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RECORDS MANAGEMENT

00 JUL 24 AM 10:11

STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSISON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKET NO. UE-991606

DOCKET NO. UG-991607

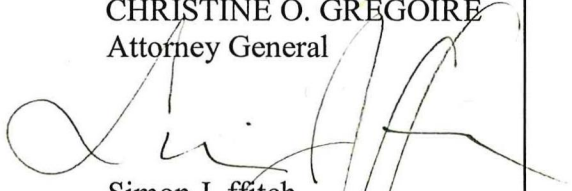
OFFER OF PUBLIC TESTIMONIAL
EXHIBIT NO. 744

Public Counsel hereby offers for admission into the record of this proceeding Exhibit 744.

Exhibit 744. The exhibit consists of letters and other written materials submitted by the public to provide comment on the rate case. These letters and materials were submitted to the Commission, to the office of Public Counsel, or in person at the public comment hearing held in Spokane. There are a total of 250 letters. Thirteen of the letters do not indicate support or disapproval for the rate increase. Of the remaining letters, all 237 oppose a rate increase by Avista.

DATED this 21st day of July, 2000.

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Attorney General


Simon J. Ffitch
Assistant Attorney General
Public Counsel

WUTC

DOCKET NO. UE-991606

EXHIBIT # 744

ADMIT

W/D

REJECT

AVISTA RATE CASE

UE-991606 & UG-991607

EXHIBIT 744



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

Spokane, WA,
April 3, 2000

Attorney General of Washington
900 Jayceith Avenue #2000
Seattle, WA. 98164-1012

RECEIVED

APR 06 2000

ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE
SEATTLE

Attention: Christine D. Gregoire

Dear Ms. Gregoire;

On the first of April, 2000 I received a letter, as written on March 30, 2000, from your office as written and signed by your Assistant Attorney General (Public Counsel). This letter referenced WUTC Docket Numbers UE-991606 and U.G-991607 which both are a filing for rate increases for Power (Electric) & (Gas) for Avista of Spokane, WA.

I have written many letters and have objected to these increases.

The first letter was written on October 29, 1999 and contained six (6) pages of documentation.

The second letter was written on November 11, 1999 and contained two (2) pages of documentation.

The third letter was written on December 7, 1999 which was one (1) page.

The fourth letter was written on January 12, 2000 which was two (2) pages. In this letter I complained about the Commission's "GIVE-AWAY PROGRAM". The natural gas rate increased from .37902 to .45239 per thermal unit. The Commission gave away what they said would be a 17% increase (interim). My increase was more like 11.36%.

The fifth letter was written on March 11, 2000 which was a two (2) page letter. In this letter I asked for documents pertaining to subject

rate increases.

As of this writing the Utilities Commission HAS NOT ANSWERED ANY of the above-mentioned NOR have they sent documents such as your letter showed U E - 991606 and U G - 991607.

Your letter from your tant showed that on April 20, 2000 there will be a public hearing regarding Avista's proposals, but I'll be D----- if I'll make an appearance or present my facts about this Company, Avista. I have ALREADY PROVEN my facts to the Commission, so please rest assured that I KNOW what has happened in the past about the Washington Water Power, former Avista's rate increases. Avista will always get WHAT THEY WANT (OR REQUEST), with but a very few and I have watched hearings and presented facts against, but this Company is most always getting what they request. I've been in their operating area now for nearly twenty-six (26) years.

I do appreciate your Assistant's letter, however, because at least he cares. The Commission is being paid by people like us, my wife and me, so see to it that something is done right, for a change !! REJECT THIS REQUEST and vote in favor of a constituent for a change !! I'll be watching !!

Thanks for your time.

Yours truly,

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth O. Swan

cc: Washington Utilities Commission.

P.S. I will not send copies of my letters,
or documents attached thereof, so if I am
not believed please request copies from
the Commission. Unless they have thrown
them away, they MUST be in their files
somewhere.

Mr. & Mrs. K. D. S.

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission,
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W.,
P.O. Box 47250,
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

April 29th, 2000

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2000

Subject: Avista Utility Request for Rate Increase (Electric)
WUTC Docket #UE 991606

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Dear Secretary of the WUTC:

Please refer to the three articles published in The Spokesman Review. Oct 26th, 1999 states their request for a 14% increase. Oct 27th, 1999-the very next day-states the handsome returns to the stockholders. April 18th, 2000 spells out the results to the ratepayers if granted in its entirety.

Cost of Living increases to the work force generally fall within the 3 to 5%
category. It has been stated that about 40% of the Spokane work force are earning/wage
& these folks would be hard pressed to absorb such an increase. Social Security recipients received a 2.4% COL increase for the year 2000 or about a \$10 net pay. & Avista
wants all of it. This is nothing more than corporate/greed and welfare. Talk about waking
the "sleeping giant"-this might very well do it. We ask where does it end? In view of
the conservative mindset of the voters of Washington State when they overwhelmingly
passed I-695, we request that you not grant WUTC Docket #UE 991606 (Electric and/or Gas).
hearing

Thank you very kindly for your consideration. We would greatly appreciate/from any
& all of you concerning this at your earliest convenience. We do suggest that the WUTC
also hold a meeting in the Spokane Valley as SFOC is not easily accessible for Valley
residents. Reps Crouse & Schindler & Sen McCaslin can help you in locating suitable
space in one of our Valley high schools.

Yours sincerely,

John O. Wittemberg, *Margaret M. Wittemberg*
John O. Wittemberg, Jr. & Margaret M. Wittemberg
2109 N. Bessie Road, Spo, Wa 99212-2492
Phone: (509) 926-4887

CC: Rep Larry Crouse
Rep Lynn Schindler
Sen Bob McCaslin
Wash State Attorney General

THE SPOKESMAN-REVI

NEWS ONLINE: WWW.SPOKANE.NET

Avista seeks increase in gas, electricity bills

State to consider adding \$10.35 to average monthly electricity bill, \$2.75 for gas

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

SR 10-26-1999
A-1

Avista Corp. sought an electricity rate increase on Monday that could boost residential bills in Washington as much as 14 percent.

The Spokane utility also asked state regulators for a 7.5 percent hike in residential natural gas rates.

Homeowners who heat with electricity would pay an average of \$10.35 more per month if the rate case is approved. The average electricity bill for those who heat with natural gas would increase \$6.67 a month.

Homeowners who heat with gas would pay an

average of \$2.75 more a month for fuel.

Industrial and commercial customers would pay lesser percentage increases because they cost less to serve.

Avista Vice President Ed Turner said the company understands the impact the increases proposed Monday would have on low-income customers.

"Ten dollars can be a lot of money for some folks," he said.

The electricity rate boosts, which average 10.4 percent, would be the first general increases for Washington customers since 1987.

An adjustment tied to Bonneville Power

INSIDE

■ Program unable to fund local heating assistance.
Story, A7

Administration payments and funds spent for home conservation projects have added 3.5 percent to the average bill since then, but Turner noted that none of that money was kept by the corporation.

Rates manager Tom Dukich said inflation has increased 47 percent over the same period.

To contain costs, Avista has undergone a series of cutbacks and restructurings, he said.

Dukich said the filing with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission also covers expenses associated with the relicensing of Avista's major hydroprojects, the source of

its least expensive power.

The company has committed \$225 million upgrades of its two largest dams over the next 45 years.

Turner said the application proposes a low return on equity and a lower rate of return investment than the company was allowed for in 1987.

"We have now reached a point where electricity price increases are needed in Washington in order to continue to provide our customers with quality service while at the same time providing a fair return to our investors," he said.

Continued: Avista/A

Avista's rate request

The chart shows the current electric rate in Washington, Avista's proposed rate and its rate in Idaho, where it was recently granted an increase. All figures are cents per kilowatt.

Residential		
Rate	Washington	Idaho
Before	4.748¢	4.733¢
After	5.414¢	5.317¢
Average (includes businesses)		
Rate	Washington	Idaho
Before	5.107¢	5.27¢
After	5.637¢	5.717¢

* Idaho rates were increased August 1st

SOURCE: Avista

■ Bert Caldwell can be reached at (509) 459-5450, or by e-mail at bertc@spokesman.com.

Turner said Avista remains a strong supporter of Project Share, and tries to be as flexible as possible with those having difficulty paying their bills.

Despite the proposed increases, Turner said Avista rates will remain among the lowest charged by investor-owned utilities in the U.S.

Gas rates have been adjusted from time to time in recent years to track the cost of the fuel.

The higher rates would produce an additional \$26.3 million in electricity revenues and an added \$4.9 million from natural gas sales.

Washington regulators have 11 months to rule on the application filed Monday, but Turner said the company hopes to implement the rates by mid-2000.

Residential bills have gone up 9.47 percent.

In July, Avista was granted a 7.6 percent electricity rate increase in Idaho. The company had sought an overall 11.6 percent hike that would have raised homeowner bills more than 15 percent.

Continued from A1

AVISTA: State has 11 months to rule on plan

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

The Spokesman-Review
Spokane, Wash./Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Avista posts strong quarterly earnings

Earnings roundup

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Avista Corp. reported sharply higher third-quarter earnings Tuesday, mostly on the strength of revenues from a subsidiary's asset sale.

Net income available for common stock for the three months ended Sept. 30 was \$22.3 million, or 52 cents per diluted share, on

revenues of \$3.7 billion.

Last year, the company earned \$8 million, or 14 cents per share, on revenues of \$1.43 billion.

Income for common stock is reported after deducting payments to preferred stockholders. Those dividends have jumped in the latest year with the issuance of a new series of convertible preferred shares.

For the year so far, Avista has income for common stock of \$39.4 million, or 98 cents per share, on revenues of \$6.37 billion.

Net for common stock for the same period in 1998 was \$54.4 million, or 97 cents per share, on

revenues of \$2.7 billion.

Pentzer Corp., the holding company for Avista's non-energy assets, contributed \$26.8 million, or 55 cents per diluted share, to the parent company's bottom line.

In September, Pentzer sold one of its major holdings, the Store Fixture Solutions Group. The deal helped the subsidiary generate \$65 million in cash during the quarter.

Chairman Tom Matthews said Avista's energy trading operations also produced positive returns for the quarter after dragging down performance for the two previous quarters.

And while Avista Advantage showed a loss, he noted the company now serves 50,000 sites, a threshold officials did not expect to meet before year end.

Avista Advantage provides energy services over the Internet to customers such as Starbucks, AT&T and the U.S. Postal Service.

Avista Utilities reported a rare loss for the quarter, traditionally the slowest for energy sales. The results were caused by a combination of low streamflows and purchases of high-cost power to make up for the losses of hydropower.

Continued: Earnings/A17

Avista rate hikes on agenda

State panel will also discuss U S West-Qwest merger

SR 4-18-00

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Spokane-area customers of Avista Corp. will be able to comment Thursday on electricity and natural gas rate hikes proposed by the utility.

The state Utilities and Transportation Commission will take testimony during the second of two hearings that day in Lounges, A and B, Building 17, at Spokane Falls Community College. The hearing starts at 6:45 p.m.

The first meeting Thursday will address the pending merger of U S West Inc. and Qwest Communications International.

Avista delivers electricity to 206,000 Washington customers, and natural gas to 120,000.

The Spokane utility sought the rate increases in October. If granted, the average homeowner's electricity bill would increase \$10.36 monthly, or 14 percent.

Customer classes would pay increases ranging from 7 percent to 12.6 percent. The proposal would raise revenues by \$26.2 million, with residential customers contributing slightly more than half that amount.

rate hike in Washington since July 1, 1990.

The gas rate request would boost bills \$2.74 a month, or 7.5 percent.

Some transportation customers would pay as much as 8.6 percent more. Those who agree to have their service interrupted when supplies are tight, or who pay only to have their gas transported, will not pay more.

The natural gas adjustments would yield another \$4.9 million in revenues for Avista.

The new filings would reduce the allowed return on equity to 12.25 percent, or 9.93 percent overall.

Idaho granted Avista a 7.6 percent electricity rate hike last July. In Washington's written comments, 171 have opposed the electricity filings; 126 opposed the natural gas case.

The commission has until mid-September to make a decision.

In the earlier meeting Thursday, at 5:30 p.m., the commission will take testimony on a settlement negotiated between the commission staff and representatives of U S West and Qwest that would clear the way for commission approval of the deal.

Besides freezing rates until 2004, terms call for extensive new investment in Eastern Washington and penalties if service standards aren't met. The panel could vote on the deal this summer.

Lisa Stoufe, an analyst for Ragen Mackenzie Inc. in Seattle, said the company had purchased power anticipating demand for air conditioning this summer, which turned out to be cooler than expected. Then the company had to buy additional supplies when stream levels fell.

Stoufe called the results disappointing but not indicative of long-term problems.

Avista repurchased 5 million of its shares — 9 percent of the total outstanding — during the quarter. The board has authorized a 10 percent buyback, and Vice President David Brunkardt said the program could be extended.

Continued from A14



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201-3339
(509) 625-6325
FAX (509) 625-6315

MICHAEL H. ADOLFAE
DIRECTOR

December 22, 1999

Ms. Carol Washburn
Washington State Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Ms. Washburn:

RE: IMPACT OF ELECTRIC (WUTC DOCKET NO. 991606) AND GAS (WUTC DOCKET NO. 991607) UTILITY RATE INCREASES ON LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS - SPOKANE, WA

This letter is written on behalf of the low-income residents of the City of Spokane. Many reside in our inner city neighborhoods and are among our lowest income individuals and families in the state, such as those located in the third legislative district. Families and individuals living on low incomes are the most vulnerable to increases in the cost of products and services that are essential to their daily existence. Electricity and natural gas fall into these essential commodities and any increase in cost taxes already limited incomes. Very limited or non-existent discretionary income offers little options to these families and individuals and forces them into the category of restricted energy usage for heating, lighting and cooking. Many of these families and individuals are forced into uncomfortable and unhealthy living conditions, particularly during the cold winter months.

We urge you to evaluate any rate increase with the low-income consumer in mind. These families and individuals are our friends, relatives, neighbors and fellow human beings. Preventing or reducing the cause of illness through comfortable, appropriately heated homes reduces the need for low-income residents to seek medical services, as well as other public services.

Thank you for considering our concern for low-income families and individuals in Spokane.

Sincerely,

Community Development Board

Al French, Chair

AF:jc

cc: Public Council of Attorney General
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000
MS TB 14
Seattle, WA 98164-1012



901600 / 46052
IP



DougCcliff5444@cs.com on 04/21/2000 09:35:10 PM

To: comments@wutc.wa.gov

cc:

Subject: Avista rate hike for electric and gas customers

I was unable to attend the meeting on the proposed rate hikes and I am writing to let you know that I am dead set against it. For people on fixed incomes it is hard enough as it is let alone a rate hike. Avista should be able to supplement what they need some other way other than hurting the customer's wallets. The same goes for any other company that wants a rate hike. When the Washington Water Power went to Avista the man that was selected for president got a huge amount just for signing up and will get a huge salary per year. I read this in the Spokesman-Review. I don't remember the particulars but if you look it up in the back issues you will find it. Unfortunately I don't remember the date it was published. Check with the Spokesman-Review.

I am fortunate enough to have this computer and the only way I got it was by rebate. Otherwise I wouldn't have it.

Douglas Carpenter
129 W. 31st
Spokane, Washington 99203-1725
DougCcliff5444@cs.com



99/606 / 262719
ZP

North Columbia
Community Action Council

604 West Third Avenue / P.O. Box 820 / Moses Lake, WA 98837
Telephone: (509) 765-9206 Fax: (509) 765-9619
Toll Free: 1-888-765-9206

May 18, 2000

RECEIVED

MAY 30 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Ms. Carole Washburn, Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1400 S. Evergreen Parkway Drive SW
PO Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-1028

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing this letter in regard to the AVISTA Corporation request for a base rate increase. During this past winter, our Agency, North Columbia Community Action Council assisted two hundred and twelve (212) AVISTA households with Low-Income Home Energy Assistance payments in Adams and Lincoln Counties. As you may recall, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps low-income households pay their home heating bills, thus keeping these families from having heat disconnected during the coldest months of the year.

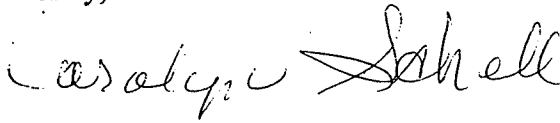
Our Agency paid AVISTA Corporation in Spokane, WA. a total of \$84,460.15 or an average of \$377.29 per household. Our program operated from November 15th, 1999 through March 2000. A large number of these households, at some time became delinquent in their payments due to unemployment or underemployment. Bills for individual homes were usually in an average of \$200.00 plus per month so it is easy to understand why these households were continuing to spiral into delinquent accounts despite our assistance.

Most of the households we assisted were occupied by elderly, working poor, unemployed parents who are seasonal farm workers with small children or single parent families that just could not provide enough income to pay all their household bills each month. The scenario I am describing will continue to get worse if AVISTA receives permission to increase rates so drastically. Each year we have longer waiting lists of households who wish to be served but cannot receive benefits from LIHEAP due to a lack of funds.

As with all agencies within Washington State, our goal is to provide the highest level of assistance to those households, which have the lowest incomes and the highest utility costs, or needs in relation to income. Therefore we ask that you keep the low-income household needs in mind as you make your decision to grant or not grant AVISTA the rate increases they are requesting.


Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Schell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Carolyn Schell
Energy Programs Department Director
NCCAC

434-7-34
991606

WASHINGTON  UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION	HOME	HELP!!!	SEARCH
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Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here will be included in the formal record.

To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	Pat Halland
Your Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	Street address: 649 Old Arden Hwy City: Colville , State: Wa Zip: 991149767
Your County:	Stevens
Phone Numbers:	Home: 5096846609 Day/Work: 5096846609
Your E-Mail address:	nal-bryn-gramie@webtv.net
Date:	06/06/2000
Your Comment:	<p>We were told after ice storm Avista,formerly WWP, would not be charging the users for thier lose, now they say they need the increase to help defray costs from the storm. They ge more than enough and do not need an incse in either gas or electric. There are many ways they an cut thier costs, let homer owners read meters and send in the bill and money, and read the meters only once a yr for those whothink they can cheat. Montana does this very efficently. Huge savings there. Have the home owner call in the meter readings is another way.</p> <p>Avista has no maintenance proram to fix the electrical interference problems that plague the Colville area and others. It is notthat they do not know aout it, they refuse to fix.</p> <p>Peoples wages and incomes have not risen that much and can not aford the increase of either gas or electric.</p> <p>I realize everone needs a profit, but not a the expense of robbin t people.</p>
Would you like to be placed on	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

991606
991607 N

~~60358~~
264698

June 23, 2000

W.U.T.C.
P.O. BOX 47250
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, 98504-7250

RE: U.E. 991606 Avista
RE: U.G. 991607 Avista

RECEIVED
JUN 28 2000
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Sir/Ms.:

The C.E.O. of Avista, Mr. Tom Matthews, is quoted in the spokesman Review as saying "We just plain blew it." "Dam operators managed rivers to improve fish runs @ the expense of power generation", and (now) "Avista will no longer conduct electricity trading beyond what is necessary to serve the needs of it's own customers."

We as the consumers were paying Avista to service someone else? This error in judgment is now going to up the rates of those same customers to cover the cost of that error?

What is the salary of the C.E.O. of Avista make a year? \$500,000.? Maybe \$1,000,000. with or without bonuses. Where does "the buck stop here" come in? Why are the customers responsible for the judgment error of a FOR PROFIT COMPANY? We are not talking of a government agency or right of eminent domain. My husband is the sole proprietor of his own company. Perhaps he should share the responsibility of bad judgment and financial mis-planning with all of the people in a mandatory service area of three or four states.

Speaking of price and rate increases. When my husband moved into the house we now occupy, he paid \$28.00 a month for electricity. We now pay between \$75.00 and \$100.00 a month DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

It does not take a rocket scientist to guess there will be less water from run-off with 3 light snow years in a row. That takes common sense. The helm of a major corporation needs common sense to weather the fluctuations of weather and changing times. That is why he is paid a large salary. That responsibility filters down with his choices of managers under his leadership.

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

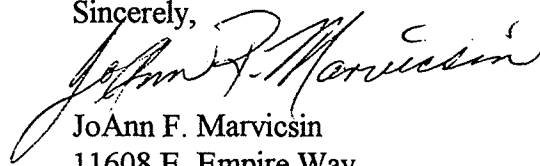
Now, tell me again why I personally, along with all of the other Avista customers, should be again pay higher rates! This is not a rate increase born out of the normal cost of doing business, but lack of planning and error in judgment.

Oh, and I am positive when they recoup their money, they will again apply to the utilities commission to reduce our rates!?

I heartily urge you to deny more costs being heaped upon the backs of the already overburdened public. We have no options beyond your final say in the cost of a product that is mandatory if we are to survive, live and work in this climate.

Thank you for your attention and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "JoAnn F. Marvicsin".

JoAnn F. Marvicsin
11608 E. Empire Way
Spokane, Washington 99206

991607



"Jerry Tate" <taccon105@nextdim.com> on 11/12/99 10:10:33 AM

249968

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Gas and Electrical Rate Increase

I have reviewed the letter sent out by the company and I find it inconceivable that any company would loose money since 1990 on electrical. The material is very miss leading. I find it interesting when the company is expanding into many areas other than gas and electric that all of a sudden we need large rate increases. Stock holders should pay for this not the users. Some points to consider.

a.. Why change the basic fee or even charge a basic fee-what have they done to improve my basic service and why is there a basic fee at all.

a.. We should be charged on what we use. I would have to see what the depreciation schedule looks like on our power grid, I've lived here since 1965 and they haven't replaced any of our lines. And when you have new service added you pay for it not them.

b.. Why is the residential and small commercial getting the highest increase

a.. If we see an increase we should all see the same percentage rather that Large general service who can sometimes go elsewhere for power get a substantial break

c.. Is the fee Avista has to pay for power from small producers going up the same rate as there increase if not that is unfair

d.. Very few consumers in the Spokane area or West side see Pay increases of 7.5 and 14.0 %

e.. If in the previous years they failed to request fee increases or didn't have them approved which means they weren't justified then so they shouldn't be making up for previous rejected increased that they didn't deserve then.

Jerry Tate
E. 8900 Maringo Drive
Spokane, WA 99212
taccon105@nextdim.com
509-926-2579



- att1.htm



Jamvand@aol.com on 11/17/99 01:56:50 PM

991607
250364

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rates

Secretaty, Wash. Utilities& Trans. Comission

Dear Secretary: Avista, formerly Washington Water Power has followed a course of acquisition, dividend reduction and excessive administrative overhead since the employing of a Texas go-getter as CEO. Idaho has already experienced rate hikes that were out of line with the real world of consumer capability to pay. A good many of us are retirees with extreme vulnerability to inflationary developments. The horribly low Social Security increases have been a joke. No doubt Avista's desire to continue their grandiose plans for expansion are dependent on your Commission's approval of the suggested rate increase. Nevertheless I hope, as do many more patrons of this monopolistic power provider, that you see fit to either deny the increase or reduce it to a more sensible level. Sincerely yours, John VanDewerker, Spokane WA.

Betty Young

11/18/99

04:51:01 PM



Jamvand@aol.com on 11/18/99 04:25:10 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: avista

I am happy to send you my home address: John Van Dewerker, 1218 E30th, Spokane, WA. 99203.. jv



Keith A Fauerso <luzhombre@juno.com> on 11/19/99 06:45:50 PM

250633
991607

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate Increase for Avista

Dear Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission:

I was both shocked and upset when I received the most recent notice of a rate increase filed by Avista Utilities. They are a very profitable company, especially since their name change and expansion into other revenue generating enterprises. I sure would like to be able to receive a 14% pay raise. This is too great an increase and I would request you cut it back to a more reasonable amount. We consumers are at the mercy of the marketplace, it would be nice to see some restraint in at least on area of our budgets. Please help the working families impacted by the proposed rate increase.

Sincerely yours,

Keith and Diana Fauerso
11105 E. Sundown Drive
Spokane, WA 99206-9638
(509) 893-0762



Arthur Wachtendorf <artwach@plix.com> on 12/01/99 09:32:44 PM

82453

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Proposed Elec. Rate Increase

I object to the electric rate increase for Washington residential usage proposed by Avista Utilities.

We are retired living on an almost fixed income. My Social Security payments do not increase nearly as much percentage wise as the proposed increase.

Further, I think the proposed increase is in very bad timing considering that a new CEO was recently hired at a very, very large salary. One of the first things he saw fit to do was change the company name at a considerable expense.

If their present rates do not cover their operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on investment maybe their management should be a little more careful in how they allocate and spend their money.

To go to what I consider a very unnecessary expense to change the company name and then ask for a rate increase does not sit very well. If I am going to be expected to pay for such things, then I think I should have some say in whether or not it is necessary to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arthur Wachtendorf
P.O. Box 74
1783 Dearing Rd.
Addy, WA 99101



Michael T Ingram <mingram@whitworth.edu> on 11/27/99 05:33:28 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Complaints re Avista

251294

Please explain why Avista plans to raise its rates. First, Avista changes its name. Certainly rate payers have covered the cost of that expense. The organization seems to have shifted its northwest focus to other interests that do not serve Washington residents. Second, the Spokane media reports figures of significant salaries for high ranking officers. Executive compensation is one thing, but excessive compensation is another. Please justify the salaries and parachutes for these officers. Third, Avista now includes advertisements for products in its monthly billing. Why is Avista spending time, energy, and money to get customers to purchase consumer items they can obtain from Sears or other stores? Fourth, a ten percent increase will harm our region's poorest citizens, especially during the winter months. Please reject this audacious proposal and maintain the current utility rates.

Dr. Mike Ingram
home- 515 E Ballard Rd, Colbert, WA 99005

251737

	HOME	HELP!!!	SEARCH
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164774

Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

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To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	Charles E. McCollim	
Your Street Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	305 E. High Drive City: Spokane , State: Washington Zip: 99203	
Your County:	Spokane	
Phone Numbers:	Home: (509) 624-7557 Day/Work: Same	
Your E-Mail address:	CMccollim@aol.com	
Date:	12/04/99	
Your Comment:	Avista's proposed rate hike. The new "Head Jasper" was paid \$1 Million signing BONUS + his \$750,000 annual pay W/Stock options. Texas folks were happy to see him leave. Wonder why? He will be a hero if he pulls the wool over your eyes with this obnoxious raise. They had a fine year, sold plants Etc. Paid good dividends. It is a pocket lining sham on the part of the new manager! Thanks for protecting the users!	
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?		

Notice of Public Record:

Electronic messages received at the Commission will be treated the same as if the message had been sent via the post office (paper correspondence). You may expect to receive a response within a reasonable time period. Please be aware that all information you submit using this form is public record, and is subject to public inspection in compliance with RCW 42.17.260.

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW - Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Phone: 360-664-1160 (in state toll-free: 1-800-562-6150) FAX: 360-586-1150

251746



Richard J Johnson <rjj@completebbs.com> on 12/07/99 04:17:02 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase

I assume that an e-mail re the above subject is an exercise in futility but hope springs eternal.

14% for electric rates and 7.5% for natural gas rates must be excessive increases. The cry of Avista is that they are losing money at the current rates. I doubt it but even if it is so does anyone ever examine the possible inefficiencies and excessive salaries as a possible reason for the "need" for increases. I protest this request as excessive and plea for a ruling that if there is an increase it be well below the request.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Johnson
310 SE Crestview
Pullman, WA 99161

Phone 509-332-2385



"herman stark" <hermans@triax.com> on 12/17/99 11:09:51 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities Request for rate increases

252349

Herman Stark 2392 Eagle River Way, Kettle Falls, Wa

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: herman stark <hermans@triax.com>
Date: Friday, December 17, 1999 8:25 AM
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities Request for rate increases

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"herman stark" <hermans@triax.com> on 12/16/99 10:20:31 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities Request for rate increases

The Avista Utilities notice for a possible increase is misleading i.e. that the residential increase would be 14%. When you add the increase for basic charge the overall increase to the consumer is 18+%. Request you deny there request as a exhorbitant amount. what a nice way to increase there profits --just jack up the price.

Herman Stark -Kettle Falls, Washington



- att1.htm



Alexander D Stuart <kiddiespal@juno.com> on 12/17/99 09:44:27 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista

252348

December 17,

1999

Dear Sirs;

I recently learned that Avista will be seeking a rate hike. My friends and I are extremely opposed to any further raise in our utility rates. Many of us are retiree's living on a fixed income. The rate increase that Avista wants far exceeds any raise I will see in my social security benefits. In the new year I will also face considerably higher health insurance premiums.

