



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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March 2, 2020

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 Proposed New Tariff Revisions, Electric Schedule 80, and Natural Gas Schedule 180, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Non-Communicating Meter, Dockets No. UE-180418 and UG-180419 –Avista Utilities Bi-Annual Status Report Related to the Company's Advanced Meter Infrastructure*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Commission Staff has reviewed the compliance filing of Avista Corporation dated March 2, 2020, titled *Avista Utilities Bi-Annual Status Report*. This report – the third of a series of required reports - provides updates to the Commission about the pilot program's progress through the first eighteen months of its operation. Reports are due every six months until September 2020, with a final report on the pilot due no later than November 30, 2020.

The company inadvertently filed the August 30, 2019 report in its initial filing on February 25, 2020 for this reporting cycle but updated the filing with the correct report on March 2. Staff believes that the filing complies fully with the Commission's Order 01, entered July 30, 2018.

The company began the project in September 2018 with its Phase One installation project in downtown Spokane. The Phase Two areas of Central Spokane, Millwood, Southwest Spokane, Pullman, and Clarkston have been completed. Meters are now being installed in Northwest Spokane, Othello, and Davenport.

To date, more than 161,100 residential and commercial customers have received more than 261,000 meters. 1518 opt-out applications have been received by the company. Of these customers, 126 are receiving assistance through Avista's low-income programs and so are not or will not pay the meter reading fee.

Based on current opt-out rates, the company predicts that approximately 3000 customers will opt out throughout its service territory during the project. Avista will install more than 425,000 AMI meters during the project, which is expected to conclude in autumn 2020.

Sincerely,

AMY I. WHITE
Regulatory Analyst, Energy Regulation