

0220

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

---

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION )  
 COMMISSION, )  
           Complainant, )  
           vs. ) Dockets UE-110876  
 AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA ) and UG-110877  
 UTILITIES, ) (Consolidated)  
           Respondent. ) Pages 220-263

---

PUBLIC HEARING, VOLUME VI

Pages 220-263

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DENNIS MOSS

6:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER 8, 2011

Spokane City Council Chambers  
808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard  
Spokane, Washington

REPORTED BY: KATHLEEN HAMILTON, CRR, RPR, CCR 1917  
Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC  
1411 Fourth Avenue  
Suite 820  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206.287.9066 | Seattle  
360.534.9066 | Olympia  
800.846.6989 | National  
  
www.buellrealtime.com

0221

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

A P P E A R A N C E S

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

DENNIS MOSS  
Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504  
360.664.1136

COMMISSIONERS:

JEFF GOLTZ, Chairman  
PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner  
PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, Washington 98504  
360.664.1173

\* \* \* \* \*

0222

1

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON; NOVEMBER 8, 2011

2

6:00 P.M.

3

-oOo-

4

5

P R O C E E D I N G S

6

7

JUDGE MOSS: Good evening, everyone. My name is  
Dennis Moss. I'm an administrative law judge with the  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

10

I'm here this evening to assist the Commissioners,  
Chairman Goltz, Commissioner Oshie and Commissioner Jones,  
in this phase of our proceeding. And this is a general rate  
case proceeding.

14

This is a public comment hearing, an opportunity  
for us to hear from members of the public. I'm going to  
turn the floor over to Chairman Goltz for a few opening  
comments, and then I'm going to talk to you all a little bit  
about what this process is about and what this case is  
about, and explain how the comments will be taken this  
evening.

21

I have at this point I think six people signed up  
who wish to speak, and we may have additional speakers as  
the evening goes on. Chairman Goltz.

24

CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you, Judge Moss. I just  
want to say briefly, thank everyone for coming tonight. As

25

0223

1 I've been on the Commission now for almost three years, less  
2 time than my colleagues here.

3 But we've had a number of rate cases during  
4 that -- those three years, several with this setting, and  
5 also others in the State of Washington.

6 In every rate case, and some other types of cases  
7 as well, we always come into the service territory of the  
8 utility and have at least one, sometimes two, or in this  
9 case of this proceeding we're going to have three public  
10 comment hearings to get the perspective of the rate payers.

11 Now, at the -- normally in a hearing -- we had a  
12 hearing this afternoon on the merits of the proposed  
13 settlement. You hear from a lot of expert accountants,  
14 expert economists that have reviewed the expenses of the  
15 utility and gone through the various expense accounts, as  
16 accountants do, and try to determine which expenses of the  
17 company are appropriate for being in effect paid by rate  
18 payers and which are not, and also have folks who then  
19 review the -- the utility's records and also determine what  
20 would be an appropriate level of earnings for the utility to  
21 make.

22 And that gives us good perspective on what the  
23 ultimate rate should be. But there's another perspective  
24 that we don't get from -- from the accountants, and that is  
25 the perspective of the people that actually pay the rates.

0224

1           So these public hearings have always been, in my  
2 view, very valuable in giving some perspective that we don't  
3 get in the normal formal hearing process.

4           We had a good hearing today in Spokane Valley.  
5 We'll have another hearing tomorrow in Pullman. In the past  
6 I know we've had good hearings here in the city council  
7 chambers in Spokane.

8           So thank you, and we look forward for you helping  
9 us out with this proceeding.

10           JUDGE MOSS: Thank you, Chairman Goltz. To  
11 explain a little bit about the process, when the company,  
12 such as Avista, files a general rate increase with the  
13 Commission, typically we initiate what we call a  
14 quasi-judicial proceeding.

15           That's describing the decision-making process by  
16 which we go forward in considering the filing. So when the  
17 company files its case, it presents testimony and exhibits  
18 in support of its filing, and other parties begin to analyze  
19 that.

20           I'll mention a couple of the key parties. In  
21 addition to Avista, we have the staff of the Washington  
22 Utilities Commission represented by Attorney General Don  
23 Trotter, and we have the Public Counsel Office  
24 represented -- also of the Attorney General's Office  
25 represented here by Sarah Shifley tonight.

0225

1           These two are what we refer to as statutory  
2 parties. The staff in this type of proceeding does not work  
3 for us. They are here as a party just as Public Counsel is  
4 here as a party representing the interests of the -- the  
5 residential and small commercial or small business rate  
6 payers.

7           There are other parties in the proceeding. For  
8 example, in this proceeding there is a group called the  
9 Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities that represents  
10 large industrial customers served by Avista.

11           There's Northwest Industrial Gas Users, which is  
12 another trade organization. There are public interest  
13 organizations such as the Energy Project representing  
14 low-income interests. And in this case, we have the  
15 Northwest Energy Coalition representing the interests of  
16 conservation and renewable resources and so forth.

17           So -- and some of those people are present here  
18 tonight. In addition to the two I've singled out here,  
19 Avista is represented here tonight by Mr. David Meyer --

20           MR. MEYER: Thank you.

21           JUDGE MOSS: -- at the company, and the company  
22 also has additional personnel here, as does Public Counsel  
23 and our staff. You saw one of our staff when you came in  
24 out there, Roger Kouchi with our Consumer Affairs  
25 Department, and he's helping out with our hearing.

0226

1           Then we have some other staff. The room is very  
2 dim from where I'm sitting, so I can't quite see who's out  
3 there. I see some hands waiving in the back of the room.  
4 All of these people are available to you tonight if you have  
5 questions, you want to discuss the case, if you need some  
6 follow-up information, you can approach them after we have  
7 our public comments.

8           So we on the other hand are sitting as judges in  
9 this case, and so we're not available to talk to you  
10 individually. We're not available to you to answer  
11 questions tonight, but all these other people are here, and  
12 that's part of the reason that they are here.

13           Just to give you a very brief overview of the  
14 case, Avista's original request in this case was filed on  
15 May 16th, 2011, and the company asked for rate increases.  
16 On the electric side it would have -- the rate increases  
17 they requested would have produced an additional revenue of  
18 38.3 million, and on the gas side 6.2 million.

