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UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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February 4, 2019

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 an Accounting Order Authorizing the Deferral of Costs Related to Offering a Fee-Free Credit and Debit Card Payment Program for the Company's Residential Customers, Dockets No. UE-160071 and UG-160072 –Avista Utilities Q4 2017 Fee-Free Payment Program Report*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Commission Staff has reviewed the compliance filing of Avista Corporation dated January 31, 2019, titled *Avista Utilities Q4 2018 Fee-Free Payment Program Report*. This report – the eighth of a series of required reports - provides updates to the Commission about the program's progress through the fourth quarter of 2018. Subsequent reports are due quarterly. Staff believes that the filing complies fully with the Commission's Order 01, entered March 24, 2016.

Staff would like to bring to the Commission's attention that the customer adoption rate for this program has notably exceeded the presumed 15 percent adoption rate when this program was originally proposed and approved. The adoption rate shown in this report is 24.1 percent.

Sincerely,

AMY I. WHITE
Regulatory Analyst, Energy Regulation