The stock holders, administrators, and big bosses are receiving obscene raises and bonuses that are not deserved. Eliminate these fringes and there will be no reason to punish the ratepayers with further increases.

I hope you will give my humble request some consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexander D Stuart
406 S. Van Marter Road
Spokane, WA 99206-5562

991606

236309

Mr. Mike Parvine, Policy Research Specialist
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park DR-S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA. 98504-7250

RECEIVED
JAN 10 2000

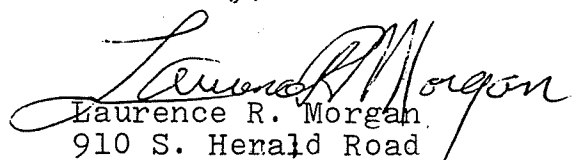
Dear Mr. Parvine:

Again I wish to express my deep concern about the rate increase requested by Avista for gas and electricity. Though some rate increase may be in order, the extent of this increase that is requested is not in keeping with their financial situation. It is way to hard on the average household. Such a big jump is very difficult to work into most home incomes.

I wonder if this is not an effort on their management to make up for some poor choices in Avesta's other investments.

Please try to protect the customer from having such a large increase in our monthly bills.

Sincerely,


Laurence R. Morgan
910 S. Herald Road
Spokane, WA. 99206
(509) 924-0876
Fax. 922-1186

991606N
36312

Friday, December 17, 1999

Dear Sirs:

I wrote about Avista's Rate increase on November 16, 1999 concerning their rate increase. I want to add that I was privileged to come across documentation noting that Avista had a party recently & they spent just under \$40,000.00 in food alone. That is a lot of money to be wasting on a party & peoples incomes to have electricity. I again, want to emphasize, that Avista does NOT deserve a rate increase, because they have a lot of waste in their budget to afford a party like that. Please consider this matter very heavily before a rate increase is granted. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



David K. Kephart
E. 1626 Ninth Ave.
Spokane, WA 99202-3420

RECEIVED

DEC 29 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

DEC 29 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

991606/265213

WASHINGTON  UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION	<input type="button" value="HOME"/>	<input type="button" value="HELP!!!"/>	<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/>
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Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here will be included in the formal record.

To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	Charles L. Barr	
Your Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	Street address: 5102 N. McDonald Rd. City: Spokane , State: WA Zip: 99216	
Your County:	Spokane	
Phone Numbers:	Home: 509-928-1052 Day/Work: same	
Your E-Mail address:	CLBarr20@cs.com	
Date:	07/11/2000	
Your Comment:	AVISTA CORP. \$15 MILLION loss on aborted merger with Sierra Pacific. \$90 MILLION loss reported by Avista Energy. Not going to cost ratepayers anything? Give us a break! From whom does their revenue come? No more rate increases or revenue enhancements. This utility appears to have more than enough income. It could possibly use better management of resources.	
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?	NO	

Notice of Public Record:

Electronic messages received at the Commission will be treated the same as if the message had been sent via the post office (paper correspondence). You may expect to receive a response within a reasonable time period. Please be aware that all information you submit using this form is public record,

Jackie Cummings
3362 Offerdahl Rd.
Chewelah, Washington 99109

991607
n 99701
RECEIVED
DEC 16 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Wa. 98504-7250

Dear Secretary ;

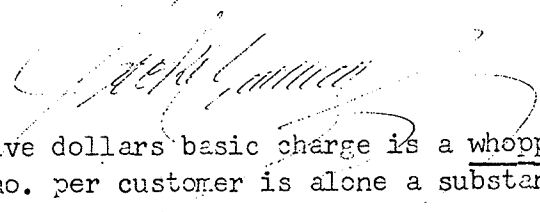
The proposed increase in electric rates by Avista utilities here in Washington, is a very unfair increase. The 14.0% increase to residential is going to hit the poor and the elderly which in turn will cost the taxpayers, as more welfare will go to these people to cover the cost of the increase! INSTEAD to be fair it should be a flat one rate increase across the board to all customers! If you average up all the different rates of increase, a flat rate of 9 or 10 percent would accomplish the same goal! A reasonable fair increase should be between 5 to 7 percent. Every year Avista gives huge bonuses to the executives instead of maintaining their lines or giving raises to the linemen where it is needed and do all the hard work. What do they need with a big name on their board like Norman Swartzcroff and the big salary to go along with it?

Some utility companies have a night rate and a day rate so that those who want to save on their bills will do ironing, washings etc on the night rate when the use load is lower. This cuts down on the overload during peak hours and saves the customer, who wishes to use the night rate, utility cost. It requires a second meter that automatically switches over to the night meter.

Also if the increase is approved; Avistia should not be allowed to buy another utility co. as this is what they want to do, and the increase will help them pay for the purchase!

The way Avista has designated their various rates is unfair! Hitting those who use less and can least afford the increase!

Sincerely,



P.S. ALSO the increase from three to five dollars basic charge is a whopping 66.6 percent (sisty six point 6) \$2.00 per mo. per customer is alone a substantial increase without raising the rates also.

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DEC 16 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

091607
253085 NI

Andrew and Jean Brustkern
8904 E. CATALDO
SPOKANE, WA 99212-2625

December 27, 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED
DEC 30 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

To whom it may concern,

I received the Notice about the rate increase that Avista Utilities filed with your office on October 22, 1999 with my power bill.

In it, it states that they are requesting a 14.0% increase for electricity for the Residential Schedule 1 service.

My wife and I think that this is somewhat out of line compared with what we personally have received for rate increases in our own rates of pay. I received only a 5% increase in my wages last year and my wife only received a 4% increase in her wages last year.

We believe that in these times of everyone being asked to be more fiscally responsible that a 14% increase in our electric rates is asking way too much. A 14% increase will seriously decrease the amount of disposable income that many people served by Avista Utilities.

We do not believe that we, as customers, should have to make up for mismanagement of the business over the past years of the Avistat Utilities corporation in one fell swoop. We think a more reasonable rate increase of 4% - 6% would be more appropriate. It would be more in keeping with the rise of the rate of inflation and the rate of increase in people's wages. Then they can file for another increase next year. However, if they are only allowed to file for an increase only every two years, then maybe an 8% - 10% increase in the rates would be a more acceptable request.

We would like to be made aware of the time and place for the public hearing in the Spokane area.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Brustkern

Andrew J. Brustkern

Jean M. Brustkern

Jean M. Brustkern

RECEIVED
DEC 30 1999
WASHINGTON UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

991606
991607
N 251251

November 23, 1999

To: Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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NOV 29 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

From: Pennie Woods
1129 N Tanglewood LN
Liberty Lake, WA 99019

Subject: AVISTA proposed rates

Secretary,

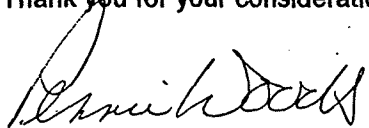
A couple of weeks before the local news reported that AVISTA would be requesting rate hikes, I had an interesting conversation with an employee of AVISTA. During our conversation, I learned about his/her roles and responsibilities at AVISTA. This individual had been with Washington Water Power for 30 years and was now with AVISTA. I learned that decision makers with AVISTA had made many costly mistakes in investments. I was told that AVISTA rejected the successful formula that WWP had used for years. As a result, huge amounts of money had been lost. This individual was very concerned.

Imagine my surprise to see AVISTA requesting rate hikes a short time later!

Is it possible that we, the utility purchaser without a choice, must pay for their poor management decisions? Please consider. Please look at the choices AVISTA has made in investing.

I do not remember the individual's name that shared with me. We did learn that we have a friend in common. I could locate the individual, however, it could jeopardize his/her job.

Thank you for your consideration,



Pennie Woods

RECEIVED
NOV 29 1999
WASH. UT. & TR. COM.

991606
N
RECEIVED

DEC 09 1999

NA

RE: Avista rate increase – please investigate

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

A dear friend of mine works in one of the Spokane Avista offices and has told me of many of the "perks" she and her co-workers receive from being employed by Avista. One example is having Friday lunches bought for every office employee along with daily drinks. Another example is that it is so common for employees to leave the office and claim to have worked those hours on time cards that they pass warning notices for employees to actually show up when a CEO or other business officer pays a visit. Of a more appalling nature, one employee in the accounting department shows up to work under the influence of illegal drugs (to the knowledge of several co-workers) and wonders why the tallies are off by millions of dollars.

At a time when this regional monopoly is requesting rate hikes, I ask you to investigate these abuses of our hard-earned money. Each individual Avista customer is paying the price for this company's unnecessary spending habits and should NOT be required to pay more for their recklessness.

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DEC 09 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

I can be contacted at
nirmala_angel@hotmail.com

Date Received: January 3, 2000

Docket No.: UE-991606 et al

Company: Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, Inc.

Distribution:

- Chairwoman Showalter
- Commissioner Gillis
- Commissioner Hemstad
- Marjorie Schaer, ALJ
- Penny Hansen (Cover letter only)
- Jeff Showman
- Dick Byers
- Dixie Linnenbrink
- Ken Elgin
- Doug Kilpatrick
- Mert Lott
- Joelle Steward (Cover letter only)
- Tom Schooley
- Ken Hua
- Roland Martin
- Joanna Huang
- Hank McIntosh
- Mike Parvinen
- Graciela Etchart (Cover letter only)
- Yohannes Mariam
- Jim Russell (Cover letter only)
- Bob Cedarbaum, AAG
- Layne Demas, Accounting Advisor
- Vicki Elliott

*Please
ADD to
Avista
Ratt case IP list
& file
Thanks
JPH*

For Records Center Use Only

- Fax _____
- E-Mail _____
- RMS _____
- FOB _____
- PR _____
- MSL _____
- NOH _____
- Disk _____
- Fax on Line _____
- Initial _____

✓ - Exempt from Confidentiality Agreement Requirement
 * - Confidentiality Agreement on file.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201-3339
(509) 625-6325
FAX (509) 625-6315

MICHAEL H. ADOLFAE
DIRECTOR

RECEIVED
RECORDS MANAGEMENT

00 JAN -3 AM 9:32

STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

991606
253006

December 22, 1999

Ms. Carol Washburn
Washington State Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Ms. Washburn:

RE: IMPACT OF ELECTRIC (WUTC DOCKET NO. 991606) AND GAS (WUTC DOCKET NO. 991607) UTILITY RATE INCREASES ON LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS - SPOKANE, WA

This letter is written on behalf of the low-income residents of the City of Spokane. Many reside in our inner city neighborhoods and are among our lowest income individuals and families in the state, such as those located in the third legislative district. Families and individuals living on low incomes are the most vulnerable to increases in the cost of products and services that are essential to their daily existence. Electricity and natural gas fall into these essential commodities and any increase in cost taxes already limited incomes. Very limited or non-existent discretionary income offers little options to these families and individuals and forces them into the category of restricted energy usage for heating, lighting and cooking. Many of these families and individuals are forced into uncomfortable and unhealthy living conditions, particularly during the cold winter months.

We urge you to evaluate any rate increase with the low-income consumer in mind. These families and individuals are our friends, relatives, neighbors and fellow human beings. Preventing or reducing the cause of illness through comfortable, appropriately heated homes reduces the need for low-income residents to seek medical services, as well as other public services.

Thank you for considering our concern for low-income families and individuals in Spokane.

Sincerely,

Community Development Board

Al French, Chair

AF:jc

cc: Public Council of Attorney General
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000
MS TB 14
Seattle, WA 98164-1012



(CON'D.)

YEAR	COST PER YR.	COST PER MO.-AVER.	K.W.H. PER YR.	PER MO.-AVER.	NO. OF RATE INCREASE
1994	\$775.53	\$64.63	15680	1307	
1995	740.35	61.70	14810	1234	*
1996	GAS 140.01 PWR. 545.76	GAS 14.00 PWR. 45.48	ALSO THERMS - 199 THERMS 10760	ALSO THERMS - 19.9 THERMS 897	
1997	GAS 224.21 PWR. 306.16	GAS 18.68 PWR. 25.51	GAS 497 THERMS PWR. 6430	41.42 THERMS 536	
1998	GAS 229.00 PWR. 305.37	GAS 19.08 PWR. 25.45	GAS 463 THERMS PWR. 6440	38.58 THERMS 536.66	** GAS
1999	GAS 258.85 PWR. 282.34	GAS 21.57 PWR. 23.53	GAS 529 THERMS PWR. 5880	44.08 THERMS 490.00	1-1-2000 * GAS

As, no doubt, you should be able to note the past rate increases over the years. I will attempt to mark those by using an asterisk (in numbers) as the rate increases came about (single as well as singularly) in the far-right column.

Purchases of various items to (presumably) save the cost (to us) of power and natural gas.

Heat pump and new electric furnace - installed August 17, 1979

Insulate Water Heater October 6, 1981. Raise in rates has had us paying a portion of this expense anyway. Energy conservation.

New microwave (600w) purchased March 20, 1977 - replacement (900w) was noisy March 16, 1993 - replacement (900w) convection oven August 30, 1993.

Insulate between roof and ceiling August 2, 1982.

New water heater & insulate August 9, 1989.

New Washer and Dryer, Refrigerator and Electric Stove (Washer and Dryer and " " were defective, so we had to pay the differences for a New Washer and Dryer, as well as the Refrigerator)

New Gas Furnace March 4, 1996.

" Electric Air Conditioner March 5, 1996.

New Vinyl Roof Covering October 18, 1999.

To give you an idea of a portion of the costs to purchase all the items, as above, the latest Gas Furnace and Electric Air Conditioner, installed, was right at \$3000.00.

Now-regarding all the rate increases awarded to the former Washington Water Power Co., and the new the new, Nevada Co., the latest article which was published in our local paper, the spokesman -

Renew dated May 10, 2000 (which is attached for your perusal) bears on the fact that the poor Nevada

Company hasn't had a rate increase in the past decade (ten (10) years) which is no doubt true, but

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE RATE INCREASES PRIOR TO 1990? NO MENTION HAS BEEN FORTH-COMING IN THIS

ARTICLE! Then for the natural gas rates HAVE BEEN AWARDED - how about the so-called 17% increase

given to this company as of January 1, 2000 and 1998?

I have been led astray by the power companies having cheap power rates as well as cheap natural

gas rates. Almost as soon as you (or one) groups to

are the cheap rates the companies (as mentioned) a

it raising their rates - this has happened in both power as well as natural gas.

I note, in particular, the 8th paragraph of the attached article which states "He said the Virginia-

based consultant who analyzed Nevada's capital structure pegged the equity portion at 42 percent, com-

pared with 44 percent for a peer group; I just to wonder who represents that peer group; are we to

be subject to rates in another part of the country; give admit that we do have somewhat cheaper

(but cheaper rates DID APPLY AT ONE TIME - SEE MY STUDY, AS ABOVE). I haven't the slightest idea of

how many, and where, Nevada's holdings are, provided these holdings (or operational areas) are located in the

WEST-HAVEN HELP US!! Our rates will be way up - count on it, if their rates ARE AWAY OUT OF LIKE

THESE SHOULD ACTUALLY BE NOTIES AT ALL, but Nevada will see to that - again COUNT ON IT!

Give word my piece, my wife and I really are

thankful that your Commission as well as
the Attorney General's Office deem these rates
for power and natural gas (requested) are out
of line - away out of line! Give the poor rate
payers a break!! Reject all of their requests!

Thanks, as ever.

S

Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

Yours truly,

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Swan

A.S. This is but a follow-up to the letters that
I have already written to your Commission, but
perhaps a bit more in detail, but again we
really can't afford any more raises!

Mr. & Mrs. K.D.S.

→ Penny Hanson
 Spokane, WA.
 May 11, 2000

25490 D

Washington Utilities and
 Transportation Commission
 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
 P.O. Box 47250
 Olympia, WA. 47250

RECEIVED

WV's
 CHAIR, WUTC

Dear Sirs: Subject: Avista's request for Power and Natural Gas rate increases.

I have lived in a Mobile Home Court for nearly twenty-six years now and in that time there has NEVER been anything done on this premise other than feed me power and natural gas. NOT even as much as a new power meter. They feed me power and natural gas just outside my mobile home - and that's it, any other expense inside my mobile is up to me to pay.

I have been "sucked in" by all their "malarkey" about cheapness of power and natural gas by both the former Washington Water Power Co. as the now Avista.

My power and natural gas usage remains fairly consistent, except for weather changes through Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Anyway, I have kept running records on these Companies since 1976, even though I have lived here since 1974. These records are as follows:

YEAR	COST PER YR.	COST PER MO. AVER.	K.W.H. PER YR.	PER MO. AVER.	NO. OF RATE INCREASES
1976	\$279.45	\$23.29	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN	
1977	283.95	23.66	21410	1784	
1978	299.84	24.99	20500	1708	
1979	343.29	28.61	21880	1823	*
1980	320.61	26.72	17820	1485	*
1981	341.18	28.43	15800	1317	***
1982	409.20	34.10	15760	1313	*
1983	430.91	35.91	13980	1165	***
1984	620.34	51.70	16270	1356	***
1985	703.38	58.62	16940	1412	**
1986	636.63	53.05	14940	1245	*
1987	686.58	57.22	14600	1217	*
1988	731.48	60.96	15040	1253	
1989	752.08	62.67	15450	1288	
1990	710.10	59.17	14680	1223	*
1991	779.72	64.97	15760	1313	
1992	710.14	59.18	14520	1210	
1993	845.84	70.49	16820	1402	

Avista debates rate-cut proposal

**Company says consultants
used bottom-range figures**

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Avista Corp. Rates Manager Tom Dukich said Tuesday that consultants low-balled their own numbers to come up with recommendations that Washington roll back the utility's electricity and natural gas rates.

The Spokane utility had sought a \$26.3 million electricity rate increase and a \$4.9 million natural gas increase.

Instead, the staff of the Utilities and Transportation Commission recommended on Friday a \$16.5 million cut in electricity revenues and just \$785,000 in additional gas revenues.

The assistant attorney general who represents consumers before the commission also proposed rate cuts.

The three-member commission is not bound by either recommendation.

Avista's rates have advanced 3.5 percent during the past decade. The company's request would have lifted residential electricity rates 14 percent and gas rates 6.5 percent.

Continued: **Avista/A13**

Avista: June 2 is deadline for rebuttal

Continued from A10

Although several factors contributed to the gulf between the company and the staff, Dukich said two issues — rate of return and power supply — accounted for much of the gap.

He said the Virginia-based consultant who analyzed Avista's capital structure pegged the equity portion at 42 percent, compared with 44 percent for a peer group.

Then the consultant allowed only a 10.4 percent return on the equity, compared with 11.4 percent for the peer group, he said.

Avista had proposed a 47 percent equity share, on which the company would be allowed to earn 12.25 percent.

Debt, such as bonds, comprises the rest of Avista's overall capital structure.

Dukich said the difference in the

company and staff analyses constitutes \$13 million of the overall difference of \$43 million in the final rate calculations.

Turning to power supply, he said the staff did not allow the company to recover any of the \$4 million the company will spend replacing power from the Centralia Power Plant, which Avista and its partners sold last week to a Canadian utility.

Dukich said Washington consumers are splitting \$19 million in revenues from that sale.

The staff also assumed Avista would earn \$5 million annually from its energy-trading activity, he said. In fact, the company lost \$5 million in 1999.

Different assumptions about the amount of water that would flow through company hydroprojects created a \$9 million revenue sink-hole, Dukich said.

Other quarrels involve allowances from the 1996 ice storm, last year's corporate name change and the shift of some costs from the rate base to expenses.

Avista has until June 2 to file with the commission its rebuttal to the staff case, which is expected to act on the filing this fall.



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100



Mr. Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

Spokane, WA, ⁹⁹¹⁶⁰⁷
December 7, 1999

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA, 98504-7250

RECEIVED 25490.1
RECEIVED
DEC 09 1999 DEC 09 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Sirs:

On October 29, 1999 I sent a letter to your Commission in regard to a natural gas filing by the Avista Utilities of Spokane, WA. I/or we were against this filing and I tried to portray our feelings about any rate increase.

after the initial filing for a rate increase, telling how hard they were for additional monies, the next day they published an article in our local newspaper (the Spokesman-Review) that Avista posted strong quarterly earnings - this article 10-21-99. Both articles (or copies thereof) were attached to my October 29, 1999 letter (as above).

Now - on December 2, 1999 there was yet another article published in the Spokesman-Review that Avista had/or were sending another request in to your Commission, for what I believe, to be a portion of the initial filing for Avista to receive a raise by January 1, 2000. THIS - without any hearings - the way I get it!

I've been through so many rate increases by the old Washington Water Power Co. and now these by Avista I KNOW THEY BOTH WILL TRY ANYTHING TO GAIN MORE RETURN. THIS - to me, is a brand new rule. REJECT IT, AS WELL AS THE REST!! Thanks.

Yours truly,
Kenneth D. Swan

Spokane, WA.
June 26, 2000

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr., S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA. 98504-7250

RECEIVED
JUN 26 2000
CHAIR WUTC

991606
25490
IP

Attention: Marilyn Showalter - Chairwoman.

Dear Ms. Showalter:

I write this to you in hopes that I have the
Chairwoman correct.

It seems that Avista of Spokane has requested,
away back in October, rate increases both in power
as well as natural gas. I know that I have written
quite a number of letters to your Commission objecting
to both these raises. There has been so much
activity, as of late, that I am really confused.

First, Avista requested something like a 14%
rise in natural gas rates. Your Commission quickly
figured that 14% was NOT ENOUGH for this poor,
destitute Company so they decided to give them a
17% increase instead. This was instituted and
effective January 1, 2000. I figure around 19%,
when I add appropriate City and State taxes.

PLEASE, your Commission never figures in the
taxes - do so in the future! The consumer always
pays. Perhaps even your Commission could be paid
for their work out of the tax funds collected.

Avista, currently, seems to be attempting to coerce
the rate-paying consumers, because there have been all
types of articles in our local newspaper, the Spokesman
Review. I am attaching four (4) copies of what has
been printed June 22, June 23, June 24 and June 25,
2000. The ad on June 25, 2000 about sizes up their in-
tentions of controlling prices to their liking, not the
Commission. Also the rate-paying consumer. Mind

you, they could charge what they wish even without the Commissions approval. They could increase rates, at a whim, because they THINK THEY NEED IT, whether anyone else thinks so or not. No mention made of reductions in rates - just increases.

My wife and I are on fixed incomes - she 85 and I am 86 - and we can ill-afford any rate increases !!

PLEASE !! Take some time to peruse all these articles. The one article of June 22, 2000 stands out inasmuch as the Company, Avista, tends to take a loss of \$90 million. Please note the statement by Matthews, Chairman, President and C.E.O. of Avista. The guy that takes the blame, killed himself; but believe it - MATTHEWS IS THE C.E.O. - and he should have been FIRED AT ONCE!

Later Matthews thought better of it and decided that the rate payers wouldnt be made to pay for the loss, BUT STUDY ALL THE ARTICLES AND THE AD OF JUNE 25, 2000.

Perhaps your Commission "WILL SEE THE LIGHT" (Avista power for the light) and dis-allow the remaining rate increases that were intended for September 2000!

Thanks for your time. As ever,

Yours truly,

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Swan



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

Avista subsidiary hit by \$90 million loss

Volatile market, poor decisions take toll on Avista Utilities

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Soaring electricity prices and poor decision-making cost Avista Utilities \$90 million in the second quarter, and the losses could rise another \$50 million by year's end, company executives said Wednesday.

Some of the losses were caused by an energy trader who exceeded company guidelines, Avista Corp. Chairman Tom Matthews said.

The trader was Roger W. Scholten, who committed suicide April 15.

The utility's performance will wipe out

overall Avista Corp. profits for the second quarter and the year to date, Matthews told stock analysts in a conference call.

The company will also seek some emergency rate relief, he said.

"We just plain blew it," Matthews said, conceding that the company had not forecast a leap in electricity prices from a normal spring range in the low \$20s per megawatt to more than \$140 per megawatt, with spikes to \$750.

A megawatt can energize about 600 homes.

Matthews said the surge in electricity prices came during a season when Avista

"We just plain blew it."

Tom Matthews, Avista chairman

Utilities is normally short of power. The group responsible for buying and selling energy for the company counts on the availability of runoff-generated hydro-power to close the gap between its needs and supplies, he said.

But this year has been far from normal. Snows melted early, Matthews said,

and dam operators managed rivers to improve fish runs at the expense of power generation.

Also, Centralia Generating Plant, which once provided Avista with 175 megawatts of power, was shut down in May, he said. Avista was a part owner of the plant until its sale to TransAlta in May.

Matthews said company energy traders assumed they could buy power at reasonable prices until a new supply contract with TransAlta kicks in July 1.

"We were penalized for that," he said.

Avista spokesman Steve Becker said Scholten, 53, exacerbated company

losses by defying orders to reverse the commitments to deliver low-cost power in the months ahead. Those positions exposed the company to significant risk, he said.

Scholten at first complied, but later reversed positions again, Becker said.

That was on a Friday. Scholten killed himself the next day at his Post Falls home, according to a report filed with the Coeur d'Alene Memorial Funeral Home.

An audit the following week revealed the trader's actions, Becker said.

Scholten had started with Avista as a

Continued: Avista/A6

6-22-00

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Avista: Losses will continue until October, chairman says

Continued from A1

meter reader, then became a line-man. He was awarded the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Life Saving Award for saving a co-worker.

He was a senior energy trader at the time of his death.

Matthews said the damage, initially less than \$15 million, was amplified by a company decision to reduce its exposure to the bad trades gradually.

Energy markets, instead of improving, grew more volatile, increasing the prices the utility paid to buy the required power.

"It became a big problem that we could not resolve," Matthews said.

He said the losses will continue until October, when the last of the unfavorable contracts expires. How much more the trading will cost Avista Utilities depends on what prices the company will have to pay to meet its obligations, he said.

Matthews said Avista Utilities will no longer conduct electricity trading beyond what is necessary to serve the needs of its own customers.

Avista Energy, another subsidiary, will make \$70 million or more in the second quarter, exploiting the same market conditions that caused Avista Utilities so much grief, Matthews said.

Avista Energy focuses on wholesale trading in the Western United States. Business has been particularly good in California, he said.

Matthews stressed that Avista Util-

ities also needs relief from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, which is considering company requests for power and natural gas rate increases.

The \$26.3 million electricity rate hike would boost residential bills 14 percent. Gas bills would climb 7.5 percent, adding \$4.9 million to annual revenues.

Last month, the commission's staff recommended an electricity rate decrease and a modest gas increase.

The application also would create a mechanism that would allow the utility to automatically pass changes in the cost of power through to customers.

Matthews stressed that Avista Utilities also needs relief from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, which is considering company requests for power and natural gas rate increases.

Avista Corp. Senior Vice President Jon Eliassen said the company assumes some rate relief will come in September. But no allowance has been made for an application Avista Utilities will file this week seeking an accounting order that would raise rates sooner, he said.

Matthews said Avista Utilities now has enough power to meet its

needs through 2000 and 2001. All obligations will be met, he said.

"Our reputation is at stake and we take our responsibilities very seriously," he said.

Matthews said Avista is also implementing strenuous corporate-wide cost-cutting measures.

Spokesman Becker said officials are trying to avoid layoffs in conjunction with those efforts.

Avista stock, which fell 18 percent Monday after an analyst warned of potential problems, tumbled again early Wednesday. Shares touched a low of \$15.75 before recovering to \$19, down 25 cents for the day, following the hourlong conference call.

■ Bert Caldwell can be reached at (509) 459-5450, or by e-mail at bertc@spokesman.com.

Avista customers safe from losses

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Avista Utilities customers
will not have to cover huge

losses sustained recently by the company's electricity traders, but rate increases may be necessary if power costs remain high over the next year, officials said Thursday.

Avista today will ask the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve a plan that would allow the utility to track extraordinary power expenditures over a one-year period starting July 1.

Once those expenses are determined, Avista could return to the commission later for rate increases to cover them.

Rates manager Tom Dukich said the company estimates it could spend \$29 million more than usual for electricity over the next 12 months.

"It could be bigger. It could be smaller," he said.

Most of the money, \$20 million, would be spent to

**But rate increases
possible if power
costs remain high**

Continued: **Avista/A11**

Avista: Rates could go up 5 percent

Continued from A1

cover Washington's power needs.

The remaining \$9 million may be sought in Idaho, but that state already has a mechanism that adjusts rates as wholesale electricity prices rise or fall.

Avista included a request for a similar power cost adjustment in a rate increase proposal now before the Washington commission.

If the commission allows adjustments, Dukich said, Washington rates could increase 5 percent for one year, a figure that assumes \$20 million in extraordinary electricity expenditures. The increase would drop to 2.5 percent the second year, then expire.