19           The Commission did what it typically does in these  
20 cases. We call it suspending the tariff filing, which means  
21 the rates do not go into effect until we've had an  
22 opportunity to thoroughly analyze the filing and hear from  
23 other parties or have other parties participating.

24           The parties do undertake a lot of we call it  
25 discovery. They ask questions of the company. In this

0227

1 case, as I recall, there was something between 800 and a  
2 thousand data requests put to the company asking the company  
3 to provide information to clarify or just present additional  
4 information the parties are interested in.

5           Once the parties were sufficiently far along in  
6 their respective analyses of the case, they sat down with  
7 Avista and started talking about the ways to narrow --  
8 possibly narrow the issues that we would have to hear and  
9 decide as a Commission.

10           And ultimately they decided on a settlement  
11 agreement. They decided on a solution to the case that  
12 would satisfy all of their diverse interests.

13           And so what we have before us at this time is a  
14 settlement agreement in which, instead of the 38.3 million  
15 the company originally requested for electric service, it  
16 agrees to accept just over half that amount, 20 million  
17 dollars. For an overall basis, that's about a 4.6 percent  
18 rate increase versus a 9.1 increase it was originally filed  
19 for.

20           For residential customers, which I suspect most of  
21 you here tonight are, it's about a four percent increase in  
22 rates versus nine percent as originally filed.

23           On the natural gas side, the company has agreed in  
24 the settlement to accept 3.75 million or about 60 percent of  
25 the originally requested 6.2 million. And again, focusing



0228

1 on the residential rates, that's about a 2.8 percent  
2 increase versus the original request for 5.1 percent.

3 There is additional detail about the case  
4 available to you on the table that you passed when you  
5 signed in tonight or if you just passed by. There are two  
6 handouts.

7 One was prepared by the parties to the settlement  
8 agreement, and that's this sheet here. And it has a lot of  
9 detailed information about the case as it was originally  
10 filed and as it was agreed to be settled.

11 And then there's another sheet. This is prepared  
12 by the Public Counsel's Office, and it also gives you  
13 information concerning the details of the case. And so with  
14 that I won't say any more about it at this time. So we have  
15 that before us.

16 We've had our settlement hearing this afternoon,  
17 and as Chairman Goltz mentioned, we will have this public  
18 comment hearing, and then another one tomorrow in Pullman.

19 The way we'll proceed tonight, I have a list up  
20 here of those who wish to speak. Mr. Kouchi is going to  
21 bring me an addition to that list in a moment. What we'll  
22 do is I'll ask all of you who wish to speak tonight,  
23 everyone who wishes to speak tonight at this time I want to  
24 swear you all in together.

25 So if you will please all stand up, those of you

0229

1 who wish to speak, raise your right hand, and I ask each of  
2 you if you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you  
3 give in this proceeding will be the truth, the whole truth  
4 and nothing but the truth. Please say I do.

5 THE WITNESSES: I do.

6 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you. Please be seated. I'm  
7 going to call you up one at a time in accordance with the  
8 list that I have and the order that you signed in, and we  
9 ask for some basic information when you come up.

10 And you can either just give me the information  
11 or, if you wish, I can prompt you with questions. But what  
12 we ask you to do is state your full name for the record, and  
13 spell your last name for the record.

14 We have a court reporter here who's recording  
15 every word we speak, and it will be helpful for her if you  
16 will spell your last name so that she gets that accurately.

17 We ask you to state what community you're in. For  
18 example, "I live in the city of Spokane" or "I live in  
19 Spokane Valley" or whatever. You don't have to give an  
20 address, just what community are you in.

21 We ask you to inform the record whether you are an  
22 electric customer, gas customer or both. This isn't  
23 critically important, but it's good for us to know.

24 And then if you're appearing in a representative  
25 capacity, if you're representing some group, and I notice a

0230

1 number of you are, please state what group you are  
2 representing tonight.

3 We limit the comments to three minutes per  
4 speaker, and I'll be timing that. And if you run over your  
5 three minutes, I'll be as courteous as I can in stopping you  
6 at an appropriate moment and asking you to sum up.

7 We find that three minutes is typically adequate  
8 for folks, but if you have additional comments you wish to  
9 submit in writing, you may do so until November 16th. And  
10 Mr. Kouchi or others on our staff can tell you the address.

11 And you can do it by e-mail, you can do it by U.S.  
12 mail or hand-delivery, for that matter. So that's another  
13 option for you if you don't say everything tonight that you  
14 feel like you want to share with us.

15 Or if you leave here tonight and you think of some  
16 additional things that you'd like to share with us over the  
17 course of the next week, you can provide that to us in  
18 writing.

19 So with that and without further ado, I'll call  
20 our first speaker, who is Marian Sheafor. Ms. Sheafor,  
21 welcome.

22 MS. SHEAFOR: Good evening, Commissioners. May  
23 name is Marian Sheafor, S-h-e-a-f-o-r. You would have never  
24 guessed how to spell that, would you?

25 JUDGE MOSS: I have it written down right here.

0231

1 MS. SHEAFOR: I live in Spokane County, and I am  
2 both a gas and an electric customer. I'm here tonight  
3 representing the Planning and Management Counsel of Aging  
4 and Long-term Care of Eastern Washington. I am currently  
5 the chair of that council.

6 We advocate on the behalf of older adults and  
7 younger individuals with a disability in need of long-term  
8 care in Ferry, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Spokane and Whitman  
9 Counties.

10 As the Commission considers the Avista general  
11 rate increase for 2011, we ask that you take into account  
12 the following position adopted by our planning and  
13 management council.

14 The planning and management council believes that,  
15 given the general rate case settlement increases granted  
16 Avista for electric and natural gas annually since 2006,  
17 recent state budget cuts to services, with more likely to  
18 come, and the downturn in the economy, that no electric or  
19 natural gas increases should be granted for 2012.

