



Avista Corp.

1411 East Mission P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, Washington 99220-0500
Telephone 509-489-0500
Toll Free 800-727-9170

November 30, 2020

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

RE: UE-180418 and UG-180419 - Avista Final AMI Opt-Out Status Report

Dear Mr. Johnson,

In compliance with ¶ 4 of Order 01 in Docket Nos. UE-180418 and UG-180419, Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities (Avista or “the Company”), submits its final “Bi-Annual Status Report” related to the Company’s Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) customer opt-out pilot.

Avista’s Washington AMI project began in September of 2018 and is now nearly complete. To date, over 407,100 electric meters and natural gas modules have been exchanged, reaching 232,000 residential and commercial customers, and 2,488 customers have completed and returned the application to Opt-Out. The Company has approximately 18,500 gas meter modules left to be installed, which are planned for Q2 2021. Table No. 1 below shows the number of meters installed each quarter since the beginning of 2019.

Table No. 1 - AMI Meter/module installations as of 11/20/2020 by quarter:

Year	Quarter	Electric	Natural Gas	Total
2019	Q1	4,979	3,343	8,322
2019	Q2	31,282	19,093	50,375
2019	Q3	56,523	31,756	88,279

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2019	Q4	46,079	29,371	75,450
2020	Q1	43,434	28,216	71,650
2020	Q2	37,693	19,133	56,826
2020	Q3	33,121	19,381	52,502
2020	Q4	2,678	1,067	3,745

Items of interest related to those customers that have chosen to opt out include the following:

- 194 have received energy assistance through the Company’s low-income assistance programs;
- 39% of customers that opted out did so because of concerns relating to radio frequency, safety, or data privacy; and,
- 61% of customers that opted out did not provide a specific reason why they opted out or they simply preferred to keep their existing meters and would not allow Avista personnel to access to their premise for purposes of installing a new communicating.

Regarding opt-out fees, on January 6, 2020, the Company filed proposed revisions to its tariff Schedules 80 and 180 to increase the fee for Customers who request to opt-out of receiving an AMI meter before installation, as well as those customers who opt-out within 30 days of installation, are not charged any upfront fees.¹ The Commission approved an opt-out fee of \$10 per month, which the Company began charging customers on October 1, 2020.

The Company will continue to monitor the number of customers that opt-out and the costs for manually reading meters. If changes to the opt-out fees are required in the future the Company will make a tariff filing to propose such changes. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to me at 509-495-2782 or shawn.bonfield@avistacorp.com.

Sincerely,

¹ Docket No. UE-200013.

/s/ Shawn Bonfield

Shawn Bonfield
Sr. Manager Regulatory Policy & Strategy