If the adjustment clause included in the rate case is rejected, Avista would seek relief in a future filing that would raise rates up to 1.5 percent per year for 10 years, Dukich said.

He and Kelly Norwood, regulatory policy analyst for the company, stressed that the petition to the commission does not attempt to recover any of the \$90 million the utility lost trading energy this spring.

Shareholders of Avista Corp., the utility's parent, will absorb those costs, Dukich said.

Norwood said Avista Utilities pur-

Shareholders of Avista Corp. will absorb the costs from trading losses.

chases about 10 percent of its power using short-term contracts, which are usually less expensive than long-term deals.

But that pattern has been reversed the last few months in the Northwest, he said.

Wholesale costs have historically ranged from less than 1 cent per kilowatt-hour to 4 cents per kilowatt-hour. Now, prices are running as high as 13 cents per kilowatt-hour for a monthlong contract, almost triple that by the day and five times that by the hour.

Avista retail customers pay less than 5 cents per kilowatt-hour for that same power, Dukich said, and that figure includes corporate overhead.

The utility has already asked the Washington commission to raise electricity rates an average 10.5 percent.

Dukich said a ruling on that request is expected in September.

The company has asked the commission to make a decision on today's petition by the end of July, he said.

Dukich said there are precedents for deferrals like the one Avista is seeking. Some allow for recovery of severe storm damage, some for environmental remediation, he said.

6-24-98

Avista refuses resignation from chairman

**Matthews was ready to take
blame for \$90 million in losses**

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Avista Corp. Chairman Tom Matthews offered to submit his resignation this week, but the company's board of directors refused, spokesman Steve Becker said Friday.

He said Matthews, who was away from Spokane on Friday, was prepared to step down and accept responsibility for losses Avista Utilities sustained in its electricity trading operations this spring.

The utility will lose \$90 million for the quarter that ends June 30 and perhaps as much as \$50 million more through October, when the last unfavorable energy contracts expire.

The trading losses will wipe out corporate profits for the quarter and year.

"Mr. Matthews recognized the magnitude of the situation and wished to be held accountable," Becker said. "He offered his resignation and that was denied."

Becker added that Matthews "has the full support of the board."

Local board members Dave Clack and Larry Stanley were unavailable



Matthews

for comment Friday.

Matthews has led Avista since July 1, 1998, when he moved to Spokane from Houston. A corporate headhunter had picked him out of the oil and

gas industry, where he compiled a lengthy resume with firms such as Exxon and Texaco.

Avista, then known as Washington Water Power Co., had never hired a chairman from outside the company in its 111-year history.

Matthews moved quickly to put his imprint on the organization.

With the board's consent, he cut the dividend sharply to conserve cash. The name change was announced. And he aggressively expanded the operations of subsidiaries in the energy trading and energy billing businesses.

Work accelerated at Avista Labs, the fuel cell subsidiary. Avista Communications was created by purchasing a majority stake in an existing

Continued: **Avista/A9**

Avista: Ratings put on watch

Continued from A1

Spokane company.

So far, the results have been mixed. Avista Energy quickly grew to become one of the largest energy trading businesses in the country, but the operation was shut down and a loss recorded when executives determined too much capital was a risk.

But Avista Advantage, an e-commerce venture that helps major corporations control energy costs, and Avista Labs have attracted interest from potential investors.

Avista has retained two Wall Street giants, Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs, to explore ways of maximizing the value of those operations.

Earlier this year, the company's stock shot from about \$16 to \$68, lifted by favorable analyst comments and a significant investment by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates.

The price has since tumbled back below \$20, and Matthews told employees Friday his offer to resign was intended in part to restore share prices.

On Friday, Standard & Poor's placed its ratings of Avista Corp.'s debt and preferred stock on "Credit-Watch with negative implications," after the company's announcement of its expected losses. Other analysts have also downgraded Avista's stock.



6-25-00

**A message to our customers
and employees in the communities we serve:**

As was recently reported, our company was faced with a significant loss (about \$90 million) during the second quarter due in part to the unprecedented sustained peaks in the price of power in the Pacific Northwest. It's important to understand, however, that these losses are not being passed on to our customers.

Historically, the Pacific Northwest has experienced a stable and low-cost energy market that translated to low energy prices for our customers. But recently, we have seen sudden and unexpected increases in wholesale electric prices across the region. If these conditions continue, we will all feel the ups and downs of the market right here at home.

Our current rate case in Washington, filed last fall, includes a provision to adjust prices as wholesale power costs change. Since that provision is not yet in place, we have asked the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve a plan that would allow us to track power costs over an entire year to reflect market fluctuations. This would apply only to those costs directly related to serving our customers. If power costs remain high, a price increase may be necessary.

We want to assure you that we remain committed to providing the same level of safe, courteous and reliable service that you've come to expect throughout our more than 110-year history.

In closing, we'd like to say a few words to our employees. We hold you in the highest regard. We value your rights in personal matters. And, contrary to some of the recent news coverage, we have held to this core value. We thank you for the excellent service you provide each day.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward H. Turner".

Edward H. Turner
President
Avista Utilities

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T.M. Matthews".

T.M. "Tom" Matthews
Chairman, President and CEO
Avista Corp.

4-19-'00

I will be unable
to attend the Spokane
Public Meeting, so
these letters may be
presented as my part
in rejecting ANY AND
ALL RATE INCREASES!

~~CONSUMER AFFAIRS~~
Kenneth D. Swan
APR 21 2000
RECEIVED



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

491606
Spokane, WA. N)
April 19, 2000
25490D

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA. 98504-7250

RECEIVED
APR 21 2000
WASH. UT. & TR.

Dear Sirs:

I have already written to you about the Avista rate increase for power - this is about the natural gas rate increase. We use both in our mobile home.

Your Commission has already granted the Avista Co. a "give-away" rate increase of what was called a 17% increase to be effective January 1, 2000. I, by adding state as well as City taxes will call that rate increase 19.39%.

I, really, have no idea of where your Commission is in the natural gas rate increase, inasmuch as your Commission is in the "give-away" mood. Away back, some-time there was a natural gas rate request given to your Commission by Avista. You "gave-away" the interim increase of what was called a 17% increase WITHOUT EVEN A PUBLIC HEARING.

Whatever remains, my wife and I ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF YET ANOTHER INCREASE!! Yours truly,
Mr & Mrs. K. D. Swan

Spokane, WA.
April 19 - 2000

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA, 98504-7250

Dear Sirs:

As of late there are so many notices of rate increases they all "boggle my mind". I have written letters to your Commission stating that my wife and I are against all of these increases. We were "extremely startled" by the Avista notice that our power rates will be going up by \$10.36 per month, or what will be called a 14 per cent rate increase.

To give you an idea only my wife and I received a cumulative increase in our Social Security income of \$49.00 a month:

In rapid notices our notices of increases resulted in the following:

\$10.00	rent increase.
13.00	a month increase in our car insurance.
6.00	a month " in your approved national
<u>29.00</u>	gas rates in what you called a 17% increase. By adding City and State taxes I'd rather call it a 19.39% increase.
10.36	a month increase in <u>your</u> power rates that will, <u>no doubt</u> , be given to Avista.
<u>39.36</u>	

Oh yes, I must not forget that we/my wife and I must pay and pay just to stay alive and somewhat healthy - if I may use that word. Answer I have just said

out just over \$1000 for a "root canal" in a molar tooth. My wife was already in the process of having all her upper teeth removed - to be replaced by a new Maxillary Denture. Four (4) teeth removed to the tune of \$482.00. Only \$1577 to go to remove the remaining teeth as well as paying for the Denture. Total somewhere around \$2059.

Our measly \$49.00 a month increase in S. Security - Going, Going, Gone!!

NOW: I will simply write another letter about your other rate increase in our natural gas to be treated in your gigantic visitation here in Spokane for your so-called public appearance for Avista's requests as well as the illegal U.S. West and Qwest Communications International merger. I say "illegal" because IF YOU REMEMBER there WAS A BREAK-UP OF THE "MA" BELL AND THE OLD BELL COMPANIES by what was called the Telecommunications Act of 1996. U.S. West NOW, was the old Pacific Northwest Bell Co. here in Spokane. Why would your Commission even spend any time AT ALL on something like this. Right now there is a legal hold on U.S. West because they have not cleared troubles as requested. Another reason for not spending any time at all on this merger. I have had a case of trouble myself for over sixteen (16) years and have written

to your Commissions innumerable times
and nothing ever seems to happen no
matter what I say or do about said
problem. We have resolved our problems
by just answering the 'phone and forgetting
that it was meant for Domino's Pizza as
well as other stray mis-dialings.

On to natural gas. As ever.

Yours truly,

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Swan



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

Note:

You will receive 2 letters in your mail written by me at 4 A.M. today. One letter refers to our cumulative increase in Social Security income. I erroneously reported a \$49.00 increase rather than the true \$29.00 a month increase.

I wrote these letters because I cannot attend your Spokane Public Meeting, so the letters of my complaints about rate increases as well as the U.S. West.



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

Spokane, WA, 9911006
April 19, 2000

25490
D

RECEIVED

APR 24 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.
RECEIVED

APR 24 2000

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA. 98504-7250.

Dear Sirs:

This will be a correction letter to one that I wrote to your Commission at 4 A.M. this morning BECAUSE I couldn't sleep because of the number of increases coming on as of late.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Hope you will be able to clarify them. My wife told me that our raise in Social Security income is a cumulative increase of \$29.00 rather than the \$49.00 mentioned.

So-o-o. The rapid notices of increases are as they were, but I will mention them again to clarify.

ie:
#10.00 rent increase notice.

13.00 a month increase in our car insurance.

6.00 a " in your Commission's approved natural gas rates in what you called a 17% increase.

By adding City and State taxes I'd rather call it a 19.39% increase.

10.36 a month in your Commission's power rates to be given, no doubt, to Civista of Spokane

39.36 so already we'll be \$10.36 "in the hole" compared to our S. Security raise of \$29.00,

oh yes, I must go on with this and not forget that we / my wife and I must pay and pay just to stay alive and somewhat healthy - if I may use that word. Anyway I have just paid out just over \$1000 for a "root canal" in a molar tooth.

My wife was already in the process of having all her upper teeth removed - to be replaced by a new Maxillary denture, that (4) teeth have already been removed to the tune of \$482.00. Only \$157 to go to remove the remaining teeth as well as paying for the new denture. Total somewhere around \$2059.

Our monthly going, going, gone!!
 \$29.00 a month increase in S. Security - going, going, gone!!

Now: I will devalue a little bit more and deal with the rate increase in power.

My wife and I have lived in this mobile home about since July, 1974. I will use your Commission's "History of Electric Rates -

Schedule 1 - Residential Service - State of Washington for the ed. Washington Water Power Company (Now Avista). We evidently started on the rate schedule of Sept. 13, 1973.

There have been various rate adjustments for this company on these rates since July of 1974.

These additional adjustments per my study.

June 11, 1980
 January 1, 1981
 February 9, 1984
 February 16, 1984
 April 28, 1984
 January 19, 1985
 April 10, 1985

June 4, 1982
 December 4, 1981
 August 13, 1981
 April 28, 1984
 February 9, 1984
 February 16, 1984

July 1, 1982
 August 1, 1982
 October 1, 1982
 April 16, 1986

March 3, 1987
 January 1, 1983
 January 8, 1983
 July 1, 1990
 Commission's rate

January 13, 1983
 We are using the
 November 1, 1983
 schedule of Jan. 1, 1975

November 19, 1974
 August 5, 1975
 December 14, 1976
 January 21, 1977
 June 8, 1977
 July 11, 1977
 October 4, 1977
 December 1, 1977
 April 5, 1978
 April 15, 1978
 July 1, 1978
 January 1, 1979
 January 30, 1979

This January 1, 1995 rate schedule has been in effect since that date - This is now April 2000, so you see your Commission is in/or under the wrong impression as to rates taken in by this Company. We are billed BY AVISTA at these rates:

Basic \$ 3.00

1st 600 K.W.H. @ .03892

Next 700 " @ .04623

Over 1300 " @ .05628

+ City Tax .0638

For April 2000 we used 440 K.W.H. and were billed out at the amount of \$21.40 for our power usage.

Basic	\$ 3.00
440 K.W.H.	17.12
	<hr/>
City Tax	20.12
	1.28
	<hr/>
	21.40

Our Natural Gas usage was for 56 therms

Basic	\$ 4.00
56 therms at the	
new rate of .45139	25.33
	<hr/>
	29.33
City Tax	1.22
	<hr/>
	30.55.

Our total bill then becomes

\$ 21.40
<hr/>
30.55
<hr/>
51.95

The State Tax is derived by dividing the total of \$51.95 by 1.03852 which is \$50.02. Subtract \$50.02 from \$51.95 which equals a State Tax of \$1.93. I mention that the City and State taxes make your rate increase higher yours truly,



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

Spokane, WA.
April 19, 2000

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA. 98504-7250

Dear Sirs:

I have now written letters about Power Rate increase, Natural Gas rate increase by the Avista Co. of Spokane.

Now - I will go further and put in my objection to the U.S. West and Q West merger, all three of these are to be covered by your Public Meeting of Thursday, April 20, 2000. As long as I have dealt with the various commissions - never have I seen three (3) items dealt with IN ONE MEETING.

First off I, personally, believe that this, as well as other mergers to be illegal. I say "illegal" because IF YOU REMEMBER there was a BREAK-UP OF THE "MA" BELL AND THE OLD BELL COMPANIES by what was called the Telecommunications Act of 1996, U.S. West NOW, was the old Pacific Northwest Bell Co. here in Spokane. Why would your Commission even spend any time AT ALL on something such as this. Right now there is a legal hold on U.S. West because they have not cleared troubles as requested. This is another reason for not spending any time at all on this merger. I have had a case of trouble, myself, for over sixteen (16) years and have written

to the various Commissions innumerable times and nothing much ever seems to happen. Your Roger Kouchi has done more than anyone else there, but even he has not cleared our problem with U.S. West. As a result we have resolved our problems by just answering the 'phone and forgetting that the call was meant for Domino's Pizza as well as other stray mis-dialings. The other strays are much like Domino's only. Their number is 327-5502 - ours 327-7550. Other numbers similar are 327-5501, 327-5503, 327-5504, 327-5505, etc. The troubles are enhanced by the new type telephones that "record the last number dialed". Push the re-dial button and they land on us again.

Add this sixteen (16) year trouble to U.S. West's other list of troubles that need to be fixed,

U.S. West's troubles stem from "laying off too many good, knowledgeable people". There's no one left that knows anything - just ask me.

I worked in the telephone industry for thirty-seven (37) years, but I retired before G.T.E. did their laying-off thing. I worked for several years as an equipment man, so I do know what U.S. West's problem is, but there's no one individual capable of fixing what I've had to offer to repair same. As ever, yours truly,

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Surra

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ROUTING SLIP

Refer to:

Renny Hanson
Public Affairs

Date:

4/13/00

Noted

From:

Suzanne Stillwell
cc May Mendoza

AVISTA

- Note and file
- Note and return to me
- Return with more details
- Note and see me about this
- Please answer
- Prepare reply for my signature
- For appropriate action

- Per our conversation
- Per your request
- For your approval
- For your information
- For your comments
- For signature
- Investigate and report

Comments:

Renny, this appears to be comments on current filings. I checked our complaint database regarding the letters he talks about, and the last time he filed a complaint about Avista was in 1998. So the letters must be comments on other past filings.

Suzanne



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

Spokane, WA,
April 3, 2000

Attorney General of Washington
900 Jayceeth Avenue #2000
Seattle, WA, 98164-1012

RECEIVED

APR 11 2000

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Attention: Christine D. Gregoire

Dear Ms. Gregoire;

On the first of April, 2000 I received a letter, as written on March 30, 2000, from your office as written and signed by your Assistant Attorney General (Public Counsel). This letter referenced WUTC Docket Numbers UE-991606 and UE-991607 which both are a filing for rate increases for Power (Electric) & (Gas) for Avista of Spokane, WA.

I have written many letters and have objected to these increases.

The first letter was written on October 29, 1999 and contained six (6) pages of documentation.

The second letter was written on November 11, 1999 and contained two (2) pages of documentation.

The third letter was written on December 7, 1999 which was one (1) page.

The fourth letter was written on January 12, 2000 which was two (2) pages. In this letter I complained about the Commissions "GIVE-AWAY" "PROGRAM". The natural gas rate increased from .37902 to .45239 per thermal unit. The Commission gave away what they said would be a 17% increase (interim). My increase was more like 11.36%.

The fifth letter was written on March 11, 2000 which was a two (2) page letter. In this letter I asked for documents pertaining to subject

rate increases.

As of this writing the Utilities Commission
HAS NOT ANSWERED ANY of the above-men-
tioned NOR have they sent documents such as
your letter showed UE-991606 and UG-
991607.

Your letter from your Assistant showed that
on April 20, 2000 there will be a public
hearing regarding Avista's proposals, but
I'll be D----- if I'll make an appearance
or present my facts about this Company, Avista.
I have ALREADY PROVEN my facts to the
Commission, so please rest assured that
I KNOW what has happened in the past
about the Washington Water Power, former
Avista's rate increases. Avista will always
get WHAT THEY WANT (OR REQUEST), with
but a very few and I have watched hearings
and presented facts against, but this
Company is most always getting what they
request. I've been in their operating area
now for nearly twenty-six (26) years.

I do appreciate your Assistant's letter,
however, because at least he cares. The
Commission is being paid by people like us,
my wife and me, so see to it that something is
done right, for a change!! REJECT THIS
REQUEST and vote in favor of a constituent
for a change!! I'll be watching!!
Thanks for your time.

Yours truly,
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Swan

cc: Washington Utilities Commission. ✓

P.S. I will not send copies of my letters,
or documents attached thereof, so if I am
not believed please request copies from
the Commission. Unless they have thrown
them away, they MUST be in their files
somewhere.

Mr. & Mrs. H. D. S.

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2000

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2000

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

25490
991606
991607

Spokane, WA.

March 11, 2000

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA. 98504-7250

Dear Sirs:

On October 29, 1999 I wrote a letter to your Commission and attached to that letter were copies of two (2) articles dated October 26 and 27-1999 that were published in the Spokane local newspaper. This was six (6) pages in length. On the sixth (6th) page - the last two (2) sentences I, more or less, give you an indication that we were not in favor of a gas rate increase for Avista, here in Spokane. ALSO with that in the last sentence I requested I stated "I would like to receive pertinent papers on this filing if at all possible." No answer to the letter as well as NO PAPERS have been received here, as of this writing.

I wrote another, more or less, a follow-up letter to your Commission on December 7, 1999 and referred to the articles (as above) that were attached to my October 29, 1999. Attached to this letter was an article dated December 2, 1999. This article stated that Avista wanted a preliminary raise of almost 14 percent to be effective on January 1, 2000. Your Commission thought the raise should be 17% or more. In the case of our raise on 1-1-2000 the raise was more like 17.36%.

So-o-o, good olé patient me, I wrote yet another letter to your good (?) Commission on January 12, 2000

pointing out my consternation with this
give-a-way program by the Commission.
Now no response to all this letters has
been NIL. Still no papers AT ALL. I
wrote this letters for a purpose "to see
to it that no raise be given to Avista
as I thought they were doing quite well
without any adjustment." Your Commission
looks at the deal in a different - I pay and
pay and the Commission does a little paper
work that a rate-paying customer of Avista
cant even obtain the paper work done by
the Commission. There must be a Docket No. assigned by now!

I'll not send copies of my letters, for
presumably they are all in your files, OR
**'ARE THEY ALL IN THE ROUND FILE -
SOMEBODIES WASTE BASKET??**

I would like some response or even re-
sponses, now.

Thanks for your time. As ever,

yours truly,

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Swan.



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

P.S. My wife and I, together, received a \$29.00
increase in our Social Security income, as of
1-1-2000.

Right away our rent went up by \$10.00 a month,
our car insurance went up by \$13.00 a month and
your natural ^{gas} rate went up by 17.36%, so we
find ourselves with about a negative amount of \$1.00
a month. Just a thought for your Commission to think
about - for JUST ONE COUPLE!
K D. S

991606 CN)
Spokane, WA. 8490-1
November 11, 1999

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NOV 15 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA. 98504-7250

Dear Sirs:

On October 29, 1999 I wrote a letter to your
Commission in regard to my objection to the
new rate filings by Avista of Spokane.

In with over November 1999 Avista statement billing
us for the use of power and natural gas was a
"stuffer" in regard to "Important notice for Washington
Electric Customers - November 1999" and on the reverse
side was the "Important notice for Washington Natural
gas customers - November 1999".

This "stuffer" indicated that "The Company has not
had a general electric price increase in Washington
since 1990. In their notice published on October 26,
1999 (which was attached to my initial letter to your
Commission) they stated they hadn't a rate increase
in electric rates since 1987. Perhaps someday they
may get it right. I am being billed on the electric
rate schedule of an approved date of January 1, 1995
which was approved by your Commission. This is
the "Present Rates Schedule" as is shown on the
"stuffer" - copy attached.

I, for one, as well as for 2 (my wife) ARE NOT in
favor of increasing the "BASICS" rates from \$3.00
a month to the "proposed rates" of \$5.00 as well as
from \$4.00 to \$5.00 for the "proposed rates" for the
Natural Gas Basic. What is this a "giveaway
program". I believe I got down, once, to the BASIC
charges on natural gas. True, the power companies

does pay meter readers, but pay is for something in return, or at least that's the way I look at it. Meter readers rarely follow the outlined schedule so the/~~the~~ this power company has a limited number of meter readers in comparison to the full amount of basic charges for all power and natural gas users—your Commission knows—I DO NOT, but I'll bet it's way out of proportion.

I figured our billing for November 1999, using the Present Rate schedule compared to the proposed Rate schedule and we/or I would be paying a 12.42% higher rate percentage for the exact same usage of power and natural gas. Our lower rates in a November as compared to our higher rates in say January, February and March (in the winter months) would cause us hardship in loss of monies due to the increased cost of our utilities payments. The November billing was on the old schedule, just over \$5,48 more (or the 12.42% figure) as you like for a new billing. I doubt, very much, if Avista's costs (additional) are any where near the comparative take by this Company. They have received rate increases in Idaho—I believe already, so they are on the take of monies always chargeable to their customers.

Please add this objection to the one I presented to you in my letter of October 29, 1999.

Thanks very much. As ever.

Yours truly,
Kenneth D. Swan



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington electric rates totaling \$26.3 million or 10.4%. The Company has not had a general electric price increase in Washington since 1990. The rates approved over nine years ago no longer cover the Company's annual electric operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment necessary to provide electric service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential rates of 14%, which is higher than the overall requested increase of 10.4%, as the present rates for residential service recover substantially less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical electric-heat customer using an average of 1,500 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$10.38; a typical non-electric heat customer (gas, oil, etc.) using an average of 820 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$6.66. The present and proposed rates for Residential Schedule 1 are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>		<u>Proposed Rates</u>	
\$3.00 Basic Charge, plus		\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus	
First 600 kwhs	3.892¢ per kwh	First 600 kwhs	4.365¢ per kwh
Next 700 kwhs	4.673¢ per kwh	All over 600 kwhs	5.501¢ per kwh
All over 1,300 kwhs	5.628¢ per kwh		

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

Residential Schedule 1	14.0%
General Service Schedules 11&12 (small commercial)	7.0%
Large General Service Schedules 21&22 (commercial & industrial over 50kw)	7.9%
Extra Large General Service Schedule 25 (commercial & industrial over 3,000kva)	12.6%
Pumping Service Schedules 31&32 (agriculture & other water pumping)	12.0%
Street & Area Lighting Schedules	9.8%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general electric rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington natural gas rates totaling \$4.9 million or 6.5%. The proposed increase is necessary to recover increased expenses and provide a reasonable return on the Company's investment in gas facilities to provide gas service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential and small commercial rates of 7.5%, which is slightly higher than the overall requested increase of 6.5%, as the present rates for residential and small commercial service recover less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical residential gas customer using an average of 80 therms per month would see an average monthly increase of \$2.74. The present and proposed rates for General Service Schedule 101 (residential and small commercial) are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
\$4.00 Basic Charge, plus	\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus
All therms 37.902¢ per therm	All therms 40.069¢ per therm

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

General Service Schedule 101 (residential & small commercial)	7.5%
Large General Service Schedules 111&112 (commercial & industrial over 200 therms/month)	4.4%
Large General Service Schedules 121&122 (commercial & industrial over 10,000 therms/month)	4.6%
Interruptible Service Schedules 131&132 (interruptible sales customers over 250,000 therms/year)	0.0%
Transportation Service Schedule 146 (transport of customer-owned gas / over 250,000 therms/year)	8.6%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general gas rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA. 98504-7250

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Spokane, WA. N
October 29, 1999 2549
991607N
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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM. CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Sirs:

Attached please find one article published in our local newspaper, the Spokesman-Review, on October 26, 1999 and another article published on October 27, 1999 - one day later.

The first deals with a rate increase filings for both electricity and natural gas. The second article states that "Arista posts strong quarterly earnings". What gives?? The first article requests huge rate increases and the second article states that "Arista posts strong quarterly earnings".

My wife and I do hope that both these articles are studied carefully before ANY increase is allowed.

As a side thought Paul Redmond was the former C.E.O. of The Washington Water Power Company and an article I have, published by the same paper; as above, states that Mr. Redmond was paid a total of \$1.2 million for the year - this included salary and bonuses. He's no longer with W.W.P. Co.

Washington Water Power changed their name to Arista and a man named Tom Mathews took over and was brought in and received a \$1 million signing bonus, \$2 million worth of stock, a \$750,000.00 salary and other compensation when he took command on July 1, 1998.

Paul Redmond "WAS NO PISER" when it

came to filing for rate increases with our Washington Utilities Commission and Now here we go again with Tom Matthews.

The wife and I are on filed income IF THAT MEANS ANYTHING TO YOU. As of last January, 1999 we received a cumulative raise of \$102

month. About a week later we received a notice that our rent on a mobile home lot

would increase by \$15 a month. The old saying "comes to light" 3 feet forward and 4 feet back.

Now here we are again with huge increases in both power rates as well as gas rates. We

use both. We have a new gas furnace for heating a 12' x 57' mobile home with a 4' x 12" tip out.

We have a new cost efficient air conditioner run by power - and then of course we have

power to furnish us with lighting as well as a new set of washer and dryer that are cost efficient

too. We've been in this mobile home court since July, 1974 and our rent then was \$8.00 a month -

now we have to pay \$190 a month and we have/or receive no more now than we did

over 25 years ago. In fact I just flew the leaves off our outdoor and all the street in

front of our place. The 2 maintenance men went by 3 different times and no effort was

made to stop AND HELP ME. My wife and I are 85 and 86 respectively, with

myself - made - at the 86 mark. It is more than I counted 91 or so rate

increases for power since we came here on July 1, 1974, Avista's article states that they have not had a rate increase since 1987. I beg to differ with, in that, they had one rate increase effective July 1, 1990 under Docket UE 900093 as well as one effective January 1, 1995 under Dockets UE 941375 and 941377. Avista is still using, for their billing purposes, the rate schedule approved 1-1-95 (as above) not 1987!

Avista was allowed by your Utilities Commission to receive a raise in the Basic Charge for natural gas from \$3.80 to \$4.00, effective November 1, 1998.

Both power rates as well as the natural gas Basic were authorized AFTER 1987.

Our gas furnace was installed on March 4, 1996 and our air conditioner was installed on March 5, 1996, so I have chosen, for my study here, the 5 years prior to the year 1997 to show your Commission the percentages of increase in rates GIVEN to these companies (in names only).

Our billing for January 1992, based on an earlier rate schedule and based on 1930 K.W.H. cost us \$98.78. Based on the rate schedule of 1-1-'95, for this study only, the cost to us would have been more because I wanted to show everything from 1974 to the present rate schedule of 1-1-'95 (the last increase - not 1987).

January 1992:

Basic charge	\$2.40
Flat charge/K.W.H. @ .01000	
1930 K.W.H. @ .01000	19.30
	<u>21.70</u>

1995 rate schedule

Basic charge	3.00
1st 600 K.W.H. @ .03892	23.35
Next 700 " @ .04673	32.71
Last 630 " @ .05628	35.46
	<u>94.52</u>
+ City Tax @ .0638	6.03
	<u>100.55</u>

Increase over 1-19-74 rate 363.36%

My mistake - skip this blank space -
Do to this:



Now - January 1993:

Basic charge	2.40
Flat charge/K.W.H. @ .01000	
2200 K.W.H. @ .01000	<u>22.00</u>
	24.40

1995 rate schedule:

Basic charge	3.00
1st 600 K.W.H. @ .03892	23.35
Next 700 " @ .04673	32.71
Last 900 " @ .05628	<u>50.65</u>
	109.71
+ City Tax @ .0638	<u>7.00</u>
	116.71

Increase over 11-19-74 rate 378.32 %.