20 Following, any future proposed rate changes from  
21 Avista must be consistent with the following three  
22 principles: One, low income, aging and long-term care  
23 consumers will be provided heating and energy assistance at  
24 a rate at least equal to a residential rate increase where  
25 low income is measured by a broader income eligibility

0232

1 bracket as stated in the Wider Opportunities for Women's EES  
2 audit -- that's Elder Economic Security Index Cost of Living  
3 Index -- rather than the federal poverty level, and takes  
4 into account the increase in number of low income older  
5 individuals, and allows for an increase in the level of  
6 assistance provided per individual.

7           Second, the rate change should reflect the need  
8 for infrastructure maintenance with defined funding and  
9 allocations; and three, the rate of return for shareholders  
10 should remain at or below the average eight percent  
11 consistent with that experienced over the past five years.

12           Programs funded by the Aging and Long-term Care of  
13 Washington serve many persons who are low income and manage  
14 either chronic health problems or disabilities, sometimes  
15 both.

16           An increase in residential rates for heat and  
17 light impacts this segment of the population much more  
18 drastically than others. As these individuals struggle to  
19 make ends meet for food, medicine, transportation and  
20 shelter, even the proposed rate increase in the direct  
21 settlement agreement are too high and will place an  
22 unmanageable burden on many. Thank you for listening to  
23 these concerns.

24           JUDGE MOSS: Thank you, Ms. Sheafor. We  
25 appreciate your comments. Our next speaker is Gary Gow.

0233

1           MR. GOW: Yes, sir. I -- Gary L. Gow, G-o-w. And  
2 I live within the city limits of Spokane. I'm a natural gas  
3 and electric customer.

4           JUDGE MOSS: Thank you.

5           MR. GOW: Excuse me. Got to have my glasses. I  
6 read where this rate is so they can upgrade some of their  
7 equipment and whatever they do, their dams, their  
8 generators, whatever.

9           Well, the people, you know, we can't go to anybody  
10 and say, "Hey, we need to put in a new range or refrigerator  
11 or a stove," and ask anybody to give us a raise so we can do  
12 that, so why should they?

13           They want the moneys to upgrade or fix whatever.  
14 I don't know what it would be, but I did -- I remember they  
15 said that, but I don't know what it was. And when it's paid  
16 for, they don't come back and say, "Well, we'll give you  
17 this money back now."

18           So hey, give me a break. They give it to their  
19 executives on bonuses, then they're all making in the six  
20 figures. Or they give it to their stockholders that are  
21 making like nine and ten percent interest on their moneys.  
22 And I believe them people ought to make some money, but not  
23 that much.

24           And the people on social security have not got a  
25 raise in three years. They're going to get one this year,

0234

1 3.6 percent, and that includes me. And it won't add up to  
2 much. And they'll take part of that out for Medicare Part  
3 B.

4 I don't think that Avista understands that we are  
5 in a depression and/or a recession, whichever you want to  
6 call it. That's about all I got to say. And I appreciate  
7 you gentlemen listening to me.

8 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you for your comments. All  
9 right. Next we'll have Catherine Isabel.

10 MS. ISABEL: Good evening. My last name is  
11 spelled I-s-a-b-e-l. I received your Connections  
12 Newsletter, and I notice that Avista is the only company out  
13 of three which you allowed an increase.

14 And Northwest Natural Gas has a decrease of 151  
15 per month, and Puget Sound \$3.30 decrease. When Avista is  
16 asking for an increase, does that also include salaries for  
17 the CEOs and the employees or is it mainly for maintenance  
18 and purchasing power and so on?

19 Is it -- is it for all of that? I mean, do you --  
20 do you check into these things or it's not part of it?

21 JUDGE MOSS: Well, I'll just say briefly again,  
22 we're not here to answer questions tonight, but you can put  
23 those questions to our staff and to others who are present  
24 in the room, and they can give you more details about that.  
25 But I just will respond generally and say, yes, we do look

0235

1 at all of that in great detail.

2 MS. ISABEL: I have lived in many other states.  
3 And I have attended utility commission meetings, and I can  
4 only tell you that for my experience, the general public  
5 writing letters to the editor or coming to these meetings,  
6 hundreds of thousands of people, maybe even millions  
7 believes that a utility commission is really not on the  
8 consumer side, it's on the side of the providers.

9 And I wonder why we all have that feeling. Is it  
10 we have 99 percent revolt everywhere, you think maybe it has  
11 something to do with that? That we are not listened to.  
12 Prices are going up, and we're supposed to vote and pay  
13 taxes and pay higher utility rates. We have nothing to say.

14 So this is my experience, and it's not any better.  
15 And I would like to ask, and you probably cannot answer  
16 that. I will write you a letter. Have there ever been  
17 women on the utility commission?

18 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: I will answer that. Yes,  
19 actually, we've had -- for about a decade and a half I think  
20 we had women chairs of the Commission. We had Sharon Nelson  
21 and Ann and Marilyn --

22 MS. ISABEL: And how long have these committees,  
23 utility commissions existed? Ever since you became a state  
24 or what?

25 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: This one since 1905.



0236

1 MS. ISABEL: 1905. And so you had one time women?

2 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: No. I'm saying we had -- I don't  
3 think we had our first woman commissioner in the '60s, but  
4 then in the '80s and '90s we had women as chairs for the  
5 full time. There's obviously no women on the commission  
6 now.

7 MS. ISABEL: Okay. Thanks.

8 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you. Lois Iller.

9 MS. ILLER: I wrote "no" on there, did I not?

10 JUDGE MOSS: Yeah, actually you put "no" in one  
11 column, but you put "yes" in the column of speaking.

12 MS. ILLER: I'm sorry.

13 JUDGE MOSS: We're not going to put you under any  
14 pressure to come up if you don't want to. No problem.  
15 Happy to hear from you if you wish to speak. Nick, I think  
16 this is Beam or Beaman.

17 MR. BEAMER: Close enough. My name is Nick Beamer  
18 spelled B-e-a-m-e-r. And I live in the city of Spokane.  
19 And in both electric and gas purchaser from Avista, if you  
20 will.

21 I'm here tonight also talking on behalf of Aging  
22 and Long-term Care of Eastern Washington, and I want to  
23 place the Avista rate increase a little bit more in context  
24 with the other events of 2011 that impact the lives of the  
25 over 9,000 individuals that we serve, many of whom live in

0237

1 Avista's territory in the State of Washington.

2 In January of this year, the agency's programs for  
3 seniors funded through the Senior Citizen Services Act,  
4 that's state-only funding, was cut by 30 percent through  
5 June of this year.

