

f) Provide the cost of replacing wooden distribution cross arms with fiberglass distribution cross arms Avista incurred by year in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The cost of replacing cross arms is dependent on a wide variety of variables that include but are not limited to, the framing of the structure in question, whether it is energized during replacement, whether the structure is accessible, the specific cross arm size and its current material cost, whether the structure has down guys affected by the pole replacement, and the labor rate at the time of replacement. The various projects across Avista track their costs through different methods - sometimes in a way that makes it difficult or unviable to discern the specific cost of cross arm replacements. Furthermore, the amount of wooden crossarms being retired from service are not always replaced with another crossarm. The best example of that is replacing a single-phase cross arm with a fiberglass standoff bracket.

Please refer to response on PC-258 subpart (a).

See also Avista's response to PC-256, 257 and 258.