FURTHER - January 1994:

Basic charge	2.40
Flat charge/K.W.H. @ .01000	
2150 K.W.H. @ .01000	<u>21.50</u>
	23.90

1995 rate schedule:

Basic charge	3.00
1st 600 K.W.H. @ .03892	23.35
Next 700 " @ .04673	32.71
Last 850 " @ .05628	<u>47.84</u>
	106.90
+ City Tax @ .0638	<u>6.82</u>
	113.72

Increase over 11-19-74 rate 376 %

(See next page)

FURTHER STILL - January 1995:

Basic charge #2.40

Flat charge/K.W.H. .01000
 2490 K.W.H. @ .01000 24.90
 27.30

1995 rate schedule:

Basic charge 3.00
 1st 600 K.W.H. @ .03892 23.35
 Next 700 " @ .04673 32.71
 Last 1100 " @ .05628 61.91
 120.97
 + City Tax @ .0638 7.72
 128.69

Increase over 11-19-74 rate 371.39%

This is the final one - January 1996:

Basic charge 2.40
 Flat charge/K.W.H. .01000
 22.50 K.W.H. @ .01000 22.50
 24.90

1995 rate schedule:

Basic charge 3.00
 1st 600 K.W.H. @ .03892 23.35
 Next 700 " @ .04673 32.71
 Last 950 " @ .05628 53.47
 112.53
 + City Tax @ .0638 7.18
 119.71

Increase over 11-19-74 rate 380.76%

Natural gas rates:

12-22-95, Basic #3.25 a month - Per therm .37116 + C. Tax .0417
 1-1-97, " 3.25 a month - Per therm .35208 + " " .0417
 1-1-98, " 3.80 a month - " " .38410 + " " .0417
 2-15-98, " 3.80 a month - " " .37902 + " " .0417
 11-1-98, " 4.00 a month - " " .37902 + " " .0417

The above will show you what all the rate increases have done to us over a period of 25 years.

We have done everything that we know how to do to reduce K.W.H. consumption but we still get stuck with the expense.

Now-a-days it seems as though everyone we have to deal with "are on the take for more and more money.

We used to purchase a week's supply of groceries for right at \$20.00 now we pay \$40.00 for about the same amount. Our 2 children are gone, so this is for just 2 people. My wife takes advantage of coupons on a regular basis - and she's good at what she does - always.

after all the above my wife and I hope and pray that your Commission does not allow avista anywhere near of what they are requesting.

I would like to receive pertinent papers on this filing if at all possible. Thank you.
As ever,

Yours truly,
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Swan



Mr & Mrs Kenneth D. Swan
3231 W. Boone Space 406
Spokane, WA 99201-3100

Avista seeks increase in gas, electricity bills

State to consider adding \$10.35 to average monthly electricity bill, \$2.75 for gas

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

10-25-84
Avista Corp. sought an electricity rate increase on Monday that could boost residential bills in Washington as much as 14 percent.

The Spokane utility also asked state regulators for a 7.5 percent hike in residential natural gas rates.

Homeowners who heat with electricity would pay an average of \$10.35 more per month if the rate case is approved. The average electricity bill for those who heat with natural gas would increase \$6.67 a month.

Homeowners who heat with gas would pay an

average of \$2.75 more a month for fuel.

Industrial and commercial customers would pay lesser percentage increases because they cost less to serve.

Avista Vice President Ed Turner said the company understands the impact the increases proposed Monday would have on low-income customers.

"Ten dollars can be a lot of money for some folks," he said.

The electricity rate boosts, which average 10.4 percent, would be the first general increases for Washington customers since 1987.

An adjustment tied to Bonneville Power

Administration
payments and funds
spent for home con-
servation projects
have added 3.5 per-
cent to the average
bill since then, but Turner noted that none of
that money was kept by the corporation.

Rates manager Tom Dukich said inflation has increased 47 percent over the same period. To contain costs, Avista has undergone a series of cutbacks and restructurings, he said.

Dukich said the filing with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission also covers expenses associated with the relicensing of Avista's major hydroprojects, the source of

its least expensive power. The company has committed \$225 million to upgrades of its two largest dams over the next 45 years.

Turner said the application proposes a lower return on equity and a lower rate of return on investment than the company was allowed back in 1987.

"We have now reached a point where electric price increases are needed in Washington in order to continue to provide our customers with quality service while at the same time providing a fair return to our investors," he said.

Continued: Avista/A7

See continuation on next sheet.
KNC

10-26-99

Avista: State has 11 months to rule on plan

Continued from A1

In July, Avista was granted a 7.6 percent electricity rate increase in Idaho. The company had sought an overall 11.6 percent hike that would have raised homeowner bills more than 15 percent.

Residential bills have gone up 9.47 percent.

Washington regulators have 11 months to rule on the application filed Monday, but Turner said the company hopes to implement the rates by mid-2000.

The higher rates would produce an additional \$26.3 million in electricity revenues and an added \$4.9 million from natural gas sales.

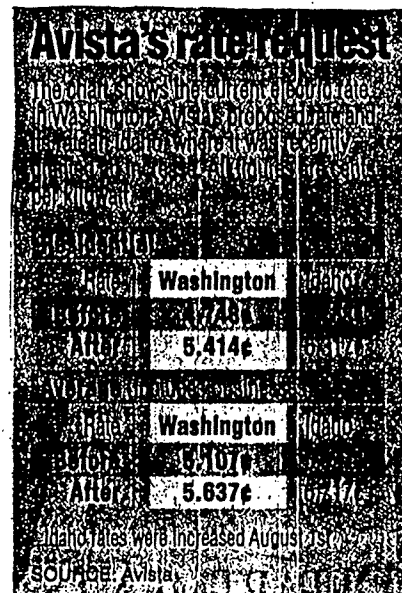
Gas rates have been adjusted from time to time in recent years to track the cost of the fuel.

Turner said Avista remains a strong supporter of Project Share, and tries to be as flexible as possible

with those having difficulty paying their bills.

Despite the proposed increases, Turner said Avista rates will remain among the lowest charged by investor-owned utilities in the U.S.

■ Bert Caldwell can be reached at (509) 459-5450, or by e-mail at bertc@spokesman.com.



Staff graphic: Vince Grippi

Avista posts strong quarterly earnings

Earnings roundup

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Avista Corp. reported sharply higher third-quarter earnings Tuesday, mostly on the strength of revenues from a subsidiary's asset sale.

Net income available for common stock for the three months ended Sept. 30 was \$22.3 million, or 52 cents per diluted share, on

revenues of \$3.7 billion.

Last year, the company earned \$8 million, or 14 cents per share, on revenues of \$1.43 billion.

Income for common stock is reported after deducting payments to preferred stockholders. Those dividends have jumped in the latest year with the issuance of a new series of convertible preferred shares.

For the year so far, Avista has income for common stock of \$39.4 million, or 98 cents per share, on revenues of \$6.37 billion.

Net for common stock for the same period in 1998 was \$54.4 million, or 97 cents per share, on

revenues of \$2.7 billion.

Pentzer Corp., the holding company for Avista's non-energy assets, contributed \$26.8 million, or 55 cents per diluted share, to the parent company's bottom line.

In September, Pentzer sold one of its major holdings, the Store Fixture Solutions Group. The deal helped the subsidiary generate \$65 million in cash during the quarter.

Chairman Tom Matthews said Avista's energy trading operations also produced positive returns for the quarter after dragging down performance for the two previous quarters.

And while Avista Advantage showed a loss, he noted the company now serves 50,000 sites, a threshold officials did not expect to meet before year end.

Avista Advantage provides energy services over the Internet to customers such as Starbucks, AT&T and the U.S. Postal Service.

Avista Utilities reported a rare loss for the quarter, traditionally the slowest for energy sales. The results were caused by a combination of low streamflows and purchases of high-cost power to make up for the loss of hydropower.

Continued: **Earnings/A17**

Lisa Sroufe, an analyst for Ragen MacKenzie Inc. in Seattle, said the company had purchased power anticipating demand for air-conditioning this summer, which turned out to be cooler than normal.

Then the company had to buy additional supplies when stream levels fell.

Sroufe called the results disappointing but not indicative of long-term problems.

Avista repurchased 5 million of its shares — 9 percent of the total outstanding — during the quarter. The board has authorized a 10 percent buyback, and Vice President David Bruhardt said the program could be extended.

991606
JULY 13, 2000 250533
FP

RECEIVED

JUL 18 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

DEAR *Washington Utility + Finance Comm;*

PLEASE, STOP THEM FROM RAISING OUR RATES (AVISTA). Doesn't anyone out there care? We can't afford anymore things raising. Where does it stop?

We are on a fixed income. We get a $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent raise, and everything else goes up 14%. Just in the last year our water rates went up, now Avista and US WEEEST. Just how much of our blood do we have to give?

Enclosed is a letter from a Lewiston ID. women, I thought she put it about as plain as you can get. Do you get any message from this? Just because you all make all the money you need, doesn't mean we all do.

I would really like to get a real letter from you and not a form letter with alot of numbers and bla, bla in it. Where do we go if you don't see fit to help us. I know this is probably a waste of time, but they say there is always hope.

SINCERELY



*Art and Dorothy Keener
1167 18th Ave
Clarkston, WA 99403-3022*

In the chops, again

Am I the only angry person about the scam Avista is getting ready to dump on their ratepayers — again? Seems their utility buyer refused to heed orders to purchase lower cost energy. When energy prices went through the roof they discovered his \$90 million boo boo! Don't be roped in for a moment their customers won't get it in the chops — once again. My

question is, where was that high-priced whiz kid they paid to oversee? Again, they tried the scam of why ratepayers wouldn't pick up the tab for his salary. Bet the farm we did too pick it up and then some.

I wasn't successful last year in getting a Public Utilities Commission meeting here in Lewiston. They were not interested because after all, aren't we just chump change? Probably won't be either this year.

It would be my hope [legislators Joe] Stegner, [Frank] Bruneel and [Dan] Mader would get off the dime and do what they're supposed to be doing, which is leaning all over the PUC hard about these proposed rate increases. Talk to them about living on a retirement income and watch their eyes just glaze over. Yes, I'm very frustrated and disappointed at their apathy and disinterest. Guess that's what happens when you're in a safe seat and in no danger. Just go with the flow and everything will be dandy. The question is dandy for who?

MARILYN STAMPS

Lewiston

991606/265357
IP

	HOME	HELP!!!	SEARCH
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Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here will be included in the formal record.


To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	Jerry Cahill
Your Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	Street address: 3006 West Excell Ave City: Spokane , State: WA Zip: 99208-4520
Your County:	Spokane
Phone Numbers:	Home: 509-326-2078 Day/Work: same
Your E-Mail address:	RCa1022496@aol.com
Date:	06/22/2000
Your Comment:	I am opposed to any emergency relief for Avista utilities due to their poor performance in the resale market. They could have cut their losses earlier, but thought they would "play" the market. Now that it has had certain reversals, the main company is saying they are suffering a loss, while one of the subsidiary parts will have a 70M profit. (Let them take it out of the left pocket and put it back in to the right!) The total lack of oversight to their employee who started as a meter reader and then was advanced to a senior energy trader is appalling. They may allow an employee to utilize their "authority", but the responsibility will always be theirs. I sold all of my shares(4K)in Avista when I found out what the new CEO wanted to do to this company. Don't allow them to tell the Wall St. people one thing, and the regulators another. They say the sum of their parts is greater than the whole...Let them balance their books on their backs, rather than the rate payer.
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?	YES

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Your Name: (required)	Jeanne Jackson
Your Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	Street address: box 1144 City: Veradale , State: WA Zip: 99037
Your County:	Spokane
Phone Numbers:	Home: 509 526 2833 Day/Work: same
Your E-Mail address:	jjax6@hotmail.com
Date:	06/22/2000
Your Comment:	<p>This is in regard to the recent news that Avista utilities is coming before the commission to ask for a rate increase. I have a great amount of disgust when their excuse is they made poor business decisions and therefore need to increase to cover their loss. This is absolutely crazy. No other business is allowed to take out on their customers their bad decisions. Avista also should not be allowed to do this. We pay a large amount for power already. To allow Avista a rate increase will only give them more power on their consumer. There has to be a real need for the increase not just profit margin. Gee wouldn't it be nice if all of us could charge someone else for bad decisions? I for one am sick to death of hearing how their bottom line is affected because they made the wrong choice. I am not in the financial position to afford any more increase in my cost of living. For Avista to be able to gain a rate increase because of poor decisions will not make anyone any better off than Avista. If their bottom line is affected by their poor business decisions then maybe they will be a little more likely to solve the problem internally than to come to the consumer and have them pay for their choices. I find it disturbing that we the people who have no choice in who provides our power are also in a stranglehold for their business</p>

practices. It is wrong to expect the hard working public to pay a higher rate because they did not make a wise choice. It is wrong for them to consider there mistakes a problem we had a decision in. Yet they expect us to bail them out.

I am on a limited income. I just got done paying off my winter heat bills and now I fear that it will take me until the following heat season to pay off the high winter bill if an increase is allowed. I maintain it is wrong for Avista to ask for a rate increase based on their bad business practices and it would harm many to have an increase take place. Once again they should have to fix their finacial difficulty like any other business by internally finding the money.. Maybe they are letting us know they are too big and that they need outside monitoring to prevent bad business practices. Maybe they should quit thinking that they should have the most profits at the expense of the public.

Please do not grant a rate increase at this time as it would affect too many low and fixed income poeple all because Avista doesn't have the most favorable bottom line. They onlt continue to use and abus the public and granting a rate increase will only make them more powerful than they are. (which is much to powerful)

Please take a great amount of time to consider the many people who's bottom line would be affected by a rate increase and do not grant them a chance to hurt so many.

Thank you in advance for the great consideration you will have Jeanne Jackson

**Would you like to be placed on
the mailing list for our FREE
Consumer Newsletter?**

Jeanne Jackson
box 1144
Veradale WA 99037
jjax6@hotmail.com

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1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW - Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Phone: 360-664-1160 (in state toll-free: 1-800-562-6150) FAX: 360-586-1150

[Comment Form](#) | [Complaint Form](#) | [Contact Us](#)

To request availability of documents
in alternate format, please contact
(360) 664-1133 or
TTY at (360) 586-8203

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To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	George Bacon
Your Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	Street address: 4240-B Hwy 395 South City: Clayton , State: WA Zip: 99110
Your County:	Stevens
Phone Numbers:	Home: 509-233-8259 Day/Work:
Your E-Mail address:	ogbacon@worldnet.att.net
Date:	06/23/2000
Your Comment:	RE: News paper article from Spokesman review dated 6/22/00. I believe Avista Utilities newest rate hike request is a travesty. When Avista was Washington Water Power their purpose was to provide their customers with power at reasonable rates. Since they renamed the company Avista they have become diversified and it seems that they have plenty of money to expand their new ventures with. One begins to question if the money is being generated at the expense of high rates for their power users (The Cash Cow). I believe this company should be investigated and I believe some of the real reasons for their supposed losses will be uncovered. I don't have the option to go to a competitive power company so I am asking you to protect me from their actions. If I were to make bad investments as they claim they did I would have to absorb the loss, so why can't they? Thank you, G. Bacon
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MAY 24 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

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262625

Spokane, WA

21 May 2000

Wash. State Utilities + Trans. RECEIVED

P.O. Box 47250

MAY 24 2000

Olympia, WA 98504-7250 CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Commission Members:

I would urge you to look at
great depth and deny The Avista
Corp. Request for a further in-
crease in Natural Gas and El-
ectric Rates in Eastern WA

If granted this will further
push those of us on fixed
low incomes into unpleasant
choices when prioritizing our
basic necessities.

Thank You -

Glen W. Kivett

14 N. Walnut Rd.

Spokane, WA 99206

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MAY 18, 2000
MAY 22 2000

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Sir:

Arista is asking for a new
raise in rates. It is unfair
to many users. We are a elderly
couple ages 81 and 84. Please
vote against rates that ask
the lesser users to pay the full
increase.

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs Allen E. Smith
5.2106 Park Drive
Spokane Wa 99203-1966

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MAY 22 2000

Alice E. Armstrong

W. 39 Twenty-first
Spokane, WA 99203

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

May 18, 2000

Wa. Utilities & Power Comm.

P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Wa. 98504-7250

Attn: Secretary:

Dear Sir:

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MAY 22 2000

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

I am concerned about the Avista residential End Gas increases. It appears that that the "lower use" folks (a widow) of which I am one (age 83) will pay a higher rate to subsidize the "big users". Avista raised gas rates Jan. 1, 2000 17%, and now wants more?

The following is my usage for 4 months

months	Use	Gas
Jan	426	135
Feb.	359	118
Mar	371	111
Apr.	351	70

I'm on a fixed income and alone in my home - yet - pinching and cutting wherever I can is the only way I can get by.

Please don't make us pay for these "not fair" increases.

Sincerely
Alice Armstrong

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262627

ERWIN G. GREEN
1795 E. 58 AVE
SPOKANE, WA 99223
(509) 448-3044
someone@microsoft.com

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MAY 25 2000
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

May 22, 2000

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission:

I am writing this letter to express my opposition to the recent natural gas and electricity rate hikes sought by the Avista Co. which will result in higher utility bills for their customers. In fact, I want very much for You to reduce these rates in accordance with Your proposal as reported in the Spokes-man Review.

In 1993 I agreed to replace My space and water heating plant in accordance with the program advanced by Washington Water Power Co. and Government Agencies. This program was being provided to effect a reduction in electricity usage in a conservation campaign. A big selling point was that using natural gas would result in lower utility bills and the initial cost to the consumer would be recovered in a few years. Well, the cost of natural gas has increased ever since. On My 1/27/97 bill the gas rate per therm was \$ 0.3825688 and on the 4/24/2000 bill the rate per therm was \$ 0.535625 , an increase of 40 per cent.

Now I think that the current practice of some Utility Cos, in closing or selling coal fired plants to utilize natural gas turbine plants to reduce their operating costs is fine, but; They are creating a shortage of natural gas and this is driving the cost up for all users. I would think that a top priority of the commission would be to force these Utilities to find and develop natural gas deposits dedicated entirely to their plants for electricity production. The "Commission should not allow rate increases based on the increased price of natural gas due to the fact that the increased use by the Utilities is the reason for the increase in cost.

Another situation that disturbs Me is that since electric utilities have been deregulated they have been moving heavily into other fields with so-called subsidiarys and these have been subsidized by the rate payers via the Utility. The latest "Pie In The Sky" scheme is Fuel Cells. There are many technical and economic issues that must be overcome to make this system a viable commercial business and I hope the Avista Co. rate payers are not being forced to subsidize this as well. The "Commission should exercise Its authority and prevent this from happening.

I want to thank You for reading this and I hope You make the right decisions for all

I want to thank You for reading this and I hope You make the right decisions for all concerned.

Sincerely,

Erwin H. Green

May 10, 2000
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WASH. UT. & TR. CO.

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MAY 15 2000
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

257634

Dear WA U. and T.
Commission,

You and others are absolutely correct in coming out with a proposed rate cut for Avista for both electric and gas rates.

Many corporations do not have any restraint within. Their management care only about profits and power as fast as they can acquire them.

The only control of these managers is you. If it were not for you and other monitoring agencies we would be total slaves to these corporations.

Thanks for continuing to do a good job!
Jim

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504

991606
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MAY 16 2000

Attn: Public Involvement Coordinator

Sirs:

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

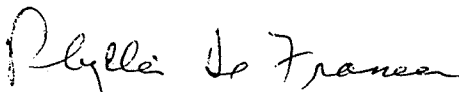
Our local newspaper, the Spokesman-Review, carried an article a week or two ago about Avista Utilities requesting an increase in rates sometime soon. I wish to register my strong disapproval of this rate increase request. My January 2000 bill from Avista stated that the charges thereon represented a 17% rate increase. This means that I am paying a whole lot more for utilities this year than I did last year. Even though we have had a very mild winter, my bill for January was over \$83. That is approximately \$20 more than the same period last year when the winter was more severe.

I am retired, age 78, and living on a fixed income. I only receive a 2% COLA increase in my social security. My HMO dropped me as of 12/31/99 and I was forced to obtain another medicare supplement plan at greater cost and fewer benefits. With pharmaceuticals now costing me twice as much as before (under the HMO), how much more increase can I and others in the same situation bear?

I moved here from Los Angeles six years ago thinking that life in a smaller city would be easier and less costly. I was sadly mistaken. With the exception of real estate, everything in Spokane costs more than in Los Angeles. I would like to stay in Spokane because it is a very pretty place, but I am getting to the point where I can no longer afford that luxury.

Please, please do not approve that new rate increase. Isn't 17% enough?

Sincerely,



Phyllis DeFrancis
6412 N. Royal Crescent Lane
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 326-5397

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MAY 05 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

3618 E. 24th Ave

Spokane, WA 99223

5/2/00

MAY 05 2000

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Carole,

I am a Spokane resident and am concerned over
 by the Avista Corp so am concerned over
 their recent request for a gas and electric
 rate hike. To start with I think it would
 be a more economical use of natural gas
 to continue their successful program of
 moving customers off electrical heating
 and on to natural gas heating to lighten
 the electrical load. It would be much
 more cost effective than to use natural
 gas turbines to produce costly electricity.
 Also available renewable resources such as
 wind, solar, solid waste and geothermal
 should be melded into the electric rate
 structure as one rate to stretch electrical
 generating capacity and alleviate the need
 to build costly new environmentally friendly
 safe generation. Tax credits for substandard
 insulation could be a part of this if
 necessary and especially for low income
 consumers. These steps would ease the
 probability of a natural gas energy crunch
 which we now see in gasoline prices and
 also allow Avista to do more effective

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission,
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W.,
P.O. Box 47250,
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

April 29th, 2000

Subject: Avista Utility Request for Rate Increase (Electric)
WUTC Docket #UE 991606

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MAY 05 2000

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Secretary of the WUTC:

Please refer to the three articles published in The Spokesman Review. Oct 26th, 1999 states their request for a 14% increase. Oct 27th, 1999-the very next day-states the handsome returns to the stockholders. April 18th, 2000 spells out the results to the ratepayers if granted in its entirety.

Cost of Living increases to the work force generally fall within the 3 to 5% minimum category. It has been stated that about 40% of the Spokane work force are earning/wage & these folks would be hard pressed to absorb such an increase. Social Security recipients received a 2.4% COL increase for the year 2000 or about a \$10 net pay. & Avista wants all of it. This is nothing more than corporate/greed and welfare. Talk about waking the "sleeping giant"-this might very well do it. We ask where does it end? In view of the conservative mindset of the voters of Washington State when they overwhelmingly passed I-695, we request that you not grant WUTC Docket #UE 991606 (Electric and/or Gas) hearing.

Thank you very kindly for your consideration. We would greatly appreciate/from any & all of you concerning this at your earliest convenience. We do suggest that the WUTC also hold a meeting in the Spokane Valley as SFCC is not easily accessible for Valley residents. Reps Crouse & Schindler & Sen McCaslin can help you in locating suitable space in one of our Valley high schools.

Yours sincerely,

John O. Wittemberg Jr. Margaret M. Wittemberg
John O. Wittemberg, Jr. & Margaret M. Wittemberg
2109 N. Bessie Road, Spo, Wa 99212-2492
Phone: (509) 926-4887

CC: Rep Larry Crouse
Rep Lynn Schindler
Sen Bob McCaslin
Wash State Attorney General

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Avista: State has 11 months to rule on plan

Continued from A1

In July, Avista was granted a 7.6 percent electricity rate increase in Idaho. The company had sought an overall 11.6 percent hike that would have raised homeowner bills more than 15 percent.

Residential bills have gone up 9.47 percent.

Washington regulators have 11 months to rule on the application filed Monday, but Turner said the company hopes to implement the rates by mid-2000.

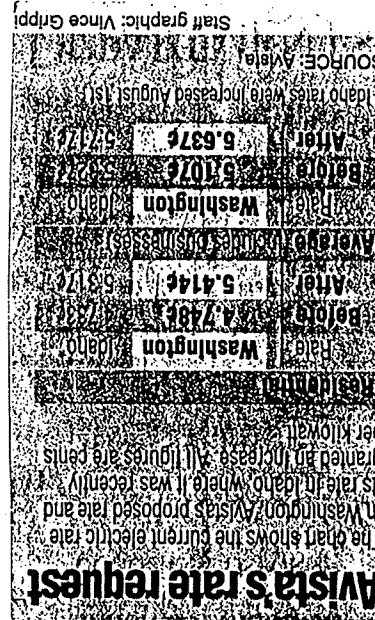
The higher rates would produce an additional \$26.3 million in electricity revenues and an added \$4.9 million from natural gas sales.

Gas rates have been adjusted from time to time in recent years to track the cost of the fuel.

Turner said Avista remains a strong supporter of Project Share, and tries to be as flexible as possible with those having difficulty paying their bills.

Despite the proposed increases, Turner said Avista rates will remain among the lowest charged by investor-owned utilities in the U.S.

■ Bert Caldwell can be reached at (509) 459-5450, or by e-mail at betc@spokesman.com.



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

NEWS ONLINE: WWW.SPOKANE.NET

Avista seeks increase in gas, electricity bills

State to consider adding \$10.35 to average monthly electricity bill, \$2.75 for gas

SR 10-26-1999
A-1

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Avista Corp. sought an electricity rate increase on Monday that could boost residential bills in Washington as much as 14 percent.

The Spokane utility also asked state regulators for a 7.5 percent hike in residential natural gas rates.

Homeowners who heat with electricity would pay an average of \$10.35 more per month if the rate case is approved. The average electricity bill for those who heat with natural gas would increase \$6.67 a month.

average of \$2.75 more a month for fuel.

Industrial and commercial customers would pay lesser percentage increases because they cost less to serve.

Avista Vice President Ed Turner said the company understands the impact the increases proposed Monday would have on low-income customers.

"Ten dollars can be a lot of money for some folks," he said.

The electricity rate boosts, which average 10.4 percent, would be the first general increases for Washington customers since 1987.

INSIDE

■ Program unable to fund local heating assistance. Story, A7

bill since then, but Turner noted that none of that money was kept by the corporation.

Rates manager Tom Dukich said inflation has increased 47 percent over the same period.

To contain costs, Avista has undergone a series of cutbacks and restructurings, he said.

Dukich said the filing with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission also covers expenses associated with the relicensing

Administration payments and funds spent for home conservation projects have added 3.5 percent to the average

its least expensive power.

The company has committed \$225 million to upgrades of its two largest dams over the next 45 years.

Turner said the application proposes a lower return on equity and a lower rate of return on investment than the company was allowed back in 1987.

"We have now reached a point where electricity price increases are needed in Washington in order to continue to provide our customer with quality service while at the same time providing a fair return to our investors," he said.

Avista hasn't had an electricity rate hike in Washington since July 1, 1990.

The gas rate request would boost bills \$2.74 a month, or 7.5 percent.

Some transportation customers would pay as much as 8.6 percent more. Those who agree to have their service interrupted when supplies are tight, or who pay only to have their gas transported, will not pay more.

The natural gas adjustments would yield another \$4.9 million in revenues for Avista.

The new filings would reduce the allowed return on equity to 12.25 percent, or 9.93 percent overall.

Idaho granted Avista a 7.6 percent electricity rate hike last July.

In Washington's written comments, 171 have opposed the electricity filing; 126 opposed the natural gas case.

The commission has until mid-September to make a decision.

In the earlier meeting Thursday, at 5:30 p.m., the commission will take testimony on a settlement negotiated between the commission staff and representatives of U S West and Qwest that would clear the way for commission approval of the deal.

Besides freezing rates until 2004, terms call for extensive new investment in Eastern Washington and penalties if service standards aren't met. The panel could vote on the deal this summer.

Avista rate hikes on agenda

State panel will also discuss
U S West-Qwest merger

SR 4-18-00

By Bert Caldwell A-8
Staff writer

Spokane-area customers of Avista Corp. will be able to comment Thursday on electricity and natural gas rate hikes proposed by the utility.

The state Utilities and Transportation Commission will take testimony during the second of two hearings that day in Lounges A and B, Building 17, at Spokane Falls Community College. The hearing starts at 6:45 p.m.

The first meeting Thursday will address the pending merger of U S West Inc. and Qwest Communications International.

Avista delivers electricity to 206,000 Washington customers, and natural gas to 120,000.

The Spokane utility sought the rate increases in October. If granted, the average homeowner's electricity bill would increase \$10.36 a month, or 14 percent.

