

Before the
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

vs.

Avista Corporation

Docket Nos. UE-991606 / UG-991607

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Northwest Energy Coalition Data Request to Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP):

Request #2: Reference page 6, lines 16 - 17 of Colton testimony. Please explain the relationship between rates and low-income inability-to-pay.

Response: Rates affect low-income inability-to-pay only to the extent that they affect the bills paid by low-income consumers. A low-income household with an income of \$4,000 and a combined natural gas and electric bill of \$900 has an energy burden of 24% irrespective of what the underlying rates are. Even if rates are "low," therefore, a bill is unaffordable if it exceeds an affordable percentage of income.

WUTC		
DOCKET NO. <u>UE-991606</u>		
EXHIBIT # <u>738</u>		
ADMIT	W/D	REJECT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>