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May 18, 2001

Carole Washburn, Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Docket Nos. UE-990473, Electric Rulemaking,
Refusal of Service and Disclosure of Private Information

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the electric rule revisions in the above-cited docket. The Commission has requested a response to the SBEIS (Small Business Economic Impact Statement) as part of this rulemaking. The Company has already put into place internal controls on any potential sharing of *private information* with subsidiaries. Therefore, there will be no incremental cost to the Company of this portion of the rulemaking. In regard to potential costs of the *refusal of service* portion of this rulemaking, there will likely be no change in costs incurred by Avista under the proposed rule as compared to the existing rule. Should there be a dispute regarding refusal of service, such a dispute would most likely either be resolved between the Company and customer or would end up before the Commission, irrespective of this rule revision.

Please direct any questions on this matter to Bruce Folsom at (509) 495-8706.

Sincerely,


Thomas D. Dukich
Director, Rates and Regulation

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