Other customer classes would pay increases ranging from 7 percent to 12.6 percent. The proposal would raise revenues by \$26.2 million, with residential customers contributing slightly more than half that amount.

Page A14

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

The Spokesman-Review

Spokane, Wash./Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Avista posts strong quarterly earnings

Earnings roundup

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Avista Corp. reported sharply higher third-quarter earnings Tuesday, mostly on the strength of revenues from a subsidiary's asset sale.

Net income available for common stock for the three months ended Sept. 30 was \$22.3 million, or 52 cents per diluted share, on

revenues of \$3.7 billion.

Last year, the company earned \$8 million, or 14 cents per share, on revenues of \$1.43 billion.

Income for common stock is reported after deducting payments to preferred stockholders. Those dividends have jumped in the latest year with the issuance of a new series of convertible preferred shares.

For the year so far, Avista has income for common stock of \$39.4 million, or 98 cents per share, on revenues of \$6.37 billion.

Net for common stock for the same period in 1998 was \$54.4 million, or 97 cents per share, on

revenues of \$2.7 billion.

Pentzer Corp., the holding company for Avista's non-energy assets, contributed \$26.8 million, or 55 cents per diluted share, to the parent company's bottom line.

In September, Pentzer sold one of its major holdings, the Store Fixture Solutions Group. The deal helped the subsidiary generate \$65 million in cash during the quarter.

Chairman Tom Matthews said Avista's energy trading operations also produced positive returns for the quarter after dragging down performance for the two previous quarters.

And while Avista Advantage showed a loss, he noted the company now serves 50,000 sites; a threshold officials did not expect to meet before year end.

Avista Advantage provides energy service over the Internet to customers such as Starbucks, AT&T and the U.S. Postal Service.

Avista Utilities reported a rare loss for the quarter, traditionally the slowest for energy sales. The results were caused by a combination of low streamflows and purchases of high-cost power to make up for the loss of hydropower.

Continued from A14

Lisa Sroufe, an analyst for Ragen Mackenzie Inc. in Seattle, said the company had purchased power anticipating demand for air conditioning this summer, which turned out to be cooler than normal.

Then the company had to buy additional supplies when stream levels fell.

Sroufe called the results disappointing but not indicative of long-term problems.

Avista repurchased 5 million of its shares — 9 percent of the total outstanding — during the quarter. The board has authorized a 10 percent buyback, and Vice President David Bruhardt said the program could be extended.

Continued: Earnings/A14

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To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	O. Colleen Wright
Your Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	Street address: 14504 East 8th Ave. City: Veradale , State: WA Zip: 99037
Your County:	Spokane
Phone Numbers:	Home: 509/924-6836 Day/Work: 509/924-6836
Your E-Mail address:	ocolleenw@aol.com
Date:	05/17/2000
Your Comment:	<p>A reasonable increase in our natural gas rates would certainly be acceptable, however, the increase that Avista is asking seems to be more than a reasonable increase.</p> <p>I am a retired person. Increases in necessary living expenses are always a burden.</p> <p>Hopefully, everyone involved in making these rate decisions will consider increases based upon actual, defined needs, and not just what someone want.</p> <p>Thanks very much for the privilege of considering my comments. I appreciate the opportunity of being able to respond on the internet.</p>
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?	Please add me to the Consumer newsletter: Colleen Wright 14504 East 8th Ave. Veradale, WA 99037

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991606 / 262288



Grayden O Jones <grayta@juno.com> on 05/17/2000 04:19:39 PM

To: comments@wutc.wa.gov

cc:

Subject: Avista rate hike

Dear WUTC,

I read recently that Avista wants to get our energy rates up to national averages. That's ridiculous! They should be finding ways to keep our power costs low so that business will want to move here and stay here.

Please don't approve their request. Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Tawana Jones
509-467-8786
9302 N. Howard St.
Spokane, WA 99218-2126



"John Lucassen" <lje2@uswest.net> on 05/17/2000 09:50:01 AM

991606
262258

To: <comments@wutc.wa.gov>

cc:

Subject: Re: Avista's proposed rate increase

May 17, 2000

Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I currently live in the City of Spokane (for over thirty years now) and respectfully, urge the Commission to decline the request by Avista Utilities for a rate increase for electricity and natural gas.

I am a retiree with a fixed income, and cannot afford these frequent rate increase requests. (I believe Avista was granted a 17.09% rate increase on December 29, 1999). Avista's most recent figures are misrepresented. For example: An average electrical customer, using 1,034 or fewer kilowatt hours per month, will actually see a rate increase of 18% and not the 14% that Avista quotes.

In addition, if the Commission approves the proposed natural gas increase that Avista is seeking, the typical residential gas consumer using 80 therms will see a bill increase of 7.98%, for a total increase in natural costs of 25% in less than a year. As a result, a typical customer using electricity and natural gas will see a combined bill increase by 43% in one year. I find this to be unacceptable.

Therefore, I believe Avista's rate request should be declined at this time.

Sincerely yours,
John Lucassen
3430 W. Cora Ave.
Spokane, WA 99205

242257 / 991606



"Mary Downey" <downeyfam@odessaoffice.com> on 05/17/2000 10:31:53 AM

To: "comments@wutc.wa.gov" <comments@wutc.wa.gov>

cc:

Subject:

Hello,

I wanted to send a quick message regarding Avista rate hikes. They are completely out of line considering the amount already increased. I think Avista needs to stick with the current rates for several years not months.

Please do what you can to make sure we're not made to suffer for poor management or ultra expensive research.

Sincerely,

Mary Downey
PO Box 686
Odessa, WA 99159
509 982-2484

262259 / 991602



"Kellams, Harold" <KellamsH@SpokaneValleyFire.com> on 05/17/2000 07:31:36 PM

To: "comments@wutc.wa.gov" <comments@wutc.wa.gov>

cc:

Subject: avista rate increase

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU PEOPLE FOR ALL THE WORK YOU'VE DONE.
AVISTA OR W.W.P. IS NOT THE CO. IT ONCE WAS. THANK YOU FOR TRYING TO HOLD
THE RATES AT A FAIR RATE.

THANKS AGAIN

HAROLD KELLAMS

S. 1424 EASTERN
SPOKANE WA. 99212



Djacktb@cs.com on 05/20/2000 04:51:46 PM

991606/
~~242263~~
29937

To: comments@wutc.wa.gov

cc:

Subject: Avista Rate Hikes:

We are sending this e-mail to protest the unreasonable rate hikes requested by Avista.

We are very concerned that if Avista receives these rate hikes, the bills for just ordinary residential users will be huge, and we wonder how we will be able to pay them,

Avista is expanding all their businesses, and were able to reward their CEO with a huge bonus. All their rate hikes will be on the backs of their regular residential customers.
This is not fair!

Please do not allow them to increase our gas and electric bills so outrageously!

Thank you for listening to us.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack F. Back
627 E. Empire Ave.
Spokane, Wa. 99207-3009

Our e-mail address: djacktb@cs.com

N 2617 Napa
Spokane, Wa. 99207

April 24, 2000

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Wa. 98504-7250

Dear Commissioners:

It is apparent from the Spokesman Review article of 4-21-2000, following the hearing before the Commission on 4-20-2000, that Avista is still trying to convince their residential customers and the public that the individual increases will amount to 14% if the requested rate increases are granted. I consider this an attempt to mislead and confuse the customers.

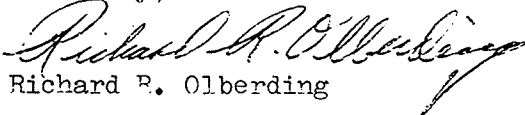
It stands to reason that in order to arrive at the 14% average rate hike they quote, there have to be a lot of customers paying more than 14% to obtain this 14% average. The Avista spokesperson I spoke with stated the average for residential use is 1034 K.W.H. My testimony before the Commission was that a user of 1034 K.W.H. would experience an increase of just over 18%. A person using less than 1034 K.W.H. would experience even a greater increase. According to the newspaper article, Avista did not dispute my figures.

The present rate structure has 3 steps with 3 rates. The proposed rate structure has 2 steps and 2 rates. Constricting the steps and increasing the rates causes the typical user to pay more than 14%. The Avista spokesperson I spoke with agreed that the burden of the proposed increases would fall upon the typical non-electric heat customer.

I would like to remind you that with a 18% increase in my electrical rates and a 25% increase in natural gas rates, my energy bill, as well as many others, will increase a whopping 43% in one year. In my opinion this is unreasonable and unjustified.

I am enclosing two articles that appeared in the Spokesman Review for your information.

Sincerely;


Richard R. Olberding

Enc: 2

991606
252290D

RECEIVED

APR 26 2000

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED
APR 26 2000

SIR 4-20-00

Avista executives look good on paper

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

The run-up in the value of Avista Corp. stock created about \$1 million in paper wealth for five of the top officials at the Spokane energy and technology company, according to a proxy mailed to shareholders.

The executives last November received options to purchase shares for \$17.31, then the market price.

But in January, share values ballooned with the help of strong analysts' recommendations and disclosure that Microsoft founder Bill Gates had purchased 5 percent of the company.

The price model used in the proxy estimates 80,000 options granted to Chairman Tom Matthews were worth \$483,849 March 31, the date the proxy was published. Executive Vice President Gary Ely held 35,000 shares worth \$211,684, Vice President Rob Fukai 15,000 worth \$90,722.

Options held by Chief Financial

Officer Jon Eliassen and Corporate Counsel David Meyer, 20,000 each, were valued at \$120,962.

However, the stock price when those values were calculated was about \$40. Shares closed Wednesday at \$31.

The executives cannot exercise the options until one year has elapsed. They expire after 10 years.

Other options granted in prior years were not exercised in 1999.

Options are just one component of the overall compensation packages outlined in the proxy.

Matthews salary, negotiated when he joined Avista in 1998, remained at \$750,000. Neither he nor the other officers qualified for a bonus because of losses sustained by Avista Energy, the energy trading subsidiary.

Other salaries were raised between 0 and 8 percent last spring.

The company will hold its annual shareholders meeting May 11.

SIR 4/21/00

Rural towns call for modern phone lines

State utilities panel told local economies are being left behind

By Bert Caldwell
Staff writer

Colville needs high-speed telecommunications services now if the community is to compete for new businesses, the head of a nonprofit development group told the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission on Thursday.

Malcolm Friedman, executive director of the Rural Information Technology Center, said the Stevens County community has already lost out on some opportunities because U S West lines into the area cannot carry all the required voice and data traffic.

Chewelah was denied a 200-job call center for the same reason, he said.

Friedman, testifying at a Spokane

hearing, said the commission should make installation of high-speed equipment by September of this year a condition to its approval of the pending merger of U S West Inc. and Qwest Communications International.

Terms now don't call for a link until April 2002.

The commission's staff, the two companies and the assistant attorney general representing the public in the case reached a proposed settlement in the case last month that clears the way for the deal in return for service improvements and investment in new equipment.

The commission is expected to act on the recommendation this summer.

Continued: Merger/B8

Merger: Avista hike questioned

Continued from B1

Another witness, Philippe Lage, asked that the merger be conditioned on elimination of a condition that customer must prove "willful" negligence when trying to recover for lost business.

Lage, who was once involved in litigation with U S West, also asked that companies be required to pay interest when they repay overcharges.

He and Friedman were two of only a handful of witnesses to testify at the U S West/Qwest merger.

Proposed electricity and natural gas rate increases by Avista Corp also drew only light opposition.

Richard Olberding challenged the calculations used to determine the average residential customers will pay 14 percent more for electricity and 7.5 percent more for gas.

Because of increases in the basic monthly fee, he said, those who use only small amounts will actually pay closer to 18 percent more.

Spokane's large number of low income residents cannot pay that much more, he said.

Frank Yuse, who was representing two senior groups, suggested the increases be cut in half.

Avista officials didn't dispute Olberding's figures but said the average hike for all residential customers will be 14 percent, including the basic charge.

A commission ruling on the rate applications is expected this fall.

May 21, 2000

Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250,
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

991606
N
RECEIVED
JUN 01 2000
118062
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: RATE INCREASE

We recently became aware that **AVISTA UTILITIES** has petitioned the commission to raise the monthly rates of homeowners whom use natural gas.

We are writing to ask you to deny this request. In August 1995, when Avista was Washington Water Power, we received a notice/insert from the company which stated that as customers we should not worry. Our rates would not be raised.

During this time, we as a family, have not received any raises in our wages. Currently I am on Illness Recovery from my employer, JC Penney. I have cancer.

Further, we believe that this is a ploy on Avista's part to raise rates now, so that *if* the dams are breached, they can say that breaching the dams did not result in an increase in utility fees, although any thinking person should realize that it will.

Please, **on our behalf, VOTE NO!**

Thank you,

Charles E. Ewart Jr.
Kathleen Ewart

Charles, Jr. and Kathleen Ewart

RECEIVED

JUN 01 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

991606

RECEIVED

JUN 02 2000

263045

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

I protest!

This rate hike by Aurora is altogether too much - Many of us will have to go back to wood & coal.

Yours resentfully,
Ms. L. Aubia Young

RECEIVED
JUN 02 2000
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

991606
N

May 30, 2000 26304,

Dear WUTC-

Please enter my protest about
the alleged rate hike the newspapers
are forecasting. Enough already!

Linda J. Clark
1511 East Cambridge Lane
Spokane 99203

P.S. I assume that this matter will
be publicly discussed and options
outlined clearly.

RECEIVED
JUN 05 2000
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

RECEIVED
JUN 05 2000
CONSUMER AFFAIRS



community action center

moving people and communities to a positive future

May 1, 2000

Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RECEIVED
PROPERTY TAX DEPARTMENT
00 MAY -8 AM 9:55
STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Re: Request for rate increases submitted by Avista (docket UE-991606 and UG-991607)

Dear Commissioners,

We have reviewed the electrical and gas rate increases being proposed by Avista. It appears that the proposed rate structure and rates place the largest increases on low volume users which disproportional effects seniors and other families with low incomes. The rate structure is presented as a 14% increase, however, the proposed change in the base charge is a 67% increase, the proposed rate on the first 600 kwhs of use per month is an increase of 12%, the proposed rate for the next 600 kwhs is an increase of 17.7% and the proposed rate for all usage over 1300 kwhs is a decrease of 2.2%.

In reviewing the electrical usage for people who came into our office to request energy assistance during the winter of 1999/2000, we found that usage levels for our low income clients were generally between 400 and 800 kwhs per month. Based on the proposed rate increases, these limited income customers will have an average electrical bill increase of 18 to 21% rather than the stated 14%. In reviewing the electrical usage of a few middle income residential customers who did not have unusual electrical equipment, we found usage levels from 1500 to 2500 kwhs per month. These higher income, higher volume customers will have only a 7% to 14% increase in their electrical bills if the proposed rates are approved.

Our concern is that most people with limited income are low volume users and that the proposed rates and rate structure will disproportionately and, therefore, unfairly increase the electrical and natural gas costs for these households with lower income. Many of these customers in Whitman County are seniors living on social security.

Please retain a 3 step rate structure for residential electrical usage and approve any necessary increases as an equal percentage increase in each step. In addition, please change the basic charge for electrical and natural gas customers to a minimum charge. For example if the minimum charge is \$10, at the present electrical rate, this minimum charge would cover 257 kwhs. This type of minimum charge provides the utility with a base income level while providing a fair pricing structure based on actual usage that does not penalize the frugal, lower income customer.

Sincerely,

Judy Allen,
Executive Director

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

991607



Ronald Russell <charlesr@clarkston.com> on 11/13/99 11:42:01 AM

Please respond to charlesr@clarkston.com

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Rate increase

~~249970~~
13727

Mr. Secretary,

I am not against Avista getting a fair return on there investment, but in my community of Clarkston, Washington, there "services" as slim to none. A 14% increase on us is kind of a hard ship for us, as we have my in-laws with us and have the oxygen concentrator running 24 hours a day which adds considerably to our bill. I hope that you use some kind of common sense in allowing them to raise there rates to us.

By the way, I wish I could receive a 14% raise in income, that would be absolutely wonderful!

Ronald C. Russell
1785 Lambert Drive
Clarkston, Washington 99403-3037
(509) 758-1535

Betty Young

11/16/99

07:43:28 AM

991607



pesrgs <pesrgs@mciworld.com> on 11/13/99 11:03:10 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
CC:
Subject: Re: Proposed Utility Rate Increase - AVISTA

249969

In response, my mailing address is: Paul E. & Rickie G. Sapp
12005 N. Normandie St.
Spokane, WA 99218-1938

Thank you & have a good day.

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: pesrgs <pesrgs@mciworld.com>
Date: Friday, November 12, 1999 11:18 AM
Subject: Re: Proposed Utility Rate Increase - AVISTA

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

pesrgs <pesrgs@mciworld.com> on 11/12/99 10:35:46 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Proposed Utility Rate Increase - AVISTA

Gentlemen:

This is in regard to proposed increases by Avista Utilities of WA filed on 10/22/99. The increases requested for residential services for electricity customers is 14%; and natural gas customers is 7.5%. This is a total of 21.5% for residential gas & electricity.

We are currently on budget billing cycle at \$133.00 per month. A 21.5% increase would amount to \$28.60 added to my monthly bill. Retired & on fixed incomes, our cost of living increases are no where near the 21.5% increase requested by Avista; and our incomes will not meet the ever increasing costs of other necessities; i.e., taxes, medicines, etc.

Are those who are on fixed incomes, and the poor to turn off the heat during winter & read by candle light? God, I hope not. We do not feel big businesses with huge payrolls and perks to CEO's need to increase their rates at the expense of those less fortunate.

We sincerely hope you will keep increases more in line with the cost of living increases we may realize; like 2+%.

991607



JIL1996@aol.com on 11/15/99 04:24:40 PM

249973

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate Increase of Avista

I recieved the notice for Washington electrical customers along with my last bill for electricity and natural gas. The information is incorrect! Avista Utilities (Company) claims that the company has not had a general electric price increase in Washington since 1990. The company (Avista) rates presently are:

\$3.00 Basic Charge, plus
First 600 kwhs 3.892 cents per kwh
Next 700 kwhs 4.673 cents per kwh
All over 1,300 kwhs 5.628 cents per kwh

PROPOSED RATES:

\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus
First 600 kwhs 4.365 cents per kwh
All over 600 kwhs 5.501 cents per kwh
Avista proposes to increase residential Schedule 1 by 14.0%!! This is outrageous.

WWP (Now known as Avista) in 1993 sent out small booklets called:
HOW TO CALCULATE ELECTRIC BILLS FOR WASHINGTON RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS.

1993 ELECTRIC MONTHLY RATE:

\$3.00 Basic charge, plus
\$.03819 per Kwh for the first 600 Kwhs
\$.04600 per Kwh for the next 700 Kwhs
\$.05555 per Kwh for all additional Kwhs

1993 NATURAL GAS RATE:

\$3.25 BASIC CHARGE, PLUS
\$.42331 PER THERM

AVISTA PRESENT RATES 1999:

\$4.00 Basic Charge, plus
All therms 37.902 cents per therm

AVISTA PROPOSED RATES:

\$5.50 Basic Charge, plus
All therms 40.069 cents per therm

As you can see the rates HAVE BEEN INCREASED SINCE 1990. I propose that the WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION REJECT THE NEW RATES PROPOSED BY AVISTA, just on the basis of false information alone, not to mention 14.0% is outrageous. I am requesting a response and am thanking you in advance.

Maggie and David Hageman
820 W. Rolland
Spokane, WA 99218
(509) 467-4448
e-mail JIL1996@AOL.com



"Ruth F. Dixon" <rdix@ior.com> on 11/11/99 01:30:46 PM

991607

Please respond to rdix@ior.com

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Protest..Residential increase

235651

We believe the proposed Residential Schedule 1 increase of 14% by Avista Utilities is completely out of line, and prohibitive...compared not only to the other proposed raises, for business and industry, but not required by Avista for successful operation and return to their shareholders.

Please add this strong protest to others concerning Avista's proposed general electric rate increase. (I believe my name is already on your mailing list to be notified of all Commission public hearings, but if not, please add it. Thank you.)

Ruth F. Dixon

Latah Ln.

WA 99224

(Mrs.)

6014 So.

Spokane,



Roger Erdman <soldatensender@juno.com> on 11/12/99 05:44:25 AM

991607

249829

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista's Proposed Rate Increase

I get both my electricity and my natural gas from Avista Utilities. I am writing to urge either that the Commission either deny Avista's request for a rate increase, or at the very least grant only a substantially reduced increase.

The company is already making good money, and if they can afford to compensate the CEO to the tune of \$750,000.00 per year and if they can afford to have 'pricey' folks like General H. Norman Schwartzkopf on their Board of Directors; then they can damned well afford NOT to gouge the ratepayers, who are a captive market anyway!!

Roger Erdman
10208 N. Sundance Dr.
Spokane, WA 99208

Betty Young

11/12/99

07:52:21 AM



"Will Johnson" <wjohnson@colfax.com> on 11/10/99 09:12:00 PM

991607
249831

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

Thanks!

My address is:
PO Box 154
Oakesdale, WA 99158

WJ

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: Will Johnson <wjohnson@colfax.com>
Date: Wednesday, November 10, 1999 8:24 AM
Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Will Johnson" <wjohnson@colfax.com> on 11/09/99 10:03:13 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase

Just say NO, no more increases. They reported a third quarter earnings of \$3.72 BILLION compared to a year ago of \$1.43 Billion. This is from their corp. web site.

I don't think the Gov. is increasing MY salary 14%, but Avista wants to increase my bill 14%.

Avista buys out WWP and all of a sudden we will have East Coast power rates, just say NO to the increase, remember the working class people of the state.

When the cable prices go up I can cancel my cable, but I can't cancel my electricity. Think about that.

Sincerely,

Will and Kris Johnson



Steve Deal <Steve.Deal@sd84.k12.id.us> on 11/10/99 01:10:29 PM

991607

991607

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities rate increase

249832

It seems to me that with a guaranteed return Avista already has the best of all worlds. The increase proposed for the residential ratepayer is excessive. It appears that Avista goes after those least able to organize and fight the increase.

Further the proposed increase far exceeds any inflationary increase over the period since 1990. As far as the base increase it represents 20% for natural gas and 60% for electricity. The increase for both at the base level is excessive and the service schedule rate increase is not far behind. I would hope the utilities & transportation Commission will deny the bulk of this request.

Sincerely,
Steve A. Deal
Box 474, Chewelah, Wa.

99109



"Paul Staudenmayer" <pauls@spocom.com> on 11/09/99 10:12:45 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase

991607

Gentlemen: I urge you to deny Avista's proposed 14 percent rate increase for residential electric customers. Myself and many others on fixed incomes can't afford such large increases. Wage increases for workers in industries and for Social Security recipients will be just over 2 percent for next year. We can not afford such a large increase as proposed by Avista. I suggest that any rate increase not exceed the average increase in wages.

Sincerely,
Paul Staudenmayer
9930 N. Moore
Spokane WA 99208



"Herzog, Margaret" <herzogm@gu.gonzaga.edu> on 11/05/99 06:41:00 AM

991607

249690

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Increase

Yesterday, we received the bill from Avista. In the bill were flyers from "Avista Merchandise Center" with products for sale that were totally unrelated to heating needs. I was taken aback by the thought that the company must be highly diversified and yet it is asking for a rate increase.

* Are we paying an increase for their investments in business ventures?

* As a monopoly in this area (Spokane City) we have no choice of service for power. Are we required to support all aspect of their business for their shareholders profit(?) to no benefit of the power users?

* In the past, the rate requests were frequently based on rate comparisons throughout the US. If this is the case, I would like to remind the commissioners that in the NW we do not ship in oil or gas to produce our power. Yet this standard has been used before. It seems like the old comparison of oranges and apples.

* When you consider this proposal, please, remember that Spokane's average wage is not on par with other cities its size and these increases should not be approved unless absolutely warranted by substantial facts based on power production and distribution alone; not on a company's profit margin.

Thank you for hearing us,
Willi and Margaret Herzog
2604 E Marshall
Spokane, WA 99207
e-mail: williherzog@hotmail.com

Betty Young

11/09/99

07:49:39 AM

Penny Hansen 11/05/99 02:56 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject:

991607

Here's another one for Avista's rate case. thanks ph

----- Forwarded by Penny Hansen/WUTC on 11/05/99 02:53 PM -----

249691



Mike Meeks

11/05/99 02:26 PM



To: Penny Hansen/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject:

Hi Penny,
Did Avista file for a rate increase? If so do you know the docket number? I got a call from Robert S. Evans
3822 E. Pacific Avenue
Spokane, 99202
in regards to this.
Thanks,
Mike



Williams90@aol.com on 11/05/99 01:08:09 PM

991607
249692

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities Rate Increase Comments

Dear Commission,

I am writing because I am concerned about the increase proposed for residential customers of Avista Utilities, formerly Washington Water Power.

Avista is proposing a 14% increase for residential customers. This increase is completely unacceptable. Many of their customers struggle day to day just to provide food for their families, and the amount currently charged just to heat our homes, cook our families food, bathe our children, and provide light by which to read is already more than many of us can afford.

I understand that Avista has a need for profit - it's the american way. But us customers do not have a choice in who we choose to provide our heat and electricity and feel like we're being monopolized by their company.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Williams
2203 N. Washington ST.
Spokane, WA 99205



Kellie Warwick <KellieW@ambassadors.com> on 11/05/99 04:20:37 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate Increase

991607

November 5, 1999

Kellie Warwick
1907 East Sinto Avenue
Spokane, WA 99202

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Hello Commission,

Please do not raise the electrical rates any more, they are high enough all ready. Avista is a multi-million dollar company. They are not losing money with the rates that they are currently charging for residential customers. Of course they want to raise the rates an extra 14%, the highest of all the rate increases, for the poor residential residents ! This is ridiculous, I pay enough already!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Kellie Warwick

Betty Young

11/03/99

10:32:27 AM



"Kraft, Linda J. REG1" <kraftl2@idhw.state.id.us> on 11/03/99 10:18:56 AM

249365

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE: rate increases

991607

Linda Kraft
1901 N. Sullivan Rd.
Spokane, WA 99216

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov [mailto:byoung@wutc.wa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 03, 1999 9:25 AM
To: Kraft, Linda J. REG1
Subject: Re: rate increases

Thank you for your comment. Would you please send me your mailing address so that I may officially add you to the interested persons mailing list for this issue?

Thank you.

"Kraft, Linda J. REG1" <kraftl2@idhw.state.id.us> on 11/03/99 08:20:12 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: rate increases

I feel like the residential people are carrying the full load with the increase and rates as they stand for the Avista Corp. Why should we the small user be paying more for the usage of electricity or gas:??

6-12-00

252290

Dear Commissioner,

Enclosed is an article from the
Spokesman Review in Spokane. Thought
you might be interested in seeing
how Texas electrical utilities are operating.

Incidentally, the C.E.O. of Avista Utilities
in Spokane came from Texas when Avista
acquired W.W.P.

Sincerely,
Richard R. Ollending

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2000

RECEIVED WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

JUN 14 2000

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Corporations seeking the biggest return on their money know state governments give the best play for the pay. **Molly Ivins** says George W. Bush's Texas is the easy virtue jackpot.

Always sends 'em home smiling

Creators Syndicate

AUSTIN, Texas — The corporations might as well write the names of state governments up on the bathroom walls: "For a good time, call Bush and the Texas Lege. They're easy! They're cheap!"



Molly Ivins

The Washington Post broke a fascinating story last week about the utility industry funneling millions of dollars into two phony grass-roots organizations in order to stop Congress from deregulating utilities. Congress may be up for sale, as we have seen time and again, but the utilities prefer to be deregulated in state capitols, where they get so much more bang for their campaign-contribution buck. Part-time legislators from Pierre, S.D., to Austin (the Texans meet for 140 days once every two years), are so much less likely to understand the arcane details of fair rate-setting than the full-timers in D.C.

Post reporter John Mintz got a stack of files about "the Project," the secret, industry-funded effort. According to the memos, the Project was "discreet, guarded and highly confidential. . . . Fear of congressional reprisals conditioned this style. . . . It would be prudent to avoid rash openness." Yes, that rash openness needs to be avoided every time, doesn't it?

Gov. George W. Bush likes to brag that he got a \$2 billion property tax break for Texans. This sounds really impressive in a state like New Hampshire, but our state is so big that this amounts to a Big Mac a month for property owners.

What he also did is stick everybody with \$8.5 billion in stealth taxes, added to our utility bills to bail out the electric companies for their "stranded

costs." That's a euphemism for "poor management and stupid projects," the most spectacular examples being the two white-elephant nukes built by Texas Utilities (now TXU Electric) and Houston Lighting & Power (now owned by Reliant Energy.) Both were big contributors to "the Project."

Time magazine has an article this week about another choice example of state government at its weakest. Turns out that Bush's man Reyn Archer, the state health commissioner (he of the notably eccentric sociological opinions concerning minorities) was fixing to regulate ephedrine, a weight loss product linked to eight deaths in Texas and more than 1,400 health problems, including heart attacks, strokes and seizures.

But lo, just as the agency was set to formulate tough new rules for ephedrine, Archer changed his mind, called in the large manufacturers and let them change the proposed rules. By an amazing coincidence, lawyers working for ephedrine makers also channeled \$40,000 to Bush's re-election campaign about the time of a key industry meeting with Archer.

The ephedrine producers also hired former U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler, a Bush "Pioneer," who has provided \$141,000 to Bush's gubernatorial campaigns and raised at least \$100,000 for his presidential campaign, according to Time.

Scholars of Texas politics will recall Loeffler's immortal 1986 race for governor, notable chiefly for reports that he had worn shower caps on his feet during a visit to San Francisco so as not to get AIDS. No one ever accused Loeffler of being bent over double with intellect but he sure can raise money.

Time also has an update on the ongoing saga of the pharmaceutical industry's manipulation of state governments to their advantage: "Florida is one of about 30 states in which makers of brand

name drugs, often led by DuPont, have pushed to limit patient access to generic versions," reports Time. The upshot of a particularly fine DuPont effort in Florida is that people there are paying 25 percent more for their blood-thinning medication than if they had access to the generic. "For a cheap thrill, call Florida." How many times do we have to read this story before we finally get it? The pharmaceutical industry also tries to get its drug patents extended through Congress, but Congress is so . . . expensive.

Back on the "stranded costs" rip-off: TXU Electric tried earlier this month to get the Public Utility Commission to agree to a \$3.7 billion bill — to be added to the bills of ratepayers in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex — without even explaining what the \$3.7 bil was for. Still subscribing to the theory that "it would be prudent to avoid rash openness."

Like, what in the world are we being billed for? Because it's sure not for the power we're using. The utility backed down after protests by Dallas and Fort Worth.

On April 30, The New York Times reported a great surge in merger activity and asset-swapping by utilities, "showing how quickly fears have evaporated that deregulation could cause widespread financial trauma in the industry." The reason the utilities are a hot new play among financiers is "the favorable terms that the industry was able to negotiate as old-fashioned rate regulation faded . . . the utilities continue to enjoy ratepayer-financed bailouts for nuclear power plants and other assets."

It's nice that someone is enjoying it.

■ Molly Ivins is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Spokane Review*
2-19-2000

RECEIVED

JUN 26 2000

99160/p

D. 251731

FROM THE DESK OF: D.J. R.V PARTS & UPHOLSTERY 1-509-483-6011

TO: ~~Wash State Utilities & Transportation Commission~~

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

DATED: 6-22-00

Consumer Affairs

DEAR W.S.U.T.C.

Regarding The Rate Increase From Avista Utilities Recently I Am Opposed To That High OF A Rate Increase That They Are Asking For 14% IS To Much In A Business Like I Am In Selling R.V Parts & Owning My Own Business The Gas Prices Have Caused Enough Stress On Myself & The Business Making Me Pay More For My Electric & Gas Especially For An Error That Avista Made Should Not Be My Responsibility I Thought Avista Was Supposed To Lower There Rates From An Earlier Decision Made By You Folks This Rate Goes In I'm Gone

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME
OWNER/MANAGER

Dan Price
Dan Price

DJ RV PARTS & UPHOLSTERY
5006 N. MARKET ST.
SPOKANE, WA 99207
(509) 483-6011

Betty Young

11/18/99

991607

12:06:38 PM



ajones@on-ramp.ior.com (Archie) on

From: ajones@on-ramp.ior.com (Archie) on
To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista's proposed Rate Increase

250566

Archie Jones
12525 N Pittsburg
Spokane, WA 99218

>Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I
would
> like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would
> you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

>

>

>

>

>

>ajones@on-ramp.ior.com (Archie) on

>

>To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

>cc:

>Subject: Avista's proposed Rate Increase

>

>

>

>I'm against the increase.

>

>Doing very quick calculations, using the proposed rate schedules and my
>usage figures for the past year, shows that Avista will be increasing my
>bills by about: 18-19% for electricity; and about 10-11% for the gas...

>

>This is somewhat in excess of what they say in their proposal....

>

>

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>

>

Betty Young

11/18/99

991607
07:44:00 AM



"Mike Ainsworth" <miket@on-ramp.ior.com> on 11/17/99 07:33:54 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Outrageous 14% Rate Increase

250568

Thank you - address is:
Cathy Ainsworth
6912 N Pine Rock Pl
Spokane WA 99208

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov
To: "Mike Ainsworth" <miket@on-ramp.ior.com>
Date: Tue, 16 Nov 1999 09:57:26 -0800
Subject: Re: Outrageous 14% Rate Increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Mike Ainsworth" <miket@on-ramp.ior.com> on 11/14/99 07:43:29 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Outrageous 14% Rate Increase

Thank you for asking for our comments:

It seems outrageous to impose a 14% increase to the average public when our pay increases are only an average of 3%. I recommend you do what other businesses are doing during this difficult time. Look within for unnecessary expenditures: non-value added positions-really look at purchase orders and expenses-recycle-anything! If, after that, it is still deemed necessary - okay. However, please do not make us pay for prettier statements or fancier signs for your name change. We cannot afford it.

Thank you,
Cathy Ainsworth
Spokane, Washington
Mike Ainsworth
mailto:miket@ior.com

Have a good day!

991607



duane h swartz <spkduane@juno.com> on 11/13/99 09:50:30 AM

250563

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: avista's proposed electric rate increase

I WISH I COULD GET A 14% INCREASE ON MY SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK. DUANE
H. SWARTZ, SPOKANE

Betty Young

11/18/99

04:51:10 PM



duane h swartz <spkduane@juno.com> on 11/18/99 04:56:09 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: avista's proposed electric rate increase

You asked for my mailing address. It is: DUANE H. SWARTZ
W.

505 HAZARD RD.
SPOKANE, WA. 99208

991607



Scott Phillipson <scottphillip@sisna.com> on 11/17/99 01:08:50 PM

Please respond to scottphillip@sisna.com

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Avista Utilities rate increase

250468

Avista Utilities has announced they have requested a rate increase.

If said rate increase is only for benefit of increased profits in the pockets of stock holders then I strongly am apposed to any rate increase.

If the rate increase is to pay for:

- a. Improved service
 - b. Make up of company losses, not profit losses
- then I would approve of rate increases in the amount required for a. or b. above.

However, the percentages listed seem to be unnecessarily high for residential and pumping service customers.

Why is it that residential and farm users are always the ones having to make up for the lower rates that industrial businesses pay so that the utilities may make larder profits?

If an increase is really needed to make up company losses, and for that purpose only, then I believe an across the board 4 percent increase would more than cover what is required, unless an audit can show truthfully otherwise.

Scott Phillipson

PO Box 70

Mead, WA 99021-0070

509-467-0626

E-Mail scottphillip@sisna.com

Betty Young

11/17/99

08:04:58 AM



"Doug A. Crockett" <dcrasn@integrityonline.com> on 11/17/99 07:57:36 AM

991607

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities

~~RE~~
250415

At 09:57 AM 11/16/99 -0800, you wrote:

>Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would

> like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would

> you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

>

>My mailing address is: 131 W. Market
Latah, WA 99018

>

>

>

>"Doug A. Crockett" <dcrasn@integrityonline.com> on 11/13/99 01:25:13 PM

>

>To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

>cc:

>Subject: Avista Utilities

>

>

>

>Dear Sirs,

> I am writing this note to urge you to deny Avista's request for a rate
>increase. Since the merger with Washington Water Power their level of
>customer service has fallen off greatly. The number and length of outages
>has increased.

> They need to improve their customer service and customer relations
>before ANY increase should be considered. Thankyou for your time and
>consideration.

>

Doug A Crockett

>

>

>

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>

>

>



"Lippert, Steve, Capt, 141ARW, OG" <Steve.Lippert@wafair.ang.af.mil> on
11/16/99 08:33:24 AM

991607

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Corp Utilities Increase

164874

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing this letter expressing my concern for the recent proposed utilities increase expected for the second half of 2000. I fully understand the need to keep up with rising costs but the proposed rate increase seems a bit high with such a short noticed. I believe customers would rather see a smaller, steady increase over a given length of time then all at once. Further, having visited their web-site this morning, I noticed that Avista Corp. reported (NYSE: AVA) "a third-quarter 1999 earnings of \$0.52 per diluted share on revenues of \$3.72 billion, compared with earnings of \$0.14 per share and revenues of \$1.43 billion in the same quarter last year." So, why do they need more revenues? Has Avista Corp out grown its intended service of providing just electricity and gas to residents. I remember some deregulation that passed awhile back that allowed individuals to receive combined services such as cable, internet, phone, utilities all under one bill. Is this what Avista Corp has gotten into? I'd like to know. Also, I would like to add that many of my colleagues in the 141 Air National Guard live or moved outside Spokane and fall under 'Inland Power and Light' (a non-profit organization) where they pay almost 50% less than they did when they first lived in the city of Spokane. With this in mind, are we allowed to choose our own power supply company under the new legislation? If not, and Avista Corp is our only utilities provider, does that make them a monopoly? With the recent events of Microsoft, I'm fairly confident a large majority Spokane residents will be watching Avista Corp's proceedings. Sincerely, Stephen R. Lippert sclipwa@msn.com

Betty Young

11/16/99

10:46:36 AM



"Lippert, Steve, Capt, 141ARW, OG" <Steve.Lippert@wafair.ang.af.mil> on
11/16/99 10:44:48 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE: Avista Corp Utilities Increase

Thanks for the reply and my address is as follows....

Stephen R. Lippert
2707 W. Gordon Ave.
Spokane WA 99205-2345

991607



BobCrouch2@aol.com on 11/14/99 12:39:58 PM

249981

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities Rate Increase

I am urging the Utilities Commission to deny the request submitted by Avista Utilities for an increase in the company's Washington electric rates. The residential increase of 14% is an incredible and unjustified amount. This utility wants to take advantage of it's captive customers in order to increase unwarranted profits. People are struggling, and the recent approval of I-695 is an indication that people feel they can simply pay no more. Personally an increase would uncomfortably restrict my budget. Government agencies across our state are being forced to conserve, please afford Avista the same opportunity, and do not provide them with the ability to to charge more for what is unremarkable service. Please deny the request.

Sincerely

Bob Crouch
S. 520 Cedar Street
Spokane, WA 99204

Ph: (509) 455-9880

Betty Young

11/16/99

07:42:23 AM

991607



"NAOMI DAUBERT" <juggernaub@colfax.com> on 11/12/99 07:45:09 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

249967

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: NAOMI DAUBERT <juggernaub@colfax.com>
Date: Friday, November 12, 1999 7:59 AM
Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

Thank you for your comments. I will add them to the formal record for this case. I do need your mailing address so I can add your name to our mailing list. You will then be sent additional information about the hearing on this case as it becomes available.

Thank you!

My name and address: Mrs. Naomi Daubert
2342 Morley Rd
Colfax WA 99111

Thank you for letting us know we were received! We wish the commission much wisdom in their deliberations and decision.

"NAOMI DAUBERT" <juggernaub@colfax.com> on 11/10/99 06:26:49 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase

This is a typical gouging of the public. They are making billions, and yet they want more! What about the little people struggling to have the bare necessities for their families just to survive? This is totally unnecessary, and shows a greed that looks ugly on anyone who wears it! If this is the American way, then it's time to think of the other guy instead of one's self. The caring and concern for one's fellow man has to become a priority in our every day lives. NOT GREED OR PERSONAL GAIN! No rationalization takes the place of helping others in their time of need.



- att1.htm



chickeychickey@juno.com on 11/20/99 09:58:08 AM

250634

991607

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate increase

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a single parent making less than \$16,000 a year. I am barely affording my bills as it is. Your proposed increase is outrageous! I need every penny I can to just scrape by. I absolutely cannot afford to pay any more than I do right now. What are you going to do for customers like me? Not everybody has two people in a household working to pay bills. What about families with several children? How can they survive? Your increase may not seem like much to you, but I should not have to work two jobs to pay my bills. To afford a mortgage, daycare, and other bills that is what I need to do. To pay my oil bill, city bill, and Avista bill is more than I can afford. Please don't do this to people like me. Not without a pro-rated plan, a waiver or some other service. Project Share is not enough.

Sincerely,
Colleen Finney
4418 N. Madison
Spokane, WA 99205 .

Betty Young

11/19/99

05:04:39 PM



"Bob Floyd" <lepb@icehouse.net> on 11/19/99 05:05:57 PM

250635

991607

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Utilites Raise

----- Original Message -----

Our address is:

Bob and Jane Floyd

27421 N. North Rd.

Deer Park, WA 99006

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov

To: Bob Floyd

Sent: Friday, November 19, 1999 7:46 AM

Subject: Re: Avista Utilites Raise

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Bob Floyd" <lepb@icehouse.net> on 11/18/99 09:53:06 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Avista Utilites Raise

Nov. 19, 1999

Dear Sirs:

Please.....Deny or at least reduce the rate increase amount that Avista would like you to approve. The Wed. Oct. 27th Business section of the Spokesman-Review showed Avista posting strong quarterly earning. Last year the company earned \$8 million dollars on revenues alone. So far this year Avista has income for stock of \$39.4 million on revenues of \$6.37 Billion. That's a mind boggling amount of money, and yet, they have the nerve to ask for a 14% increase to all residential customers??? Their justification seems only to be that they haven't increased rates in a while. Why do they need the rate increase? My income certainly hasn't increased 14%.

Please bear in mind that many consumers live on a fixed income and a 14% rate increase will present a very real hardship.

Sincerely,

Bob and Jane Floyd
iepb@icehouse.net

991607

"Dan Cover" <dcover@earthlink.net> on 11/18/99 07:50:13 PM



Please respond to "Dan Cover" <dcover@earthlink.net>

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Avista rate increase comments

~~250580~~
52075

I believe Avista's proposed rate increase of 14% for residential electric and 7.5% for residential gas service is an exorbitant amount. Many, many people are either on a fixed income, receive tiny annual pay increases, or have families and subsist on welfare and meager part-time jobs. The Spokane area is known for its low wages and lack of skilled-manufacturing. Housing costs have out-stripped earned income in this area dramatically in the past 9 years, putting a heavy burden on most families. I am not opposed to a smaller rate increase, but please consider the detrimental effect this proposed \$120-\$150 annual increase will have on many of us residential consumers.

Sincerely,

Dan Cover
3427 W 5th Ave.
Spokane, WA 99224



- att1.htm

Betty Young

11/19/99

991607
07:41:31 AM



mhasche@powerworx.net (mhasche) on 11/18/99 08:32:47 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities rate increase request

250579

Thank you. My address is:

Marcella Hasche
16619 N. Morton Drive
Spokane, WA 99208

----- Original Message -----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov
To: mhasche
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 1999 4:53 PM
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities rate increase request

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

mhasche@powerworx.net (mhasche) on 11/18/99 03:22:16 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities rate increase request

I am sending you this email in response to a notice I received from Avista regarding a proposed rate increase to be effected the second half of 2000. I very much oppose this increase, primarily because it is so huge. To increase our electric rates 14.0% and gas rates 7.5% in one year will put a tremendous financial burden on my family. We are currently trying to survive on one income and are squeaking by paying all the bills, with no money left over at all until the next pay period. Our tight budget would suffer in trying to recover from such an increase to our electric and gas bill, which was at an all-time high last winter. We expect this winter will be worse. My prayer is that the Washington Utilities Commission DENY Avista's request for such a large increase in our monthly rates.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Mrs. Marcella Hasche



- att1.htm

Betty Young

11/19/99

991607

10:17:30 AM



AIA Component <spokaia@ior.com> on 11/19/99 10:11:51 AM

Please respond to spokaia@ior.com

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

250578

byoung@wutc.wa.gov wrote:

>

> Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would
> like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would
> you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

>

> AIA Component <spokaia@ior.com> on 11/17/99 10:06:39 AM

>

> Please respond to spokaia@ior.com

>

> To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

> cc:

> Subject: Avista rate increase

>

> The proposed residential rate increase of 14% is excessive. Please hold
> the line and limit that increase as much as possible. Home owner
> expenses are going through the ceiling.

>

> Homeowners throughout the service area will appreciate your
> consideration.

>

> Evelyn Creager

1212 S. Wall St., Spokane, Wa 99204

Betty Young

11/22/99

07:49:21 AM



"Sean Sheeks" <seashi@msn.com> on 11/19/99 05:38:54 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE: utilities increase

250632

991607

sean sheeks
3917 n martin
spokane, wa
99207

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov [mailto:byoung@wutc.wa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 1999 4:54 PM
To: Sean Sheeks
Subject: Re: utilities increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Sean Sheeks" <seashi@msn.com> on 11/18/99 02:16:02 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: utilities increase

to whom it may concern

I righting out of concern. I just received a letter from my utilities provider (avista). they are asking for a 14% increase. i would like to tell you its just to much our government is raising our property taxes nest year and we will probably receive tax increases form olmpia yet our salery dont increase to counter all these increses. I would appreciate a response on what else I can do to avoid this unwanted increase

thank you
sean sheeks

Betty Young

12/02/99

01:01:42 PM



"Dan Stilson" <dwstilso@lewiston.com> on 12/02/99 12:58:50 PM

251282

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista rates

Susan Boyd
906 Fourth Street
Clarkston WA 99403

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: Dan Stilson <dwstilso@lewiston.com>
Date: Thursday, December 02, 1999 7:52 AM
Subject: Re: Avista rates

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Dan Stilson" <dwstilso@lewiston.com> on 12/01/99 02:24:39 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rates

No raise is necessary to Avista's rates. If Avista would stop giving their highest paid employees exorbitant bonuses and raises, no raise in rates would be necessary. Most of us do not make close to the base salary of Avista's corporate employees, and bonuses on top of that huge salary is a slap in the face to Avista's customers who are told that rates need to go up to cover costs.



- att1.htm



250890

991607

To: Penny Hansen/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Public Comment from WebSite

(Embedded image moved to file: pic00671.pcx)	(Embedded image moved to file: pic02099.pcx)
--	--

Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here, will be included in the formal record.

To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	Rick Miller
	1603 E Sharpsburg
Your Street Address: (We need your address in	City: Spokane , State: Wa Zip: 99217

Betty Young

11/24/99

11:27:55 AM

order to process your comment)	
Your County:	Spokane
Phone Numbers:	Home: 5094670828 Day/Work:
Your E-Mail address:	rickathymis@msn.com
Date:	11/23/99
Your Comment:	I just got a notice of a rate increase and I am upset as I am trying to live on a fixed income and spent thousands on a new gas heater and hot water heater. The whole point was to live more efficiently and I no sooner did this and Avista wants a increase. I don't see them doing without new trucks big wages for upper management etc. I am tired of a never ending blank check these big companies think they have. thank you Rick Miller
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?	

Notice of Public Record:


Electronic messages received at the Commission will be treated the same as if the message had been sent via the post office (paper correspondence). You may expect to receive a response within a reasonable time period. Please be aware that all information you submit using this form is public record, and is subject to public inspection in compliance with RCW 42.17.260.


1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW - Olympia, WA 98504-7250

E-Mail: Webmaster@wutc.wa.gov Phone: 360-664-1160 (in state toll-free:

1-800-562-6150)

FAX: 360-586-1150

 - pic00671.pcx

 - pic02099.pcx

991607



OILDOC1@aol.com on 11/20/99 11:53:05 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate increase

I can't believe Avista wants a 10.4% overall increase. This state has one of the lowest costs to produce electricity in the nation.

Naturally they want to hit the little guy the hardest with a 14% increase. I am sick and tired of big business sticking it to the average person.

I understand costs go up and prices must follow, but this is ridiculous.

I am asking you to send this back to Avista and ask them to evaluate why they bought the business from WWP if they knew they were going to loose money.

I already know the answer, they figured they could buy the business for a cheap price and then lobby or push the commission into a favorable decision on rates.

Please do what is right for the people, reject this proposal and make them rewrite one that is fair to the consumer.

Thank you,

Average Joe Consumer

Betty Young

11/24/99

09:26:32 AM



OILDOC1@aol.com on 11/24/99 09:28:38 AM

250888

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Rate increase

A.J.C.
8901 E. Trent, Suite 103, PMB 339
Millwood, WA 99212

Betty Young

11/23/99

991607
12:14:30 PM



"Lothar A. Kreck" <kreck@wsu.edu> on 11/23/99 11:54:46 AM

~~250873~~
57112

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: avista rate increase

At 01:19 PM 11/22/99 -0800, you wrote:

>Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would
> like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would
> you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

>
> Lothar A. Kreck
818SW Crestview, Pullman WA 99163

>
>
>

>"Lothar A. Kreck" <kreck@wsu.edu> on 11/22/99 01:00:32 PM

>
>To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
>cc:
>Subject: avista rate increase

>
>
>

>Secretary, WUTC

>

>We are shocked about the requested 14% rate increase AND the increase of
>the basic charge. (The basic charge increase would have been acceptable.)
>, but both-----)

>The real issue to the above situation is the lack of COMPETITION in our
>State. I just returned from Germany where just 3-4 months ago electric
>power competition has started----and that in a country of very questionable
>and partially supressed 'free trade' --a fact little known in the US. What
>a progress!

>THAT IS WHAT WE NEED IN THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY--FREE TRADE.

>

>Thank you
>LAK

>
>
>
>
>
>

11/2/99

RECEIVED

991607
N

NOV 04 1999

249586

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Dear Commissioner;

It has been brought to my attention that there is a possible 15% increase to my natural gas bill. This is way to much of an increase! I work for the Federal Government, and it will take me years to get a 15% wage increase. In my opinion 15% is way to much, and I for one can't afford it. My alternative is to burn my wood stove with a possibility putting out air pollution

Sincerely;
Jannelle
Kauk

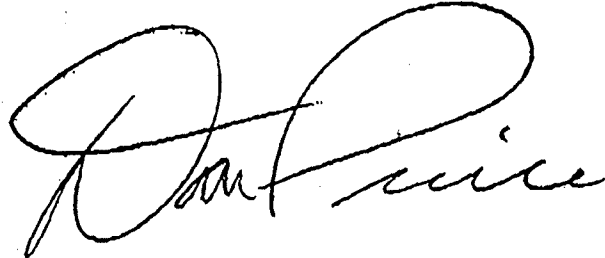
RECEIVED
NOV 04 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Attention Penny Hansen 251731

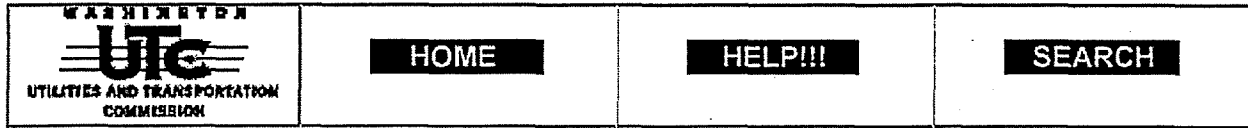
TO: WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: DAN PRICE D.J. R.V. PARTS AND UPHOLSTERY
DATED: 12-02-1999

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW AN INCREASE OF AVISTA UTILITIES AS THEY ARE REQUESTING THIS IS TOO HIGH OF A RATE INCREASE FOR EVEN MYSELF AS A RESIDENT OF SPOKANE AND A CUSTOMER OF AVISTA UTILITIES I THINK THEY ARE ASKING FOR TOO MUCH AND IT IMPACTS MY BUSINESS EVEN MORE I DO NOT SAY DO NOT GIVE THEM AN INCREASE BUT LET'S BE A LITTLE MORE REALISTIC I WILL BE WATCHING YOUR DECISION IN THIS MATTER I WILL BE VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH YOU IF YOU ALLOW THIS HIGH OF AN INCREASE IN GAS AND ELECTRIC IT'S HARD ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE IN SPOKANE TO PAY THEIR HEATING BILLS AS IT IS WHEN MAKING YOUR DECISION PLEASE CONSIDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS AND THE LOW INCOME PEOPLE HERE IN SPOKANE THE EFFECT IT HAS ON THESE PEOPLE THE PAY RATE HERE IN SPOKANE AND THE VERY TINY NOT EVEN LIVABLE BENEFIT INCREASE (1%) THESE FOLKS GOT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE RATE INCREASE THAT AVISTA IS ASKING FOR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME



DJ RV PARTS & UPHOLSTERY
6008 N. MARKET ST.
SPOKANE, WA 99207
(509) 483-6011



251730

Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here will be included in the formal record.

To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	jim thomas
Your Street Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	700 w. 7th ave #805 City: spokane , State: wa Zip: 99204
Your County:	spokane
Phone Numbers:	Home: 509-455-9280 Day/Work: 509-623-4050
Your E-Mail address:	jetman@boink.net
Date:	12/02/99
Your Comment:	Re: Avista Utilities request for rate increase for gas & electric. The increases requested are not in line with cpi or inflation numbers which would be a more realistic guideline. If not modified to more reasonable levels the request should be denied.
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?	

Notice of Public Record:

Electronic messages received at the Commission will be treated the same as if the message had been sent via the post office (paper correspondence). You may expect to receive a response within a reasonable time period. Please be aware that all information you submit using this form is public record, and is subject to public inspection in compliance with RCW 42.17.260.

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW - Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Phone: 360-664-1160 (in state toll-free: 1-800-562-6150) FAX: 360-586-1150

[Comment Form](#) | [Complaint Form](#) | [Contact Us](#)

To request availability of documents

If you have been involved in a competitive class filing, please review the revised draft version of 480-120-023 and forward any comments or suggestions to Fred O. tomorrow 12/1/99.

WAC 480-120-023 Competitive classification for companies and services.

(1) Classification of a company as competitive. A petition for classification of a company as competitive must be filed pursuant to chapter 480-121 WAC.

(2) Classification of a service as competitive. A petition for classification of a telecommunications service as competitive must, at a minimum, include:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner;
- (b) Names and addresses of any entities which would be classified as "affiliated interests" of the petitioner pursuant to RCW 80.16.010;
- (c) The manner by which notice of price list changes will be provided to customers and the commission.
- (d) Description of the services the petitioner proposes to classify as competitive.

With respect to each service the petitioner must provide the following information:

- (i) A geographical delineation of the relevant market;
- (ii) An estimate of company's market share;
- (iii) A description of ease of entry into the market;
- (iv) A statement of whether the company has a significant captive customer base and the basis for any contention that it does not;
- (v) A verifiable cost of service study supporting the contention that the price or rate charged for the service covers its cost.
- (vi) A description of all functionally equivalent or substitute services in the relevant market.
- (vii) Names and addresses of all providers of those services;
- (viii) Prices, terms, and conditions under which those services are offered.



mylespaul@juno.com on 11/26/99 02:19:55 PM

251729

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate Increase request by Avista Utilities

I have received notice of a proposed rate increase request by Avista Utilities. I live in Almira, WA, and am served by Avista Utilities.

I would like to request that WUTC deny this proposed increase request because it is inflationary and excessive. Also note that Residential users are those most impacted by 14%.

We are on Social Security Income of a little more than \$400. per month and we can hardly afford the present rates now. Our only heat source is electric in a mobile home and with the winter temperatures below 40 deg., our electric bill is over \$100. per month.

Again, I urge you to deny this proposed rate increase as pertains to residential customers.

Thank You,

Myles and Brigida Wagner

Betty Young

12/09/99

10:19:16 AM



mylespaul@juno.com on 12/04/99 10:02:11 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Re: Rate Increase request by Avista Utilities

My mailing address is PO Box 204, Almira, WA, 99103



DaleCAC@aol.com on 12/02/99 02:54:49 PM

251305

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Proposed Avista rate increases

The electric rate increases proposed by Avista will hurt primarily the low income and elderly users who are conserving on their electrical use. The base rate increase proposal is an increase of 66.7%. In addition the rate increase for the first 600kwhs is 12.1%, however, the wealthy people with large homes and other large users will have a rate reduction for their use above 1300 kwhs. Please do not approve this regressive revision in the rate structure that will significantly harm our lower income and elderly residents. A straight 10 to 14% increase of fees using the existing rate structure would result in a \$3.30 basic charge, a \$0.0428 per kwh for first 600 kwh, \$0.0514 for next 700 kwhs and \$0.0619 for the remaining usage. This would be a fairer rate increase that continues to reward conservation.