6 That was a loss of about a hundred and fifteen,  
7 hundred and sixteen thousand dollars in our five-county  
8 area, and we estimated a loss of about 15,000 units of  
9 service to individuals that really needed those services,  
10 but we could no longer deliver them.

11 In July this source of funding was cut again  
12 another 1.6 million dollars statewide for the remainder of  
13 the biennium, which basically started, of course, as you  
14 know, July 1st, and won't end until June of 2013.

15 Now, that will be another roughly hundred and  
16 sixteen thousand dollars in our area. And we are taking  
17 those cuts now.

18 In addition, as the legislature adjourned in July,  
19 for folks that are Medicaid eligible, there was a ten  
20 percent reduction in the hours on average that they receive  
21 for in-home care.

22 Now, that varied from a six percent low to a high  
23 of 18 percent, again eroding that safety net, if you will,  
24 of services that allow folks to not be in nursing homes as  
25 they age and need assistance with what we call activities of

0238

1 daily living, things like bathing, toileting, meal  
2 preparation, et cetera.

3 It allows them to maintain their life in the  
4 setting where they really appreciate that being at home.  
5 Again, as we take a look at our budget for the next few  
6 months of the biennium, as you know, State has said there's  
7 a 2 billion dollar deficit between revenue and expenses.

8 The kinds of cuts that are proposed for us again  
9 are a 20 percent reduction again in the Senior Citizen  
10 Services Act money. And rather than thinning the suit as  
11 they did last time for Medicare or Medicaid -- pardon me --  
12 they are actually taking people off of services.

13 Anywhere from 5,000 individuals statewide to  
14 11,700 individuals statewide will lose services for Medicaid  
15 personal care. It depends on which budget gets adopted,  
16 whether it's the governor's or the proposal from the  
17 departments to save ten percent.

18 I only tell you that because again we are looking  
19 at not being able to serve people that currently need those  
20 services to stay at home. So they are looking at how do we  
21 make ends meet? Can we even make ends meet? And then along  
22 comes Avista rates and an increase is proposed, as you know.

23 JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Beamer, I'm going to ask you to  
24 sum up. I notice you did give a writing to the court  
25 reporter there. Does that cover your comments that you

0239

1 wanted to make this evening?

2 MR. BEAMER: Most of them.

3 JUDGE MOSS: Okay.

4 MR. BEAMER: I will sum up very quickly. I looked  
5 at the settlement proposal, and there are many, many parts  
6 of that settlement proposal that I would agree with, and I  
7 think our agency would agree with as well, with only one  
8 exception, and that is the increase in rates for electric  
9 and gas for residential customers.

10 We think there should be none. And I think, you  
11 know, given the situation, I can't think of a better time  
12 for you folks to not give a rate increase to Avista. Thank  
13 you.

14 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you, Mr. Beamer. And we'll  
15 have your written comments as well as part of our record.  
16 Thank you very much. Jon Wagner.

17 MR. WAGNER: Good evening. My name is Jon Wagner,  
18 W-a-g-n-e-r. And I buy gas and electric from Avista. I'm  
19 opposed to any rate increase for Avista, because I don't  
20 think they're following the spirit of the initiative 937  
21 that was passed by the people that mandates that all energy  
22 companies shall use renewable energy sources.

23 Avista has their little program for every little  
24 bit counts, but they largely -- not largely, they just plain  
25 ignore geothermal energy.

0240

1           I have written a letter. I don't know if you've  
2 seen it or not. I sent it -- I was directed by the  
3 Utilities Commission staff to send it to the Attorney  
4 General's Office, that they would represent individuals.

5           And though they were cordial, they said they had  
6 no resources available to represent individuals, so it's  
7 kind of a catch-22 sounded like to me. So I am here to  
8 speak to make sure I am heard.

9           Geothermal is probably the most efficient energy  
10 available to us. The resources are limitless. It is the  
11 ground beneath us. It doesn't need wind to turn a propeller  
12 on a windmill. Doesn't need rain or snow to make water for  
13 a river to run through a hydro project. It is there.

14           Though we do need smaller amounts of electricity  
15 to run geothermal systems, the federal energy department  
16 says the efficiencies are as high as 600 percent. I am  
17 personally not experiencing that with my system, but with an  
18 efficiency of even 400 percent, I would think Avista, if  
19 they were responsible to the current technologies available  
20 in this day and age, would be on their own initiative  
21 petitioning for a rate structure revision that would  
22 encourage the use of such an energy efficient source of  
23 energy.

24           As it is now, they can continue to charge nearly  
25 double the rate of what the cooperative, the power

0241

1 cooperative here, Inland Power and Light, charges, because  
2 they know that if you are going to use geo, you will be  
3 using more of it, more electricity, to -- and their initial  
4 rate is like six and a half cents a kilowatt hour for their  
5 first little bit, which is about enough to run your lights  
6 and refrigerator.

7 Geo will take care of your space heating and your  
8 water heating, yet they ignore it. And I would just ask the  
9 Commission, encourage, twist their arm, whatever to get them  
10 to actually acknowledge.

11 Their stated reply to why they don't invest in  
12 geothermal energy is that there's not much happening in that  
13 area. In my contacts with different companies that install  
14 those systems in this area, it appears that there's  
15 thousands of them already installed here.

16 So I see that as individual people who are doing  
17 their part to try and conserve energy for our country, and  
18 what -- what happens is Avista gets the profit, and the  
19 individuals get screwed.

20 JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Wagner, I'll ask you to sum up.

21 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Can I just ask one question? So  
22 I understand it, your -- the geothermal systems you're  
23 talking about are for geothermal use for space heating, not  
24 for generation of electricity; correct?

25 MR. WAGNER: Correct. They're just for home space

0242

1 heating.

2 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Right. And your concern is that  
3 the rates charged, it takes some electricity to run these  
4 systems, and your concern is that the rate structure for  
5 Avista is not --

6 MR. WAGNER: Not responsive to that.

7 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: It's just not encouraging it.

8 MR. WAGNER: Yeah. It discourages it.

9 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Because they just charge the  
10 general -- whatever the general rate is.

