



Avista Corp.

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September 30, 2020

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

Re: Docket No. UE-200281 – Comments of Avista Utilities

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities (Avista or the Company), submits the following updated data in accordance with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments issued in Docket UE-200281 on September 17, 2020.

1. The number of customers by customer class with past-due balances (arrearages).

Avista Response: See Attachment A, tab 1.

2. The amount of past-due balances, by customer class, that are 30, 60, 90, and more than 90 days past due, and the total amount of arrearages.

Avista Response: See Attachment A, tab 1.

3. The amount of past-due balances for known low-income households that are 30, 60, 90, and more than 90 days past due, and the total amount of these arrearages.

Avista Response: See Attachment A, tab 2.

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4. Number of premises receiving bill assistance or enrolled in any other assistance program.

Avista Response:

MONTH	2019	2020
JAN	3140	2635
FEB	1979	2719
MAR	3289	4233
APR	2223	2247
MAY	1475	1006
JUN	978	1551
JUL	1298	1350
AUG	680	1892

The numbers above include all Avista customers who have received bill assistance or who are enrolled in a senior discount rate.

5. Number of customers who entered into a payment plan.

Avista Response:

MONTH	2019	2020
JAN	5310	4560
FEB	4695	3860
MAR	4689	2891
APR	5375	1463
MAY	4714	1313
JUN	3889	1369
JUL	4228	1382
AUG	3878	1490

6. Amount over the baseline bad debt expense as compared to authorized level in most recent general rate case.

Avista Response: Due to the moratorium on disconnections for nonpayment Avista is not disconnecting customers and in turn not writing off bad debt. Avista's authorized level of bad debt expense from its most recent general rate case is \$2,735,694. Based on the current amounts of arrearage debt owing, bad debt could be more than two to three times the authorized level, absent any COVID-19 bill relief as discussed in Commission Staff's proposed term sheet. If the Commission approves of a term sheet that includes COVID-19 bill relief it will have a significant impact on the future amount of bad debt that is written off.

Please direct any questions regarding these comments to me at 509-495-2782 or shawn.bonfield@avistacorp.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ Shawn Bonfield

Senior Manager, Regulatory Policy & Strategy
Avista Utilities