Dale Miller
P.O. Box 122
Uniontown, WA 99179
509/229-3655
dlmiller@inlandnet.com



"Charlotte Knechtel" <hngteacher@earthlink.net> on 12/02/99 01:30:02 PM

Please respond to "Charlotte Knechtel" <hngteacher@earthlink.net>

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Rate Increase

251304

My mailing address is: Charlotte A. Knechtel
7312 E. Euclid
Spokane, Washington 99212

----- Original Message -----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov
To: Charlotte Knechtel
Sent: Thursday, December 02, 1999 7:46 AM
Subject: Re: Rate Increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Charlotte Knechtel" <hngteacher@earthlink.net> on 11/27/99 12:24:43 PM

Please respond to "Charlotte Knechtel" <hngteacher@earthlink.net>

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate Increase

TO: Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
FROM: Charlotte A Knechtel hngteacher@earthlink.net
Re: Rate Increase
DATE: 11/29/99

I am registering objection to the 14.0% rate increase on the residential schedule. It is not true that the rates currently charged do not provide a reasonable rate of return for Avista's investors. Just last week, in the Spokesman Review, it was reported that Avista had recorded its largest return on investments. This rate hike is an example of the greediness of Avista

Corporation. I did not receive a 14% increase in my pay this year. In fact I received no increase in pay as a result of legislative action and voter action this past year. This increase will cause me and hundreds like me additional hardship. It is not my fault that the winter has been mild, that consumers are trying to conserve on their energy requirements and usage in an effort to protect our natural resources. This rate hike will go straight to the enormous salaries that the upper management of Avista Corporation. This rate hike will cause more people to be cold and without power. I now keep my home at 65 degrees in the winter and do not run my air conditioner in the summer just to maintain my ability to pay my current power bills. Please deny this rate increase. Send a message to Avista that they are an example of a greedy company who cares nothing about its trapped customers. There is no other power company that I can go to for power in Spokane. This is a great example of a monopoly. Do not allow this powerful giant to continue to grind us under their heel. Thank you.



- att1.htm

Betty Young

12/02/99

07:54:24 AM



"Lothar A. Kreck" <kreck@wsu.edu> on 11/29/99 01:46:41 PM

57112

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista

Secretary, WUTC

Here is another comment in regard to the rate increase.
Early this year Avista bought Vitol Gas & Electric. Now "it will scale back its national energy marketing and trading operation.....It will take three to six months and cost \$10 million to \$15 million to refocus Avista's electrical and natural gas marketing and trading business (THE PRESS, CdL, Idaho). It seems as if this was a poor management decision in the first place for which we now have to pay !!
Also, to my surprise both storefront offices (in Pullman and Moscow) have been closed. No chance for the consumers to go by anymore and to chat about any business matters.
It adds up to: POSSIBLE POOR MANAGEMENT DECISIONS AND LESS SERVICE FOR A HIGHER COST. Sad.
Again:WE NEED COMPETITION

Thank you
LAK

Betty Young

12/02/99

07:51:23 AM



Susan Bordges <SBordges@ymcaspokane.org> on 11/29/99 08:43:34 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE: Avista proposed 14.0% residential increase

251286

Susan Bordges
419 S. Farr Rd. #10
Spokane, WA 99206

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov [mailto:byoung@wutc.wa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 1999 2:15 PM
To: Susan Bordges
Subject: Re: Avista proposed 14.0% residential increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

Susan Bordges <SBordges@ymcaspokane.org> on 11/24/99 01:56:59 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista proposed 14.0% residential increase

I think that this will be a big hardship on low income people. They already struggle to pay their heating bills. I know this because I turn the heat to the lowest setting and use blankets to keep warm. My daughter called to say she was cold and could she wear another sweatshirt. I feel that there are a lot of people that this increase will add another burden to their monthly expenses.

Thankyou,
Susan Bordges



To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Public Comment from WebSite

25/284

Can you please handle this? thanks ph

Forwarded by Penny Hansen/WUTC on 11/29/99 10:07 AM

InterNotes1@wutc.wa.gov on 11/27/99 09:04:20 AM



To: Penny Hansen/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Public Comment from WebSite

(Embedded image moved to file: pic28168.pcx)	(Embedded image moved to file: pic24892.pcx)
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Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

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To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	NICHOLAS T ANDRIZZI
	3505 S SUNDOWN DR.
Your Street Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	City: SPOKANE , State: WA Zip: 99206
Your County:	SPOKANE

Phone Numbers:	Home: 509 9260428 Day/Work: 509 6253391
Your E-Mail address:	
Date:	11/27/99
Your Comment:	I OPPOSE APPROVAL OF AVISTAS RATE INCREASE FOR THE INLAND NW. AVISTA HAS INCREASED RESPONSE TIME FOR SERVICING THEIR CUSTOMERS AND INCREASED INDIVIDUAL SERVICE FEES. THEY CARE LESS THAN WWP ABOUT THEIR CUSTOMER BASE. BE MORE EFFICIENT AND MAKE LESS PROFIT! THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS THIS CHALLENGE TODAY, LETS MAKE THE MONOPOLIES DO THE SAME.
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?	

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E-Mail: Webmaster@wutc.wa.gov Phone: 360-664-1160 (in state toll-free:

1-800-562-6150)

FAX: 360-586-1150



-pic28168.pcx



-pic24892.pcx

Betty Young

12/02/99

07:49:55 AM



"Rick Addington" <raddington@uswest.net> on 11/24/99 09:20:27 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE:

251288

Thank you for your response.
Mymailing address is:
5216 S. Palouse Hwy.
Spokane, WA. 99223

Thanks,

Richard Addington

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov [mailto:byoung@wutc.wa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 1999 9:43 AM
To: Rick Addington
Subject: Re:

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Rick Addington" <raddington@uswest.net> on 11/23/99 08:58:39 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject:

I am writing to express my concern for the Avista rate increase.

Avista says that they only want a 14% increase, but it would appear that the people who use the least amount of electricity will have the highest percentage increase. I personally don't want an 18 percent increase in my electric bill. Is Avista trying to take more from the lower income family?

A person who uses 600 KWH will have their bill go from \$26.35 to \$26.19 for an increase of 18.36 %.

A person who uses 1130 KWH will have their bill go from \$51.12 to \$60.35

Betty Young

12/02/99

07:49:55 AM

for an increase of 18.05 %.

A person who uses 1800 KWH will have their bill go from \$87.20 to \$97.20
for an increase of 11.47 %.

I don't believe that the cost of living justifies that kind of increase.
Maybe a company as big as Avista needs to cut some of their cost of doing
business from the inside as well as asking for a rate increase. I
understand rising costs, but I feel that rate increase is just too much.

Please take a close look at this rate increase and let me know if I can be
of service.

Thank You,

Richard Addington



"Virginia Danner" <virgda@lahman.com> on 11/25/99 02:28:39 PM

Please respond to "Virginia Danner" <virgda@lahman.com>

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Re: electric increases

251289

My mailing address:
6805 N. Crestline #12
Spokane, WA 99217-7574

Thank You

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: Virginia Danner <virgda@lahman.com>
Date: Wednesday, November 24, 1999 2:15 PM
Subject: Re: electric increases

>Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

>"Virginia Danner" <virgda@lahman.com> on 11/24/99 11:02:29 AM

>Please respond to "Virginia Danner" <virgda@lahman.com>

>To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

>cc:

>Subject: electric increases.

>I would like to voice my opinion about the proposed rate hikes that Avista Utilities are seeking.

>I think that 14% is a large increase at one time, and that we senior citizens are just being eaten away with these increases to the point it makes it harder and harder to keep our heads above water with rent, utilities and food.

>Something needs to be done to help us be able to live comfortably.

>Every year when we get a little bit of cost of living increase in our social

>security then they increase everything else, and we end with less than we had the year before.

>Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

251745



"Dave & Sue Chambers" <chambersnw@plix.com> on 12/06/99 09:57:20 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Hike

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this e-mail to urge the Commission not to approve the 14 % electric rate increase that Avista Utilities has requested. A small rate increase may be warranted, but 14% is outrageous. In most situations in life, if we feel we are being asked to pay too much for a product, we simply go to a different supplier. Unfortunately in this situation we don't have a choice, there is only one supplier. We are at the mercy of Avista and the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission. I am asking that you make a fair decision.

Sincerely,

David A. Chambers

P.O. Box 516

Northport, Wa 99157



- att1.htm

251.743



"Rick Boyette" <rangeric@omnicast.net> on 12/06/99 09:42:08 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista proposed rate increase

To the utilities commission:

I find it incredulous that Avista is asking for a 14% rate increase in electric power costs, and a 10% increase in natural gas rates. When was the last time the average person got a 10%, or 14% salary increase? Never! Avista has taken an aggressive place in the utilities market, and it would seem that Avista wants it's users to fund it's investments thru rate increases. It has already ceased paying dividends on it's stock, and makes stock ownership rather useless. The overall effect of such a huge rate increase will be many more people here in Spokane going without heat and the basic necessities of life because they simply won't be able to afford it. Avista derives it's electric power free from hydroelectric dams; why the need to gouge its customers? Simply to pay for all of the CEO's wants and wishes? Is Avista a public service company, or a profit motivated company? It's workers enjoy salaries that are far beyond the range of the average blue or white collar worker. Why should you as the utilities commission grant such a ridiculous rate increase? How about a rate decrease? I carefully manage all my use here at my home, and my lowest bill ever was \$96.00 for a month. Please tell me where the additional money is going to come from? I already have trouble making ends meet with my wife and two toddlers and a teenager. Spokane is a minium wage town, and 90% of its workers make minium wage. I know this personally, I am a mail carrier, and I know what kind of people I deliver mail to. I think Avista's rate increase is Mr Matthews way of socking it to the people he is in business to serve. He is not from the Pacific Northwest, but from Houston, Texas, where there is a much higher standard of living.

I urge the utilities and rate commission to deny this rate increase due to its enormous impact on the rate payers. Avista is obviously profitable, and given its method of calculating its rates, will always be profitable. Please deny this out of hand, and require Avista to resubmit its request along with its balance sheets, and what they want the extra money for.

Respectfully,

Rickey Boyette 27 West Elcliff Ave. Spokane, Wa. 99218-3704
rangeric@omnicast.net



Bobsherauc@aol.com on 12/03/99 08:37:39 AM

251739

163951

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc: mccaslin_bo@leg.wa.gov, crouse_la@leg.wa.gov
Subject: Proposed Avista Rate Increase

My electric and gas bills run nearly \$100 a month on the average. I am retired and on a fixed income and cannot afford a 21% increase for gas and electricity. Avista says my monthly gas bill will increase \$2.74 a month--not true. They say my monthly electric bill will increase \$6.66--not true. Its pretty difficult for them to plead poverty when they pay the head guy upwards of a million bucks a year. I feel they need a dose of reality. Please deny this proposal.

Robert C. Aucutt
8305 E. Boone Ave.
Spokane, WA 99212
bobsherauc@aol.com

251747



"rog" <rog@pancom.net> on 12/08/99 07:13:30 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities rate increase

I Appose the rate increase. I donot want to reward them for bad buisness decisions, i.e. failed merger. Nor do I approve of the high saleries of upper management. Iam, also a stock holder. Thankyou, Roger Repp S.416 Howe Rd. Spokane, Wash. Phone 535-5574



- att1.htm



"Jack Retherford" <jack@theofficenet.com> on 12/15/99 08:00:32 AM

991606

252346

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: rate increases

2426 Indian Ridge Rd.
Chewelah, Wa. 99109

Thank you for your response,
Margaret Retherford

----- Original Message -----

From: <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: Jack Retherford <jack@theofficenet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 1999 1:26 PM
Subject: Re: rate increases

> Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I
> would
> like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so
> would
> you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

>
>
>
>
>

> "Jack Retherford" <jack@theofficenet.com> on 12/14/99 11:37:36 AM

>
> To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
> cc:
> Subject: rate increases

>
>
>

> I am writing to oppose the rate increases by Avista utilities. The present
> rates take a considerable percentage of our income now. I especially
> oppose
> the increase on behalf of those who have less income than I do and are
> trying to make ends meet with children in the home.

>
> People all over have not experienced raises to compensate for the increase
> of prices of everything from groceries, gas, taxes, etc.

>
> When I consider I am working outside of the home now, no children at home,
> which means I am not cooking hardly at all, we have no furnace, the list
> of

> nonuse could go on and on and our electric bill is still very high
> considering the small amount we use electricity.

>
> Again I would appreciate your consideration of rejecting the rate increase
> proposed by Avista utilities.

Betty Young

12/16/99

08:14:32 AM

>
> Thank you,
> Margaret M. Retherford
>
>
>
>
>
>
>



Garnetlucy@aol.com on 12/21/99 07:08:28 AM

991606

252457

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista 14% Increase

To Whom It May Concern:

While I understand that Avista may believe they have good reason to propose a 14% increase in residential service, I believe that they would be devastating many poor / low-income families already being vigilant about their use of electricity. Perhaps decision-makers felt that residential customers have the greatest potential for conserving electricity: maybe just turning off lights when leaving rooms, lowering the thermostat, or just not watching so much darn TV.

Although I can't really second-guess their reasons, I can tell you what the increase would do to my family. I am writing to you after returning from my paper route, which I have taken to add to my family's income. I am a single parent supporting 2 teenagers basically on my own, yet my situation is not because I am uneducated or lazy. In fact, most mornings I go to my job at a local university, where I am a professor teaching 3 to 4 courses a quarter. My wages are controlled by the state of Washington and, unlike public school teachers or tenured professors, I am guaranteed nothing except from contract to contract. While I am grateful for my job and its benefits, I am furious to find myself among this state's working poor despite my best efforts. In 1990, I was a secretary making about what I do now. In the economy of 1999 and 2000, that means an ongoing state of financial emergency.

Many of us have not had "a [net] increase since 1990" -- in fact, many of us are now worse off financially than we were ten years ago! Many of us have endured mergers, layoffs, the necessity to reeducate ourselves, and the task of making drastic changes in the way we have been doing things. Before Avista attacks my family with a 14% increase, why don't they reduce some of the handsome salaries paid to people who do nothing more than delegate responsibility to others, or search out their own organization for greater efficiencies? My family cannot bear one additional financial straw. The best I can hope for is a 3% increase -- maybe, next year, infinity from now. Even with an advanced degree and a history of excellence in my profession, I can't hope for an increase of \$14, let alone 14%.

Unlike other sources for the funds they seem to need, I can't increase what I charge my customers to absorb an increase. I can't feed my family less, pay less anything, or reduce anywhere to compensate for this increase. We are already getting by with as little as possible. I'm sure the creative minds at work in the Avista organization can find many alternative solutions -- as most of us have been forced to seek and discover -- than trying to get more money out of the "rock" of families already spread too thin.

You can scoff if you want, but I simply can't take on a third job and take care of my kids too. An "average monthly increase of \$10.38" seems conservatively optimistic and, believe it or not, even that is a lot of money to some people. This adversarial approach to residential customers will backfire as people are forced out of their single-family homes and into

apartments. The burdens created would hit the state and region's economy in a hundred other places -- everything from family services to decreased property values.

Avista must find a way to do what the rest of us are doing -- watching for and creating financial opportunities and miracles. When there is not enough coming in, you have to go back and look at what you do have and make it work in a more cost-effective way. Yes, it seems difficult, even impossible, but take it from someone who has no choice -- it won't happen as long as they think the solution is asking others for money.

Thank you for listening,

Annie Oakes
East 10414 Empire Way
Spokane, Washington 99206

RECEIVED

DEC 27 1999

RECEIVED

WASHINGTON STATE

DEC 27 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Washington Utilities & Transportation

991607

12-22-99

991606 N

99436

Everyone wants or has already raised their fees or charges.

Have you been to the grocery store in the past few weeks lately? Exorbitant rates for basics and so many small wage earners not making it.

I got a 2% raise, where do you think I can get more money to pay the hikes everyone wants?

Why can't all be happy with a smaller percentage?

I feel in order to keep our bills within our paying scale, all the big corporations need to cut their CEO's million dollar wages & bonuses.

How about giving the small wage earner a break???

Thank you.

Seri Kover
1132 8th St
Clarkston, Wa 99403

This goes for both gas &
electric.

RECEIVED

DEC 06 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Mark Kochel
6319 E Greenbluff Rd
Colbert, Wa. 99005

991607
N

Sec., Wa. Utilities & Trans. Commission

251502

We are blessed to live in the N.W. where there is an abundance of hydro. electric power & natural gas. I presently pay approx. \$1200. a year for these services for a modest 1400 sq. ft. house. If the increase Avista has applied for goes into effect it will raise that amount another \$120. a year. I am just an average homeowner but is this increase really necessary?

Avista is no longer just a Utility Co. they are branching out into other areas to make money. Please, help us maintain our current rates and seriously consider this proposal. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Mark C Kochel

RECEIVED

DEC 06 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

991606

250364



Jamvand@aol.com on 11/17/99 01:56:50 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rates

Secretary, Wash. Utilities & Trans. Commission

Dear Secretary: Avista, formerly Washington Water Power has followed a course of acquisition, dividend reduction and excessive administrative overhead since the employing of a Texas go-getter as CEO. Idaho has already experienced rate hikes that were out of line with the real world of consumer capability to pay. A good many of us are retirees with extreme vulnerability to inflationary developments. The horribly low Social Security increases have been a joke. No doubt Avista's desire to continue their grandiose plans for expansion are dependent on your Commission's approval of the suggested rate increase. Nevertheless I hope, as do many more patrons of this monopolistic power provider, that you see fit to either deny the increase or reduce it to a more sensible level. Sincerely yours, John VanDewerker, Spokane WA.

Betty Young

11/18/99

04:51:01 PM



Jamvand@aol.com on 11/18/99 04:25:10 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: avista

I am happy to send you my home address: John Van Dewerker, 1218 E30th, Spokane, WA. 99203.. jv

Betty Young

11/18/99

991606
12:06:38 PM



ajones@on-ramp.ior.com (Archie) on

250566

From: ajones@on-ramp.ior.com (Archie) on
To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista's proposed Rate Increase

Archie Jones
12525 N Pittsburg
Spokane, WA 99218

>Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would
> like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would
> you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.
>
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>
>
>
>ajones@on-ramp.ior.com (Archie) on
>
>To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
>cc:
>Subject: Avista's proposed Rate Increase
>
>
>
>I'm against the increase.
>
>Doing very quick calculations, using the proposed rate schedules and my
>usage figures for the past year, shows that Avista will be increasing my
>bills by about: 18-19% for electricity; and about 10-11% for the gas...
>
>This is somewhat in excess of what they say in their proposal....
>
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>

Betty Young

11/18/99

991606
07:44:00 AM



"Mike Ainsworth" <miket@on-ramp.ior.com> on 11/17/99 07:33:54 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Outrageous 14% Rate Increase

250568

Thank you - address is:
Cathy Ainsworth
6912 N Pine Rock Pl
Spokane WA 99208

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov
To: "Mike Ainsworth" <miket@on-ramp.ior.com>
Date: Tue, 16 Nov 1999 09:57:26 -0800
Subject: Re: Outrageous 14% Rate Increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Mike Ainsworth" <miket@on-ramp.ior.com> on 11/14/99 07:43:29 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Outrageous 14% Rate Increase

Thank you for asking for our comments:

It seems outrageous to impose a 14% increase to the average public when our pay increases are only an average of 3%. I recommend you do what other businesses are doing during this difficult time. Look within for unnecessary expenditures: non-value added positions-really look at purchase orders and expenses-recycle-anything! If, after that, it is still deemed necessary - okay. However, please do not make us pay for prettier statements or fancier signs for your name change. We cannot afford it.

Thank you,
Cathy Ainsworth
Spokane, Washington
Mike Ainsworth
mailto:miket@ior.com

Have a good day!

991606

250563



duane h swartz <spkduane@juno.com> on 11/13/99 09:50:30 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: avista's proposed electric rate increase

I WISH I COULD GET A 14% INCREASE ON MY SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK. DUANE
H. SWARTZ, SPOKANE

Betty Young

11/18/99

04:51:10 PM



duane h swartz <spkduane@juno.com> on 11/18/99 04:56:09 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: avista's proposed electric rate increase

You asked for my mailing address. It is: DUANE H. SWARTZ
W.
505 HAZARD RD.
SPOKANE, WA. 99208

991606



Scott Phillipson <scottphillip@sisna.com> on 11/17/99 01:08:50 PM

Please respond to scottphillip@sisna.com

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Avista Utilities rate increase

250468

Avista Utilities has announced they have requested a rate increase.

If said rate increase is only for benefit of increased profits in the pockets of stock holders then I strongly am apposed to any rate increase.

If the rate increase is to pay for:

- a. Improved service
 - b. Make up of company losses, not profit losses
- then I would approve of rate increases in the amount required for a. or b. above.

However, the percentages listed seem to be unnecessarily high for residential and pumping service customers.

Why is it that residential and farm users are always the ones having to make up for the lower rates that industrial businesses pay so that the utilities may make larder profits?

If an increase is really needed to make up company losses, and for that purpose only, then I believe an across the board 4 percent increase would more than cover what is required, unless an audit can show truthfully otherwise.

Scott Phillipson

PO Box 70

Mead, WA 99021-0070

509-467-0626

E-Mail scottphillip@sisna.com

Betty Young

11/17/99

08:04:58 AM



"Doug A. Crockett" <dcrasn@integrityonline.com> on 11/17/99 07:57:36 AM

991606

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities

~~12~~
250415

At 09:57 AM 11/16/99 -0800, you wrote:

>Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would

> like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would

> you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

>

>My mailing address is: 131 W. Market
Latah, WA 99018

>

>

>

>"Doug A. Crockett" <dcrasn@integrityonline.com> on 11/13/99 01:25:13 PM

>

>To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

>cc:

>Subject: Avista Utilities

>

>

>

>Dear Sirs,

> I am writing this note to urge you to deny Avista's request for a rate
>increase. Since the merger with Washington Water Power their level of
>customer service has fallen off greatly. The number and length of outages
>has increased.

> They need to improve their customer service and customer relations
>before ANY increase should be considered. Thankyou for your time and
>consideration.

>

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>

>

Doug A Crockett

991606



"Lippert, Steve, Capt, 141ARW, OG" <Steve.Lippert@wafair.ang.af.mil> on 11/16/99 08:33:24 AM

164874

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Corp Utilities Increase

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing this letter expressing my concern for the recent proposed utilities increase expected for the second half of 2000. I fully understand the need to keep up with rising costs but the proposed rate increase seems a bit high with such a short noticed. I believe customers would rather see a smaller, steady increase over a given length of time then all at once. Further, having visited their web-sight this morning, I noticed that Avista Corp. reported (NYSE: AVA) "a third-quarter 1999 earnings of \$0.52 per diluted share on revenues of \$3.72 billion, compared with earnings of \$0.14 per share and revenues of \$1.43 billion in the same quarter last year." So, why do they need more revenues? Has Avista Corp out grown its intended service of providing just electricity and gas to residents. I remember some deregulation that passed awhile back that allowed individuals to receive combined services such as cable, internet, phone, utilities all under one bill. Is this what Avista Corp has gotten into? I'd like to know. Also, I would like to add that many of my colleagues in the 141 Air National Guard live or moved outside Spokane and fall under 'Inland Power and Light' (a non-profit organization) where they pay almost 50% less than they did when they first lived in the city of Spokane. With this in mind, are we allowed to choose our own power supply company under the new legislation? If not, and Avista Corp is our only utilities provider, does that make them a monopoly? With the recent events of Microsoft, I'm fairly confident a large majority Spokane residents will be watching Avista Corp's proceedings. Sincerely, Stephen R. Lippert sclipwa@msn.com

Betty Young

11/16/99

10:46:36 AM



"Lippert, Steve, Capt, 141ARW, OG" <Steve.Lippert@wafair.ang.af.mil> on
11/16/99 10:44:48 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE: Avista Corp Utilities Increase

Thanks for the reply and my address is as follows....

Stephen R. Lippert
2707 W. Gordon Ave.
Spokane WA 99205-2345

991606



BobCrouch2@aol.com on 11/14/99 12:39:58 PM

249981

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities Rate Increase

I am urging the Utilities Commission to deny the request submitted by Avista Utilities for an increase in the company's Washington electric rates. The residential increase of 14% is an incredible and unjustified amount. This utility wants to take advantage of its captive customers in order to increase unwarranted profits. People are struggling, and the recent approval of I-695 is an indication that people feel they can simply pay no more. Personally an increase would uncomfortably restrict my budget. Government agencies across our state are being forced to conserve, please afford Avista the same opportunity, and do not provide them with the ability to charge more for what is unremarkable service. Please deny the request.

Sincerely

Bob Crouch
S. 520 Cedar Street
Spokane, WA 99204

Ph: (509) 455-9880

Betty Young

11/16/99

991606
07:42:23 AM



"NAOMI DAUBERT" <juggernaub@colfax.com> on 11/12/99 07:45:09 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

249967

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: NAOMI DAUBERT <juggernaub@colfax.com>
Date: Friday, November 12, 1999 7:59 AM
Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

Thank you for your comments. I will add them to the formal record for this case. I do need your mailing address so I can add your name to our mailing list. You will then be sent additional information about the hearing on this case as it becomes available.
Thank you!

My name and address: Mrs. Naomi Daubert
2342 Morley Rd
Colfax WA 99111

Thank you for letting us know we were received! We wish the commission much wisdom in their deliberations and decision.

"NAOMI DAUBERT" <juggernaub@colfax.com> on 11/10/99 06:26:49 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase

This is a typical gouging of the public. They are making billions, and yet they want more! What about the little people struggling to have the bare necessities for their families just to survive? This is totally unnecessary, and shows a greed that looks ugly on anyone who wears it! If this is the American way, then it's time to think of the other guy instead of one's self. The caring and concern for one's fellow man has to become a priority in our every day lives. NOT GREED OR PERSONAL GAIN! No rationalization takes the place of helping others in their time of need.



- att1.htm

991606



"Jerry Tate" <taccon105@nextdim.com> on 11/12/99 10:10:33 AM

249968

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Gas and Electrical Rate Increase

I have reviewed the letter sent out by the company and I find it inconceivable that any company would lose money since 1990 on electrical. The material is very misleading. I find it interesting when the company is expanding into many areas other than gas and electric that all of a sudden we need large rate increases. Stock holders should pay for this not the users. Some points to consider.

a.. Why change the basic fee or even charge a basic fee-what have they done to improve my basic service and why is there a basic fee at all.

a.. We should be charged on what we use. I would have to see what the depreciation schedule looks like on our power grid, I've lived here since 1965 and they haven't replaced any of our lines. And when you have new service added you pay for it not them.

b.. Why is the residential and small commercial getting the highest increase

a.. If we see an increase we should all see the same percentage rather than Large general service who can sometimes go elsewhere for power get a substantial break

c.. Is the fee Avista has to pay for power from small producers going up the same rate as there increase if not that is unfair

d.. Very few consumers in the Spokane area or West side see Pay increases of 7.5 and 14.0 %

e.. If in the previous years they failed to request fee increases or didn't have them approved which means they weren't justified then so they shouldn't be making up for previous rejected increases that they didn't deserve then.

Jerry Tate
E. 8900 Maringo Drive
Spokane, WA 99212
taccon105@nextdim.com
509-926-2579



- att1.htm

991606



Ronald Russell <charlesr@clarkston.com> on 11/13/99 11:42:01 AM

Please respond to charlesr@clarkston.com

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Rate increase

~~249970~~
13727

Mr. Secretary,

I am not against Avista getting a fair return on there investment, but in my community of Clarkston, Washington, there "services" as slim to none. A 14% increase on us is kind of a hard ship for us, as we have my in-laws with us and have the oxygen concentrator running 24 hours a day which adds considerably to our bill. I hope that you use some kind of common sense in allowing them to raise there rates to us.

By the way, I wish I could receive a 14% raise in income, that would be absolutely wonderful!

Ronald C. Russell
1785 Lambert Drive
Clarkston, Washington 99403-3037
(509) 758-1535

Betty Young

11/16/99

07:43:28 AM

991606



pesrgs <pesrgs@mciworld.com> on 11/13/99 11:03:10 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Proposed Utility Rate Increase - AVISTA

249969

In response, my mailing address is: Paul E. & Rickie G. Sapp
12005 N. Normandie St.
Spokane, WA 99218-1938

Thank you & have a good day.