11 MR. WAGNER: Well, their tiered rate structure  
12 starts out decent, but then if you get past the just general  
13 amount to run your lights and a refrigerator, which is like  
14 600 kilowatt hours a month, then it starts stepping up.

15 And before you know it, you're almost at the 10  
16 cents a kilowatt hour. Across literally three sides of my  
17 property Inland Power and Light served those three  
18 neighbors, but yet because of the way Avista development was  
19 put in, I can't get hooked up to Inland Power and Light.

20 So instead of getting Inland Power for five and  
21 three-quarter cents a kilowatt hour, I get to pay 10 cents a  
22 kilowatt hour almost for Avista power.

23 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you. Our next speaker is  
24 Arielle Anderson.

25 MS. ANDERSON: Hello. My name is Arielle

0243

1 Anderson. My last name is spelled A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. And I  
2 live -- excuse me -- in the city of Spokane, and I am both  
3 an electric and gas user.

4 I don't have anything -- I don't have any  
5 earth-shattering insight. I would tend to agree with the  
6 past speakers as well that we are, just from a very grounded  
7 perspective, we're in a recession right now, and I think  
8 that even a \$3 increase is quite -- quite a bit,  
9 particularly for those that are low income who are on a very  
10 strict budget.

11 The impacts it would have on my family, even  
12 though I'm lower middle class, we could certainly afford it.  
13 Unfortunately, Avista has a monopoly, so even if I couldn't  
14 afford it, it doesn't matter, because I don't have an  
15 option. I have to pay it.

16 And so I just feel like when we are in a  
17 recession, we are asked to kind of, you know, tighten our  
18 belts and, you know, suck it up. And -- and I feel Avista  
19 should do the same thing. I don't feel it's an appropriate  
20 time right now, given the economy, to request a rate  
21 increase. Thank you.

22 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you, Ms. Anderson. Our next  
23 speaker is Dustin Jolly.

24 MR. JOLLY: My name is Dustin Jolly, last name  
25 J-o-l-l-y. I'm a community volunteer. I'm a tax payer.



0244

1 I'm an Avista user on electricity and natural gas. It seems  
2 that everybody nowadays are hurting, from senior citizens to  
3 people losing their jobs in a dying middle class, and Avista  
4 is allowed to continue to be a monopoly.

5 Why is Avista company? Why can't Avista be a  
6 co-op or give back to the people in some way and not just  
7 their shareholders?

8 CEO of Avista made over 2.something million  
9 dollars last year, over two hundred and sixty-six thousand  
10 dollars a month. I do not think that's fair.

11 Wind power for the city, which would allow  
12 citizens to give back to the grid, is lobbied against by  
13 Avista and is not allowed at Spokane city limits. Users of  
14 Avista power can only give back to the grid so much before  
15 Avista's allowed to eat that up and put it back in their  
16 pocket book.

17 When I Googled Avista, I pull up Avista Credit  
18 Union, Avista Corporation, all of these things in which do  
19 not represent the people, but the corporations.

20 Jobs are not looking good, and Avista has no  
21 competition. Avista has no risk. Avista is allowed to  
22 continue to -- continue to be a monopoly, and it continues  
23 to be an energy vampire on its users and its community.  
24 When is Avista going to give back? That is all.

25 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you very much. Our next

0245

1 speaker is Martin, I believe it's Howe.

2 MR. HOUSER: My name is Martin Houser. I live in  
3 the city of Spokane, and I use both natural gas and  
4 electricity.

5 As everybody else here has brought out, we are not  
6 exactly in a booming economic times, and demand for a lot of  
7 things are down. People need jobs. We can go on. But I  
8 brought something here, and I'll leave it here with you.

9 I happen to have the U.S. natural gas pipeline  
10 imports price dollars per thousand cubic feet. Goes all the  
11 way back to '97. In October 2000 was 527; December, 748,  
12 \$9.61. Kind of expensive, isn't it?

13 And then of course there are periods where it goes  
14 up and down, and that's the -- and I assume Avista doesn't  
15 have its own facilities. You know, they don't have their  
16 own natural gas wells and all that. So they're buying off  
17 the pipeline, probably out of Canada, and maybe Montana.  
18 They can probably tell you that.

19 Now we're down to around \$4.10, according to  
20 August 2011. So what I'm seeing here is if they're looking  
21 for an increase, and it's based on cost of production for  
22 cost for natural gas, you're going to have to take a real  
23 hard look at that, because the cost for natural gas has been  
24 going down for about the last ten years, with some spikes,  
25 as you know, for energy purposes. Things happen,

0246

1 speculators and what have you. So that's one thing that  
2 concerns me.

3 Another thing that concerns me is the fact that  
4 initiative 930 -- I believe it was 37 -- correct me if I'm  
5 wrong. I don't think the public really understood what they  
6 were doing. It sounded good. We all thought that, you  
7 know, we're going to have an energy crisis. We're not going  
8 to have enough of this and enough of that, and we all saw  
9 that.

10 And then we thought the planet was getting warmer.  
11 Well, of course, unfortunately some e-mails got loose, and  
12 you know the rest of the story. East Anglia University is  
13 holding his head in shame, because they were lying about  
14 some of the data they had. This is public record.

15 And so now we've discovered that, yes, instead of  
16 having global warming we have climate change. And by the  
17 way, coming down here I noticed the climate change, it's  
18 getting colder. I wonder if that has something to do with  
19 the season.

20 Anyhow, enough levity. The point I'm trying to  
21 make here is that I think that these light bulbs I got  
22 because of initiative 937, which I'm told, jokingly, needs a  
23 Hazmat suit if you're going to remove them in case you drop  
24 one. I'm going to give it back to them, too, because the  
25 lumens on these things are pretty pathetic.

0247

1           Now, maybe some of you gentlemen up there can see  
2 real well, because you're younger. But some of us are a  
3 little older, and I notice when you get older the cones in  
4 the eyes don't quite function the way they did when we were  
5 25, and so we do need more light.

6           Another thing that I want to bring to your  
7 attention, and I'm not here to beat up Avista, is that some  
8 years ago Avista fought diligently to get rid of any kind of  
9 tiering. They didn't want tiering, and they fought to stop  
10 it. And finally they succumbed.

