



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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September 1, 2017

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL EX PARTE COMMUNICATION

RE: Investigation into Reliability Benchmarking, Docket U-151958;
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Avista Corporation,
Consolidated Dockets UE-170485 and UG-170486

TO ALL PARTIES:

On October 8, 2015, regulatory staff (Staff) of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) initiated an investigation into econometric approaches to reliability benchmarking in Docket U-151958. On June 7, 2017, Staff filed a report prepared by Power Systems Engineering, Inc. entitled, "Reliability Targets for Washington's Three Investor-Owned Utilities" (Reliability Report).

On July 7, 2017, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments and Notice of Workshop, set for Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 9 a.m. (Notice). The Notice invited stakeholders and interested persons to provide feedback on the Reliability Report and related issues. On August 21, 2017, Avista Corporation (Avista or Company) filed comments addressing the Reliability Report.

On May 26, 2017, Avista filed with the Commission a general rate case in Consolidated Dockets UE-170485 and UG-170486. Avista included with its filing witness testimony that addresses the Reliability Report.

The Commission does not anticipate any discussion during the workshop that will directly implicate the decisions it ultimately will make in Avista's general rate case. However, out of an abundance of caution, the Commission finds it appropriate to give this notice, effectively inviting all parties to Avista's general rate case, as well as all persons interested in the Reliability Benchmarking docket, to participate in the workshop set for Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 9 a.m.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That the parties in consolidated Dockets UE-170485 and UG-170486 are invited, along with other interested persons, to participate in the Reliability Benchmarking workshop in Docket U-151958 set for Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 9 a.m., in Room 206, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary