

March 16, 2022



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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March 16, 2022

**NOTICE OF BENCH REQUESTS NO. 1 AND NO. 2**  
**(Responses due by Friday, March 18, 2022)**  
**(Responses to Bench Request Responses due by Monday, March 21, 2022)**

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities, Dockets UE-220053 & UG-220054 (Consolidated)*

Article 5.2.1 of the approved funding agreement states, in pertinent part:

- (c) The organization demonstrates that it is able to effectively represent the particular customers it seeks to represent;*
- (d) The organization demonstrates that (1) no other case-certified stakeholder participating in the proceeding adequately represents the specific interests of the customers represented by the organization; or (2) that the specific interests of customers or the public interest will benefit from the organization's participation...*

The following bench request is directed to The Energy Project and NW Energy Coalition.

**BENCH REQUEST NO. 1:**

This bench request concerns the apparent overlap of represented interests stated by The Energy Project and NW Energy Coalition in their requests for case certification.

- (a)** Please detail *and explain* how the overlapping interests represented by The Energy Project and NW Energy Coalition (including low-income and transportation electrification issues) differ and how each intervenor's specific perspectives on these topics are not adequately represented by the other.

- (b) Where the represented interests overlap (including low-income and transportation electrification issues), please explain how the public interest will benefit from the participation and funding of both intervenors.

Both The Energy Project and NW Energy Coalition should, in addition, be prepared to explain in any future proposed budget in this proceeding how it believes any overlap of represented interests should be addressed in funding budgets and amounts.

The following bench request is directed to Small Business Utility Advocates

**BENCH REQUEST NO. 2:**

This bench request concerns Small Business Utility Advocates' represented interest and particular customers it seeks to represent.

- (a) Please identify and explain, with greater specificity and in greater detail than the stated calculation of the likely number of small businesses that operate in Avista's service territory, the particular customers Small Business Utility Advocates (SBUA) seeks to represent.
- (b) Please identify and explain SBUA's connection to the customers identified in (a), above, including duration of membership or relationship, and also SBUA's connection to Avista's service territory.
- (c) Please detail and explain how no other party, *e.g.*, the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel), adequately represents small business customers in Avista's service territory. Where the represented interests of small business customers in Avista's service territory overlap with that of Public Counsel, please explain how the public interest will benefit from the participation and funding of SBUA's participation in these consolidated proceedings.

Please respond to these Bench Requests no later than **5 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2022**, by electronic filing with the Commission's Records Center. Any responses to the Bench Request Responses must be filed no later than **5 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022**, by electronic filing with the Commission's Records Center. Please provide courtesy copies by email to Judge Andrew O'Connell at [andrew.j.oconnell@utc.wa.gov](mailto:andrew.j.oconnell@utc.wa.gov). If you have any questions concerning these requests please contact Judge O'Connell via email or at 360-664-1285.

/s/ *Andrew J. O'Connell*  
ANDREW J. O'CONNELL  
Administrative Law Judge