11           They shouldn't have. Because what this  
12 gentleman's pointed out here, and it may be a dozen tiers.  
13 You use a little bit, fine. And then they start raising it  
14 up. I don't see the common good being served there.

15           They're going to have to have X amount of power  
16 available, period. And given what energy costs are anyhow,  
17 electrical, most people are trying to turn off the lights  
18 and be -- conserve. And that is nothing to do with global  
19 warming or anything else. It's just management of the  
20 resources you have.

21           So I would strongly urge you to get take a hard  
22 look at this tiering thing and get rid of it. And if  
23 somebody like Modern can sit there and say, you know, we're  
24 fine -- somebody said 5.5 cents. Or it was Inland? 5.5,  
25 and here they are, Avista -- and by the way, Avista didn't

0248

1 want this, but it was basically jammed down their throat.

2           So these are Things that concern me. I wish you'd  
3 take them under consideration and let them get out from  
4 under that problem. So maybe we'll pay a little bit more at  
5 the lower end. And if there is a problem, there are other  
6 ways to subsidize those that don't have the money to be able  
7 to pay the very minimum amount of electricity.

8           I don't think Avista Corporation should be in the  
9 business of charity. That's not what they're there for.  
10 Their purpose is very simple. It's to provide the best  
11 product they can, most reliable product at the lowest  
12 possible cost, while also seeing to it that those that put  
13 their money up, investors, that they also get a return on  
14 investment.

15           And I don't think they get any ten percent. I  
16 know we don't own their stock.

17           JUDGE MOSS: I'm going to ask you to sum up.

18           MR. HOUSER: So they're not -- nobody's getting  
19 rich on Avista stock. And you also have to remember, years  
20 ago they went off a cliff. Lost I think it was two hundred  
21 and ten million dollars in a period of about three months on  
22 energy trading.

23           And then they went -- they went go, go. You may  
24 remember that where they put up a fiber optic network system  
25 and they ended up selling that for 10 cents on the dollar.

0249

1 I don't think you're going to see much of that anymore.

2 JUDGE MOSS: Can I please ask you to sum up?

3 You've run a couple minutes over your time. I'd appreciate  
4 it.

5 MR. HOUSER: Thank you very much. I would ask  
6 that at this point in time you be very careful about what  
7 you give them, get off this tiered approach for electricity,  
8 and take a good hard look at the natural gas prices as to  
9 what they are paying and the like. Thank you very much.

10 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you. All right. Next speaker  
11 is Romney Simpson.

12 MS. SIMPSON: Hi.

13 JUDGE MOSS: Hi.

14 MS. SIMPSON: I've never done this before, so  
15 you're going to have to bear with me. My name is Romney  
16 Simpson. I'm the operations manager at Voices. I wasn't  
17 sure whether to address you guys as personally or as Voices,  
18 so I'm just going to do both.

19 I'm a single mother, and I currently have two  
20 children and grandchildren living with me. As of last year  
21 I had my elderly mother living with me as well. We are  
22 living on an extremely limited income. And although we  
23 utilize your energy assistance whenever we are able,  
24 sometimes it's not enough or in time.

25 I'm never deliberately late paying a bill, but

0250

1 sometimes robbing Peter to pay Paul is the only option you  
2 have. It's a matter of survival.

3 Avista is asking for a rate hike less than a month  
4 before another special legislative session that will include  
5 a possible 2 billion in cuts to services that have already  
6 been cut by 10 billion in the last three years.

7 In 2007 Avista made a net profit of 38.5 million.  
8 Last year they made a net profit of 92.4 million. They have  
9 more than doubled their profits in just three years.

10 Regardless of whether you consider our economic  
11 status a recession or depression, the reality is that the  
12 services being slashed into oblivion, this rate will harm  
13 more people than any technological upgrades would bring.  
14 Thank you.

15 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you very much. Our next  
16 speaker is Michael Cain.

17 MR. CAIN: Good evening, gentlemen. Thank you for  
18 the opportunity to address you. My name is Michael Cain,  
19 last name is spelled C-a-i-n. I live in the city, and I use  
20 both gas and electricity from Avista.

21 However, I'm here today in my capacity as the  
22 president of the Spokane Society of St. Vincent de Paul.  
23 Though no form of charity's unknown to us, our primary focus  
24 in the Eastern Washington area is helping people retain  
25 their housing by paying -- helping to pay with rent,

0251

1 mortgage, utilities, and power.

2           As a number of people approach us almost every day  
3 requesting help with their Avista bills, we're intimately  
4 familiar with how difficult many people find it to pay for  
5 Avista's services.

6           In 2010 we assisted five hundred and fifty people  
7 in 177 households with their Avista bills paying the utility  
8 \$13,767 on the behalf of the poor.

9           Thus far in 2011 our Avista assistance is up  
10 approximately a hundred and ten percent. However, our  
11 assistance and that provided by similar agencies is a drop  
12 in the bucket.

13           In 2009 and 2010 Avista executed over twenty-nine  
14 thousand one hundred and ninety disconnects in Washington  
15 due to inability to pay. Duplications notwithstanding, that  
16 means that somewhere near 30,000 households in Washington  
17 were unable to pay for their essential Avista services at  
18 one time or another over the past few years.

19           And it's only going to get worse as federal  
20 heating assistance money is on everybody's chopping block,  
21 including the president's.

22           The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Spokane opposes  
23 Avista's rate increase request for the following reasons:  
24 First, we find it inappropriate and unacceptable that such  
25 an essential and quasi-public monopoly should compensate its



0252

1 president-slash-CEO 3.25 million dollars per year, over  
2 \$1500 per hour, and its next four highest paid executives an  
3 average of \$878,892 each annually under any circumstances,  
4 but particularly while thousands in our city, county, state  
5 and stake cannot afford their vital services due to an  
6 economy that's in catastrophic recession.

7           And we do not consider this a question of  
8 accounting or finance. We're aware that executive  
9 compensation technically derives only in small part from  
10 rate payments, but we consider a matter of principle.

