



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503

P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

State Of WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

12/15/20 15:07

Received
Records Management

December 15, 2020

Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 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 November 30, 2020, titled *Avista Utilities Bi-Annual Status Report*. This report – the fourth 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.

Staff believes that the filing complies fully with the Commission's Order 01, entered July 30, 2018. Staff wishes to note that **Avista staff has agreed to file one further report in this series**, since the COVID-19 epidemic has slowed the project completion schedule, in order to share the most complete information available with the Commission. The final report in the series is now due on September 30, 2021.

The company began the project in September 2018 with its Phase One installation project in downtown Spokane. The company has nearly completed the AMI meter installation project, with approximately 406,000 meters installed. This represents essentially all electric AMI meters and most natural gas meters. Around 18,500 gas AMI meters were still awaiting installation.

The following table shows the current counts of electric, natural gas, and dual-fuel customers who have opted out:

SERVICE POINTS				Individual
Description	Electric	Gas	Total	Customers
Electric Only	962	0	962	962
Gas Only	0	56	56	56
Dual Fuel	1462	1462	2924	1462
Manual Read Points / Customers	2424	1518	3942	2480
Total AMI Meters Installed to Date			405,910	
Read Points Opt-out Percentage			0.97%	

As shown in the table above, many more electric-only customers than natural gas-only customers have opted out. Based on this experience and the fact that the company only has natural gas meters to complete, fewer opt-outs are expected between now and project completion. Avista will install more than 425,000 AMI meters during the project, which is now expected to conclude in summer 2021.

Sincerely,

AMY I. WHITE
Regulatory Analyst, Energy Regulation