



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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10/01/21 14:05

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October 1, 2021

Amanda Maxwell, 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 Ms. Maxwell:

Commission Staff has reviewed the compliance filing of Avista Corporation dated September 30, 2021, titled *Avista Utilities Final AMI Opt-Out Status Report*. This report – the fifth of a series of status reports, four required by order, this fifth report provided voluntarily by the Company - provides updates to the Commission about the pilot program's progress through the first eighteen months of its operation.

Required reports were due every six months until September 2020, with a final report on the pilot due no later than November 30, 2020. Due to delays in completion of the meter installation project, Avista has voluntarily provided this final summary report. Staff believes that the filing complies fully with the Commission's Order 01, entered July 30, 2018.

The company began the project in September 2018 with its Phase One installation project in downtown Spokane. The company has essentially completed the AMI meter installation project, with almost 409,000 meters installed for approximately 269,000 residential and commercial customers. As was discussed in Avista's general rate case, UE-200900/UG-200901, several natural gas-only areas will not have AMI meters installed, and so previous estimates of overall meter installation numbers are different from this final report.

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	920	0	920	920
Gas Only	0	34	34	34
Dual Fuel	1371	1371	2742	1371
Manual Read Points / Customers	2291	1405	3696	2325

Total AMI Meters Installed to Date 408,853

Service Points Opt-out
Percentage 0.904%

As shown in the table above, many more electric-only customers than natural gas-only customers have opted out. As of the reporting date, only 181 installations remained to be completed. Also, as of the report date, 223 customers have opted back in for automated meter reads. At the prior report date in November 2020, the service points opt-out percentage was 0.97%. Also, 220 low-income customers who have opted-out. The company has now scheduled meter reading routes for the opt-out customers, has accumulated more direct cost data for these customers, and expects to file a tariff revision related to the program soon.

Sincerely,

AMY I. WHITE
Regulatory Analyst, Energy Regulation