11           We'd likewise consider it inappropriate and  
12 unacceptable that an essential monopoly such as Avista  
13 should seek a rate increase of any amount, large or small,  
14 while it anticipates a three percent rate of growth --  
15 excuse me -- three percent growth in earnings in 2012 and  
16 sought at least initially a 10.9 percent return on equity  
17 for its shareholders -- I recognize that it has been reduced  
18 in your agreement to 7.62 percent -- while thousands of  
19 customers, including many families and children -- with  
20 children cannot afford to pay their Avista bills.

21           Given the number of poor among us, the very notion  
22 of an increase under these circumstances is indefensible.  
23 Until these financial inequities outlined above, which we  
24 consider to be matters of social injustice, are corrected,  
25 the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of its own and on behalf

0253

1 of poor we serve opposes any rate increases from Avista,  
2 particularly the ones under consideration now. Gentlemen,  
3 thank you again for your time.

4 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: May I ask you to repeat some  
6 statistic? You said in 2010 you gave -- your organization  
7 gave \$13,000 for 550 people. Is that what you said?

8 MR. CAIN: That's correct. In a hundred and  
9 seventy-seven households.

10 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: I see, a hundred seventy-seven  
11 households. And that was for 2010?

12 MR. CAIN: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: And in 2011 it's up by a hundred  
14 and ten percent.

15 MR. CAIN: Hundred and twelve percent, actually.

16 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: That means it's more than  
17 doubled?

18 MR. CAIN: It has.

19 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: And where -- where did you get  
20 this increased amount of funding from? Just generosity of  
21 neighbors?

22 MR. CAIN: Our donors.

23 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Okay.

24 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you very much.

25 MR. CAIN: Thank you, gentlemen.

0254

1           THE COURT: That completes the list that I have of  
2 those who wish to speak tonight, but if there's someone else  
3 in the audience who wishes to speak, I will certainly allow  
4 you to do so.

5           Is there anyone else? Please, please come  
6 forward. Were you here for the swearing in?

7           MS. BATTIN: Yes, I was.

8           JUDGE MOSS: Okay. Great.

9           MS. BATTIN: I must have marked the wrong area.

10          JUDGE MOSS: Okay. Very good.

11          MS. BATTIN: My name --

12          JUDGE MOSS: Tell us your name and we'll get you  
13 down on our list.

14          BATTIN: My name is Dana Battin, and I am -- I  
15 work -- spelling my last name, it's B-a-t-t-i-n. I work for  
16 Rural Resources Community Action, and we serve Stevens,  
17 Ferry, Pend Oreille and Lincoln Counties.

18                 Last year we had federal funding of 1.8 million to  
19 serve those counties, and we used every single penny. We  
20 had people still asking for help after August 30th, and it  
21 was with past-due bills with Avista and with other companies  
22 with oil, with propane.

23                 There are just so many people out there right now  
24 that are having a hard time. This year our federal funding  
25 is 800,000 for all four of those counties currently. We

0255

1 don't foresee it going up.

2           And in light of that, we also held back some of  
3 our LIRAP funding knowing very well that we were looking at  
4 a low budget this year. The LIRAP funding that was held  
5 back to use to start up this year will be gone in two weeks.  
6 And we still haven't come close to serving the people that  
7 we try to serve.

8           Our agency is one that prioritizes, so we serve  
9 all householders that are seniors, have disabled people or  
10 children five and under in those households. We also take  
11 into consideration the -- their percent of poverty and the  
12 lowest poverty levels are served first.

13           This year we won't even come close to serving the  
14 people that are living on social security. It just -- there  
15 isn't the money there for it. And I was hoping that Avista  
16 would withdraw the rate case when they saw that the -- when  
17 they put this in, the economy looked like it was going up.  
18 It is not.

19           And our households are living on 700 to a thousand  
20 dollars a month. Rent is 450 and up, usually 5, 550. Their  
21 heating costs are usually somewhere around a hundred and  
22 fifty up to \$300 a month during the winter.

23           So the ones with the higher income only get like  
24 \$16 in food stamps. Then they have their Medicaid taken  
25 out, which is going up, but they're getting a little raise.

0256

1 And what happens is there's no place for them to put that  
2 \$8, you know, the 4, the \$3, the \$8. They can't cut  
3 anything except for their food.

4 They can try to make sure they can pay their water  
5 bills, which have also gone up in all those counties.  
6 They've also seen raises in that. And if you're watching  
7 the news this morning, they're saying food prices are going  
8 to raise four to five percent.

9 So what I'm worried about is they don't have those  
10 food stamps. They're just getting very small amounts. I  
11 talked to a woman this morning that's 85 years old. She has  
12 a shut-off notice.

13 And she received assistance last year, but she's  
14 behind in our bill right now, and she's hoping to get to her  
15 appointment.

16 And I agree, Avista is one of the -- of the best  
17 utilities to work with as far as allowing some time, making  
18 arrangements. They have a lot of -- a lot of things going  
19 for them. But still, it's just so difficult on these  
20 households.

21 And also our other utilities in the area, which we  
22 have two PUDs, we have Inland Power, we have city of  
23 Chewelah. They have not raised their rates. They've  
24 managed to function without putting in a very big raise.  
25 Avista is making a higher rate in all of their areas than

0257

1 these other ones are.

2 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you, Ms. Battin.

3 MS. BATTIN: Okay. If you have any questions, I'd  
4 be glad to answer them.

5 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: I have one. This morning at the  
6 public hearing in Spokane Valley, we heard from a  
7 Mr. Stuckart of SNAP. Does he do for Spokane what you do  
8 for rural areas?

9 MS. BATTIN: Yeah, he serves Spokane County with  
10 the energy assistance. I'm with energy assistance with  
11 rural resources, but we also do senior case management, Head  
12 Start programs, transportation, all those areas.

13 The demand is crazy. We used to have a few people  
14 riding our bus. Now our buses are full, and people are  
15 standing because they can't afford gas.

16 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: You administer both the LIRAP and  
17 the LIHEAP funds their those counties that you mentioned?

18 MS. BATTIN: Yes, I do.

19 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: So I got the impression this  
20 morning that some of the LIHEAP -- federal LIHEAP funds are  
21 kind of always are iffy down the road, and kind of on  
22 again/off again. And so they're just unpredictable.

23 MS. BATTIN: Yeah, three percent is what we  
24 started out with, which would have been \$24,000 in four  
25 counties for what I serve, and I could not -- I could not

0258

1 put through any grants. That's what federal funding was.

2 They just raised it to 80 percent, and that would  
3 be spent out the first week of January. And I have LIRAP  
4 funding, that's two weeks. That will be in the mix there  
5 somewhere.

6 But really you're talking about the second, maybe  
7 third week of January we will have no money. We won't have  
8 emergency services available. All that funding will be  
9 gone.

10 And I can say this real true, because I've been  
11 doing this job for ten years. And it's just sad. Luckily  
12 the last three years we've had good funding. I've asked for  
13 extra funding.

14 Last year I got 500,000 that wasn't even slated  
15 for our counties, and every bit of it got spent. And so the  
16 fact is I'm looking at mid-January for Stevens, Ferry, Pend  
17 Oreille and Lincoln County, the coldest counties, the  
18 highest unemployment, and the least access to services.

19 And why people move there is because they can't  
20 afford to live in the city. The rents are lower, but the  
21 housing structures are worse.

22 JUDGE MOSS: Okay. Thank you very much.

23 MS. BATTIN: Any other questions? Okay. Thank  
24 you.

25 JUDGE MOSS: Is there anyone else in the room who

0259

1 wishes to speak tonight? Please come forward. Were you  
2 here for the swearing in?

3 MR. YUHASZ: Yes, sir.

4 JUDGE MOSS: Did you sign up on our list?

5 MR. YUHASZ: I did not.

6 JUDGE MOSS: Okay. Were you sworn?

7 MR. YUHASZ: No.

8 JUDGE MOSS: Okay. Please raise your right hand.

9 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you give  
10 this evening will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing  
11 but the truth?

12 MR. YUHASZ: I will.

13 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you very much.

14 MR. YUHASZ: My name is Yuhasz, Y-u-h-a-s-z. I  
15 live here in the city of Spokane. We're both gas and  
16 electric. We get both our gas and electric from Avista.

17 I'd just like to add my voice to the others here  
18 tonight and speak to the, I would call it, the tone-deaf  
19 attitude Avista seems to have towards its customers in this  
20 tough financial times we find ourselves in, and that there  
21 really should -- they don't have much of a case for raising  
22 our rates, given the economy, and given the -- what the  
23 economy's looking for in the short term anyway.

24 We aren't seeing any kind of turnaround on the  
25 horizon. And I just don't see any reason why. I don't see



0260

1 an argument that would persuade me to give them an increase  
2 just to give them another increase.

3 And further, it sort of hits me about the  
4 corporate nature of it, that they have a CEO that's somebody  
5 mentioned has 2-plus million dollars a year, which is  
6 probably something like the 400 times what an average  
7 employee at Avista makes.

8 Who in this planet is worth that much money? He  
9 hasn't solved cancer. He's just running a company that  
10 makes money and wants to keep making money. So I just urge  
11 you to not let them make any more money this year.

12 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you for your comments. If  
13 you'd like, you can stop by Mr. Kouchi in the back of the  
14 room there and give your contact information to him if you  
15 would like to keep in touch with what's going on with the  
16 case.

17 MR. YUHASZ: Thank you.

18 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you very much. Is there anyone  
19 else who wishes to speak? Come forward, please. And were  
20 you here for the swearing in?

21 MR. FENDER: Yes, I was.

22 JUDGE MOSS: Okay. Were you sworn?

23 MR. FENDER: I was not sworn in.

24 JUDGE MOSS: All right. Well, let's do that. Do  
25 you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you give

0261

1 this evening will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing  
2 but the truth?

3 MR. FENDER: I do.

4 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you.

5 MR. FENDER: All right. I am Shane Fender. My  
6 last name is spelled F-e-n-d-e-r. And I am currently a  
7 student at Spokane Community College, and probably one of  
8 the more younger people here.

9 I just wanted to basically express my struggle  
10 that I have seen with our current economy and the ability  
11 for someone my age to even try to find a job or multiple  
12 jobs to actually build on.

13 And with this I'm holding down one job, one  
14 partial job to try to even live with my family. And that's  
15 not allowing me to save anything. That money is going to be  
16 put more towards our heating bill than towards me to being  
17 able to get out of my house to live on my own and to  
18 actually grow a career.

19 It really kind of just frustrates me. I don't  
20 even know what to say. I mean, with my experience in  
21 school, my experience with work that I have, I can't find  
22 any jobs. Those jobs, the money that I would get, it would  
23 just go towards something that's kind of useless to me.

24 Well, heat, yeah. That's great. But trying to  
25 forge a future, I think it's more. And I don't know.

0262

1 That's all I can really say right now. Thank you.

2 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you very much. Anyone else?

3 All right. It appears that we have given everybody who  
4 wishes to speak this evening an opportunity to do so. We  
5 appreciate you being here very much, and I'll ask Chairman  
6 Goltz if he has any closing remarks.

7 JUDGE MOSS: Well, no, I really don't. I just  
8 again thank everybody for giving some very heartfelt  
9 comments. And I assure you that we have a gentleman this  
10 morning who said, his closing words were, "It's a big deal  
11 to us, so take it seriously."

12 And we do take this very seriously, and we will  
13 consider everything you said to consider, everything that  
14 your counterparts have said this morning or this noon at  
15 Spokane Valley, tomorrow in Pullman.

16 And also I believe we have upwards of 275 written  
17 comments from various Avista customers that have been  
18 submitted. We'll be reviewing those as well. So thank you  
19 very much for coming in.

20 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you again. And with that we'll  
21 be adjourned.

22 (The proceedings were concluded at 06:58 PM.)

23

24

25

0263

1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N .

2

3 STATE OF WASHINGTON

4 COUNTY OF KING

5

6 I, Kathleen Hamilton, a Certified Shorthand  
7 Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of  
8 Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript  
9 of the public hearing on NOVEMBER 8, 2011, is true and  
10 accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and  
12 seal this 17TH day of NOVEMBER, 2011.

13

14

15

16

\_\_\_\_\_

17

KATHLEEN HAMILTON, RPR, CRR, CCR

18

19 My commission expires:

20 APRIL 2014

21

22

23

24

25