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: pesrgs <pesrgs@mciworld.com>
Date: Friday, November 12, 1999 11:18 AM
Subject: Re: Proposed Utility Rate Increase - AVISTA

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

pesrgs <pesrgs@mciworld.com> on 11/12/99 10:35:46 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Proposed Utility Rate Increase - AVISTA

Gentlemen:

This is in regard to proposed increases by Avista Utilities of WA filed on 10/22/99. The increases requested for residential services for electricity customers is 14%; and natural gas customers is 7.5%. This is a total of 21.5% for residential gas & electricity.

We are currently on budget billing cycle at \$133.00 per month. A 21.5% increase would amount to \$28.60 added to my monthly bill. Retired & on fixed incomes, our cost of living increases are no where near the 21.5% increase requested by Avista; and our incomes will not meet the ever increasing costs of other necessities; i.e., taxes, medicines, etc.

Are those who are on fixed incomes, and the poor to turn off the heat during winter & read by candle light? God, I hope not. We do not feel big businesses with huge payrolls and perks to CEO's need to increase their rates at the expense of those less fortunate.

We sincerely hope you will keep increases more in line with the cost of living increases we may realize; like 2+%.

991606

JIL1996@aol.com on 11/15/99 04:24:40 PM



249973

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate Increase of Avista

I recieved the notice for Washington electrical customers along with my last bill for electricity and natural gas. The information is incorrect! Avista Utilities (Company) claims that the company has not had a general electric price increase in Washington since 1990. The company (Avista) rates presently are:

\$3.00 Basic Charge, plus
First 600 kwhs 3.892 cents per kwh
Next 700 kwhs 4.673 cents per kwh
All over 1,300 kwhs 5.628 cents per kwh

PROPOSED RATES:

\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus
First 600 kwhs 4.365 cents per kwh
All over 600 kwhs 5.501 cents per kwh
Avista proposes to increase residential Schedule 1 by 14.0%!! This is outrageous.

WWP (Now known as Avista) in 1993 sent out small booklets called:
HOW TO CALCULATE ELECTRIC BILLS FOR WASHINGTON RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS.

1993 ELECTRIC MONTHLY RATE:

\$3.00 Basic charge, plus
\$.03819 per Kwh for the first 600 Kwhs
\$.04600 per Kwh for the next 700 Kwhs
\$.05555 per Kwh for all additional Kwhs

1993 NATURAL GAS RATE:

\$3.25 BASIC cHARGE, PLUS
\$.42331 PER THERM

AVISTA PRESENT RATES 1999:

\$4.00 Basic Charge, plus
All therms 37.902 cents per therm

AVISTA PROPOSED RATES:

\$5.50 Basic Charge, plus
All therms 40.069 cents per therm

As you can see the rates HAVE BEEN INCREASED SINCE 1990. I propose that the WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION REJECT THE NEW RATES PROPOSED BY AVISTA, just on the basis of false information alone, not to mention 14.0% is outrageous. I am requesting a response and am thanking you in advance.

Maggie and David Hageman
820 W. Rolland
Spokane, WA 99218
(509) 467-4448
e-mail JIL1996@AOL.com

991606

"Ruth F. Dixon" <rdix@ior.com> on 11/11/99 01:30:46 PM



Please respond to rdix@ior.com

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Protest..Residential increase

235651

We believe the proposed Residential Schedule 1 increase of 14% by Avista Utilities is completely out of line, and prohibitive...compared not only to the other proposed raises, for business and industry, but not required by Avista for successful operation and return to their shareholders.

Please add this strong protest to others concerning Avista's proposed general electric rate increase. (I believe my name is already on your mailing list to be notified of all Commission public hearings, but if not, please add it. Thank you.)

Ruth F. Dixon

Latah Ln.

WA 99224

(Mrs.)

6014 So.

Spokane,



Roger Erdman <soldatensender@juno.com> on 11/12/99 05:44:25 AM

991606

249 829

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista's Proposed Rate Increase

I get both my electricity and my natural gas from Avista Utilities. I am writing to urge either that the Commission either deny Avista's request for a rate increase, or at the very least grant only a substantially reduced increase.

The company is already making good money, and if they can afford to compensate the CEO to the tune of \$750,000.00 per year and if they can afford to have 'pricey' folks like General H. Norman Schwartzkopf on their Board of Directors; then they can damned well afford NOT to gouge the ratepayers, who are a captive market anyway!!

Roger Erdman
10208 N. Sundance Dr.
Spokane, WA 99208



"Will Johnson" <wjohnson@colfax.com> on 11/10/99 09:12:00 PM

991606
249831

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

Thanks!

My address is:
PO Box 154
Oakesdale, WA 99158

WJ

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: Will Johnson <wjohnson@colfax.com>
Date: Wednesday, November 10, 1999 8:24 AM
Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Will Johnson" <wjohnson@colfax.com> on 11/09/99 10:03:13 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase

Just say NO, no more increases. They reported a third quarter earnings of \$3.72 BILLION compared to a year ago of \$1.43 Billion. This is from their corp. web site.

I don't think the Gov. is increasing MY salary 14%, but Avista wants to increase my bill 14%.

Avista buys out WWP and all of a sudden we will have East Coast power rates, just say NO to the increase, remember the working class people of the state.

When the cable prices go up I can cancel my cable, but I can't cancel my electricity. Think about that.

Sincerely,

Will and Kris Johnson

991606



Steve Deal <Steve.Deal@sd84.k12.id.us> on 11/10/99 01:10:29 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities rate increase

249832

It seems to me that with a guaranteed return Avista already has the best of all worlds. The increase proposed for the residential ratepayer is excessive. It appears that Avista goes after those least able to organize and fight the increase.

Further the proposed increase far exceeds any inflationary increase over the period since 1990. As far as the base increase it represents 20% for natural gas and 60% for electricity. The increase for both at the base level is excessive and the service schedule rate increase is not far behind. I would hope the utilities & transportation Commission will deny the bulk of this request.

Sincerely,
Steve A. Deal
Box 474, Chewelah, Wa.

99109



"Paul Staudenmayer" <pauls@spocom.com> on 11/09/99 10:12:45 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase

991606

~~249770~~

10495

Gentlemen: I urge you to deny Avista's proposed 14 percent rate increase for residential electric customers. Myself and many others on fixed incomes can't afford such large increases. Wage increases for workers in industries and for Social Security recipients will be just over 2 percent for next year. We can not afford such a large increase as proposed by Avista. I suggest that any rate increase not exceed the average increase in wages.

Sincerely,
Paul Staudenmayer
9930 N. Moore
Spokane WA 99208



"Herzog, Margaret" <herzogm@gu.gonzaga.edu> on 11/05/99 06:41:00 AM

991606

249690

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Increase

Yesterday, we received the bill from Avista. In the bill were flyers from "Avista Merchandise Center" with products for sale that were totally unrelated to heating needs. I was taken aback by the thought that the company must be highly diversified and yet it is asking for a rate increase.

* Are we paying an increase for their investments in business ventures?

* As a monopoly in this area (Spokane City) we have no choice of service for power. Are we required to support all aspect of their business for their shareholders profit(?) to no benefit of the power users?

* In the past, the rate requests were frequently based on rate comparisons throughout the US. If this is the case, I would like to remind the commissioners that in the NW we do not ship in oil or gas to produce our power. Yet this standard has been used before. It seems like the old comparison of oranges and apples.

* When you consider this proposal, please, remember that Spokane's average wage is not on par with other cities its size and these increases should not be approved unless absolutely warranted by substantial facts based on power production and distribution alone; not on a company's profit margin.

Thank you for hearing us,
Willi and Margaret Herzog
2604 E Marshall
Spokane, WA 99207
e-mail: williherzog@hotmail.com



Williams90@aol.com on 11/05/99 01:08:09 PM

991606
249692

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities Rate Increase Comments

Dear Commission,

I am writing because I am concerned about the increase proposed for residential customers of Avista Utilities, formerly Washington Water Power.

Avista is proposing a 14% increase for residential customers. This increase is completely unacceptable. Many of their customers struggle day to day just to provide food for their families, and the amount currently charged just to heat our homes, cook our families food, bathe our children, and provide light by which to read is already more than many of us can afford.

I understand that Avista has a need for profit - it's the american way. But us customers do not have a choice in who we choose to provide our heat and electricity and feel like we're being monopolized by their company.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Williams
2203 N. Washington ST.
Spokane, WA 99205

Betty Young

11/09/99

07:49:39 AM

Penny Hansen 11/05/99 02:36 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject:

991606

Here's another one for Avista's rate case. thanks ph

Forwarded by Penny Hansen/WUTC on 11/05/99 02:53 PM

249691



Mike Meeks

11/05/99 02:26 PM

To: Penny Hansen/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject:

Hi Penny,
Did Avista file for a rate increase? If so do you know the docket number? I got a call from Robert S. Evans
3822 E. Pacific Avenue
Spokane, 99202
in regards to this.
Thanks,
Mike



Kellie Warwick <KellieW@ambassadors.com> on 11/05/99 04:20:37 PM

991606

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate Increase

249693

November 5, 1999

Kellie Warwick
1907 East Sinto Avenue
Spokane, WA 99202

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Hello Commission,

Please do not raise the electrical rates any more, they are high enough all ready. Avista is a multi-million dollar company. They are not losing money with the rates that they are currently charging for residential customers. Of course they want to raise the rates an extra 14%, the highest of all the rate increases, for the poor residential residents ! This is ridiculous, I pay enough already!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Kellie Warwick

Betty Young

11/03/99

10:32:27 AM



"Kraft, Linda J. REG1" <kraftl2@idhw.state.id.us> on 11/03/99 10:18:56 AM

249365

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE: rate increases

991606

Linda Kraft
1901 N. Sullivan Rd.
Spokane, WA 99216

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov [mailto:byoung@wutc.wa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 03, 1999 9:25 AM
To: Kraft, Linda J. REG1
Subject: Re: rate increases

Thank you for your comment. Would you please send me your mailing address so that I may officially add you to the interested persons mailing list for this issue?

Thank you.

"Kraft, Linda J. REG1" <kraftl2@idhw.state.id.us> on 11/03/99 08:20:12 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: rate increases

I feel like the residential people are carrying the full load with the increase and rates as they stand for the Avista Corp. Why should we the small user be paying more for the usage of electricity or gas??

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general electric rate increase.

99160
N
25057

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED
NOV 17 1999
POWER AFFAIRS



I Believe That The asking Rate
For Residential is Too Much.

Utilities

When a family loses said income,
they find them selves Budgeting for such
years Truly - Robert R. Reeves.



Arthur Wachtendorf <artwach@plix.com> on 12/01/99 09:32:44 PM

82453

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Proposed Elec. Rate Increase

I object to the electric rate increase for Washington residential usage proposed by Avista Utilities.

We are retired living on an almost fixed income. My Social Security payments do not increase nearly as much percentage wise as the proposed increase.

Further, I think the proposed increase is in very bad timing considering that a new CEO was recently hired at a very, very large salary. One of the first things he saw fit to do was change the company name at a considerable expense.

If their present rates do not cover their operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on investment maybe their management should be a little more careful in how they allocate and spend their money.

To go to what I consider a very unnecessary expense to change the company name and then ask for a rate increase does not sit very well. If I am going to be expected to pay for such things, then I think I should have some say in whether or not it is necessary to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arthur Wachtendorf
P.O. Box 74
1783 Dearing Rd.
Addy, WA 99101



Michael T Ingram <mingram@whitworth.edu> on 11/27/99 05:33:28 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Complaints re Avista

251294

Please explain why Avista plans to raise its rates. First, Avista changes its name. Certainly rate payers have covered the cost of that expense. The organization seems to have shifted its northwest focus to other interests that do not serve Washington residents. Second, the Spokane media reports figures of significant salaries for high ranking officers. Executive compensation is one thing, but excessive compensation is another. Please justify the salaries and parachutes for these officers. Third, Avista now includes advertisements for products in its monthly billing. Why is Avista spending time, energy, and money to get customers to purchase consumer items they can obtain from Sears or other stores? Fourth, a ten percent increase will harm our region's poorest citizens, especially during the winter months. Please reject this audacious proposal and maintain the current utility rates.

Dr. Mike Ingram

home- 515 E Ballard Rd, Colbert, WA 99005

Betty Young

12/02/99

01:01:42 PM



"Dan Stilson" <dwstilso@lewiston.com> on 12/02/99 12:58:50 PM

251282

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista rates

Susan Boyd
906 Fourth Street
Clarkston WA 99403

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: Dan Stilson <dwstilso@lewiston.com>
Date: Thursday, December 02, 1999 7:52 AM
Subject: Re: Avista rates

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Dan Stilson" <dwstilso@lewiston.com> on 12/01/99 02:24:39 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rates

No raise is necessary to Avista's rates. If Avista would stop giving their highest paid employees exorbitant bonuses and raises, no raise in rates would be necessary. Most of us do not make close to the base salary of Avista's corporate employees, and bonuses on top of that huge salary is a slap in the face to Avista's customers who are told that rates need to go up to cover costs.



- att1.htm



250890

991606

To: Penny Hansen/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Public Comment from WebSite

(Embedded image moved to file: pic00671.pcx)	(Embedded image moved to file: pic02099.pcx)
--	--

Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here, will be included in the formal record.

To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	Rick Miller
	1603 E Sharpsburg
Your Street Address: (We need your address in	City: Spokane , State: Wa Zip: 99217

order to process your comment)	
Your County:	Spokane
Phone Numbers:	Home: 5094670828 Day/Work:
Your E-Mail address:	rickathymis@msn.com
Date:	11/23/99
Your Comment:	I just got a notice of a rate increase and I am upset as I am trying to live on a fixed income and spent thousands on a new gas heater and hot water heater. The whole point was to live more efficiently and I no sooner did this and Avista wants a increase. I don't see them doing without new trucks big wages for upper management etc. I am tired of a never ending blank check these big companies think they have. thank you Rick Miller
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?	

Notice of Public Record:


Electronic messages received at the Commission will be treated the same as if the message had been sent via the post office (paper correspondence). You may expect to receive a response within a reasonable time period. Please be aware that all information you submit using this form is public record, and is subject to public inspection in compliance with RCW 42.17.260.


1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW - Olympia, WA 98504-7250

E-Mail: Webmaster@wutc.wa.gov Phone: 360-664-1160 (in state toll-free:

1-800-562-6150)

FAX: 360-586-1150

 - pic00671.pcx

 - pic02099.pcx

991606



OILDOC1@aol.com on 11/20/99 11:53:05 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate increase

I can't believe Avista wants a 10.4% overall increase. This state has one of the lowest costs to produce electricity in the nation.

Naturally they want to hit the little guy the hardest with a 14% increase. I am sick and tired of big business sticking it to the average person.

I understand costs go up and prices must follow, but this is ridiculous.

I am asking you to send this back to Avista and ask them to evaluate why they bought the business from WWP if they knew they were going to loose money.

I already know the answer, they figured they could buy the business for a cheap price and then lobby or push the commission into a favorable decision on rates.

Please do what is right for the people, reject this proposal and make them rewrite one that is fair to the consumer.

Thank you,

Average Joe Consumer

Betty Young

11/24/99

09:26:32 AM



OILDOC1@aol.com on 11/24/99 09:28:38 AM

250888

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Rate increase

A.J.C.
8901 E. Trent, Suite 103, PMB 339
Millwood, WA 99212

RECEIVED
991606 (N)
NOV 22 1999
250741
WASH. UT. & TR. COMM

To Whom It May Concern,
Avista has really got
quite, madly even brass
balls to even ask for
a rate increase!

You charge way more
than enough for your
services & elec. to last
you over for the
next 400 years!!

I used to farm!
Since when have
we seen a damn
increase in our crop
prices. We are told
what we will be paid
for every thing we
raise! You people need
to have to pay \$10 a loaf
for bread.

To hell with your

991606 (N)
250743

Secretary, Washington State Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED

NOV 22 1999

RE: AVISTA Utilities request for rate increase.

WASH. UT. & TR. COMM.

Dear Sirs,

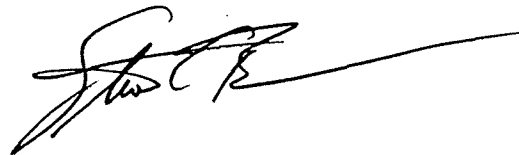
I find that the request of Avista Utilities for a 14% increase to be excessive, considering that the residential customer has no choice of service provider for the most part. Most would consider this a monopoly.

I work within the electrical supply industry and costs have been going down! I do however see constant waste of otherwise serviceable products. Elimination of this waste would more than make up for any perceived cost increase on the part of Avista.

Also I find it common place when dealing with governmental agencies, that more than needed is always asked for, as they know that they will never get what they really want. I say want, as it is a very different term than need.

I ask that the commission carefully scrutinize this request, before considering any increase.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Blind
3915 S. Sunderland Drive
Spokane, WA 99206-8629

RECEIVED

NOV 22 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

991606 (N)
250746

NOV. 18, 1999

ELOIKA PINES MOBILE HOME PARK
MANAGERS UNIT # 55
N. 40414 NEWPORT HWY
ELK, WA. 99009
1-509-292-0661

RECEIVED

NOV 22 1999

WASH. UT. & TR. COMM.

WA. UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
P. O. BOX 47250
OLYMPIA, WA. 98504-7250

TO THE COMMISSIONER;

I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF THE 55 (FIFTY-FIVE) HOMES IN OUR MOBILE HOME PARK COMMUNITY. MANY OF OUR TENANTS ARE COMPRISED OF LOWER OR FIXED INCOME BRACKETS AND ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE FACT OF A POSSIBLE RATE INCREASE. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO ANY INCREASE AS OUR FAMILIES JUST SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD THIS.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS LETTER AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONSIDER IT AND CAN APPRECIATE OUR CONCERNS REGARDING ANY INCREASE OF RATES.

SINCERELY,



CYNTHIA L. CASTON
MANAGER

RECEIVED

NOV 22 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

991606 (N)
80979

Don & Arlene Lee
N. 3605 Simpson Road
Otis Orchards, WA 99027-9797
17 November 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED

NOV 22 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

To the Secretary and all members of the commission:

We received a notice from our local electric company, Avista Utilities notifying us they have filed with you for an increase in electric rates. Please accept this letter in opposition to the 14% rate increase. We understand an increase is inevitable, but our retirement increases have been in the 2 or 3% category. Consequently we find the 14% to be excessive. This drastic increase will only add to more and more inflation, the very thing we don't need. If you remember back a few years what inflation did to us all, we're sure you will agree this is not good for our economy.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Lee
Arlene D. Lee

RECEIVED

NOV 22 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

991606 (2)
250758

RECEIVED
NOV 22 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Secretary
Washington Utilities & Trans. Comm.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Secretary and Commission :

This concerns the October 22, 1999, request from Avista Utilities Company for a proposed rate increase for their natural gas and electrical rates.

While it may be true that the rates in question need to be raised, we would question how these raises are distributed. On both the gas and electric rate increases, the largest increase is for residential customers and the increase is approximately 50% more than the rate increases for commercial and industrial customers. Obviously the residential customers are bearing the largest burden of this proposed rate increase and the residential customer is the one who can least afford it!

If a rate increase is to be granted to Avista, make it a smaller percentage raise than what they propose and distribute the raise more equitably among residential and commercial/industrial customers. We would also question the logic of charging higher rates for more kilowatts used in their electrical rates.

As your Commission considers this proposed rate increase please also consider the issues we have raised. For this we thank you.

Sincerely,



Gary Hutson

Mr. Gary D. Hutson
2628 W. Olympic Ave.
Spokane, WA 99205-5727

RECEIVED
NOV 22 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

To:
Secretary, Washington UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION Commission : 991606
250754 N

I disagree 100% ON THIS INCREASE, I
BARELY MAKE 7.50 PER HOUR BEFORE TAXES. I
HAVE A DISABLED PERSON LIVING WITH ME, I CAN
BARELY MAKE IT NOW, HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME
TO PAY AN EXTRA \$10. PER MONTH? AN INCREASE WILL
DO NOTHING BUT HURT POOR PEOPLE! DO YOU WANT
WASHINGTON STATE TO BE LIKE THE EAST COAST
WHERE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T HEAT THEIR HOUSES
ARE FOUND FROZEN TO DEATH? IF THERE IS
GOING TO BE AN INCREASE DO IT TO THE COMMERCIAL
BUSINESSSES, WE'RE TO ONES THAT SUPPORT ^{THEM} WHEN
WE BUY WHAT THEY SELL! THEY CAN AFFORD IT,
NOT US!

Thank you!
Diana L. Bailey
2353-Hillview Ct,
CLARKSTON, WA

RECEIVED

NOV 18 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

99403

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PS, I CAN'T AFFORD TO
DRIVE TO SPOKANE FOR A
PUBLIC HEARING, PLEASE
KEEP ME ADVISED!

991606
991607
N
N

91164

November 15, 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED
RECEIVED NOV 18 1999
NOV 17 1999 WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Secretary,

I would like to comment on the proposed gas and electric rate increase requested by Avista Utilities.

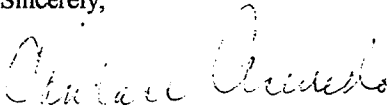
I believe that the rate increase if approved would only accomplish a higher investment return to the shareholders and the executive officers, who are already paid an *astronomical* amount of money. These are very well to do people. Their salaries are a matter of public information. I can't understand the misuse of the ratepayer's money by Avista Utilities. I know that there are other avenues that Avista could explore to implement cost savings if they wanted. The amount of misuse of the ratepayers' money by this company is what angers their customers

So yes, I have a problem with their request for a rate increase. They can make up the amount needed to cover their electric operating expenses and to recover expenses to their gas facilities by more constructive cost saving measures, such as eliminating some of their frugal spending habits, expense accounts, bonuses, and decreasing the amount of money paid their management and executive officers.

They have requested an unreasonable rate increase. Washington is already the 25th highest taxed state in the nation and Spokane, WA. is known for having one of the lowest wage scales per capita yet with the same high tax base. I for one am getting tired of the rich getting richer by placing further financial burdens on the backs of the middle class and for the poor it leaves them with a choice of do I pay for utilities or buy food for my family.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my comments and concerns. My desire is that you would give the people a break, not the big business entity that comes crying for relief because of their inability to manage their internal affairs.

Sincerely,



Candace Acevedo
3712 E Courtland Avenue
Spokane, WA. 99217

Nov 15-99
991606 (N)

75019

RECEIVED
NOV 22 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation

To: Honorable Max Baucus -

Trustee's request to increase residential rates 14% is, in my opinion, outrageous.

The majority of Eastern Washington residents do not make large wages.

An increase of 14% is a hardship - for especially low income and senior citizens.

For 70 year old - receive \$473 per month after Medicare and supplement my income making 50 hours a month. They don't I plan better?

New generation of women more likely have careers & mothers. I for one, helped my husband and he received the benefits of social security based on both of our labor. After a divorce there was no money left to build up my own and maintain my day expenses.

Security - there is better way to take care of ourselves for a little than placing such a large increase and hardship on their most residential ~~customers~~ customers. They don't blame us for their problems.

and large pay increases the Administration receives. Their employees don't get any good wages.

Respectfully,

Emma M. Carlson
3112 W. South Street
Spokane WA 99224

RECEIVED
NOV 22 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

991606 (17)

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1999

WASH. UT. & TR. COMM.

PO Box 74
Sprague WA 99032
17 November 1999

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1999

Secretary
Washington Utilities
and Transportation Commission
Olympia WA 98504-7250
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Secretary:

Re: The increase
in Washington's electrical
rates:

All things
considered: the increase
is quite fair and
substantiated.

For me:
Electricity is a basic
component.

Warmest wishes
for your approval of this
request -

Sprinkel
1223230

991606 (N)

RECEIVED 9678

NOV 19 1999

~~11/15/~~ CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Secretary, Washington Utilities
and Transportation Commission

RECEIVED

P.O. Box 47250

NOV 19 1999

Olympia, Wa 98504 - 7250 WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Dear Sir:

I am not in favor of the raise in electric rates for Avista. The reason is the wages in Spokane are very low. We have a lot of people just getting by on two people's minimum wages. Many children don't get enough food and no medical care.

Avista has been selling a lot of stocks and because of that the raise is needed for their interest on them. If they can't afford the interest they shouldn't sell the stocks.

On every one of our bills

there is a place to donate
to project share which is
for people who cannot afford
to pay their bills.

This raise if allowed is
going to make a lot of families
go without heat and lights,
and away to cook their food.

Big companies don't consider the
needs of their customers all
they are interested in is their
quest for money and expansion.

There are many people in this
city that are elderly and
on fixed income and in order
to have money for medicine they
have to do without food.

I think low income families
should be given thought before
raises are made.

Sincerely
Ruth Herman
1209 So. Maple
Spokane 99204

991606 (NOV)
250620

RECEIVED
NOV 19 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

618 W 24th Avenue
Spokane WA 99203
18 November 1999
RECEIVED

NOV 19 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

I am appalled that Avista is asking for a rate hike!! My utility bill is totally out of sight and I have less people living in my home at this time than when I was raising my family. My highest bill used to be \$50.00, and now it is \$100.00 or more each month. I certainly do not understand why the poor homeowner should bear the brunt of the increase that they are asking. Seems to me like the business should pick up a larger percentage. They always seem to get special rates, such as Kaiser Aluminum.

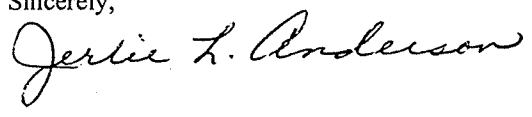
Other than the wages of the employees being raised, I do not understand why our cost of electricity should increase:

1. Our dams have been built for many years and the electric company is harnessing a natural resource, so the price of the fuel to run the generators has not increased in price.
2. I have taken numerous tours of dams and have been told by the people at these dams that they only have to go through and tune up the generators every five years, so that should not be too costly.
3. I think that the stockholders in utility companies should not expect to receive huge returns on their stocks. I am getting ready to retire and am going to have to move out of my home because I simply cannot afford the utility bills anymore.
4. I have also heard that all the electricity on the Columbia River which is run by the Bonneville Power is sold outside the two states (Washington and Oregon) that the river separates. If this is true, I do not think that it is in the best interests of the consumers to raise their rates, It will just make for many hard feelings.

I would certainly hope that you would look into some of these things before you give Avista the rate proposal that they are asking. It is a shame when the various people who control the utilities of this country are forcing the older people out of their homes. My utilities have gotten to the point that they cost more today than my house payment was when I purchased my home.

In talking to my fellow employees, they all feel that there should be more justification before a rate increase is given.

Sincerely,



Jerlie L Anderson

November 11, 1999
6:37 p.m.

Edward Jones

Paul E. Buxton
(509)684-8414

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE
TABLE - Avista Corp. <AVA.N> Q3 pr(NEWS)

TABLE - Avista Corp. <AVA.N> Q3 profits rise
SPOKANE, Wash., Oct 26 (Reuters) -
Avista Corp.

(Dollars in Thousands except Per Share Amounts)

	3rd Quarter		Year-to-Date	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
OPERATING REVENUES				
	\$3,718,109	\$1,434,055	\$6,366,047	\$2,661,290
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Resource costs				
Operations and maintenance	3,596,506	1,289,400	5,981,449	2,191,459
Administrative and general	41,502	61,339	131,887	164,887
Depreciation and amortization	31,332	30,022	90,551	92,519
Taxes other than income taxes	18,570	17,622	56,901	52,225
	12,002	11,369	39,032	37,255
Total operating expenses	3,699,912	1,409,752	6,299,820	2,538,345
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	18,197	24,303	66,227	122,945
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):				
Interest expense	(15,855)	(17,104)	(47,593)	(51,151)
Net gain on subsidiary transactions	43,054	48	58,648	7,579
Other - net	1,779	2,341	10,576	7,639
Total other income (expense) - net	28,978	(14,715)	21,631	(35,933)
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	47,175	9,588	87,858	87,012
INCOME TAXES	19,562	881	32,348	30,430
NET INCOME	27,613	8,707	55,510	56,582
DEDUCT - Preferred stock dividend requirements	5,340	608	16,107	2,219
INCOME AVAILABLE FOR COMMON STOCK	22,273	8,099	39,403	54,363
Average common shares outstanding (thousands),				
Basic	36,634	55,960	39,077	55,960
Diluted	52,055	55,960	54,559	55,960
EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE,				
BASIC	0.61	0.14	1.01	0.97
DILUTED (Note 1)	0.52	0.14	0.98	0.97

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

INCOME AVAILABLE FOR COMMON STOCK BY BUSINESS SEGMENT:

Energy Delivery and Generation and Resources	(4,628)	5,903	25,338	37,663
National Energy Trading and Marketing	(297)	(345)	(19,604)	5,744
Non-energy	27,198	2,541	33,669	10,956

Note 1. To calculate 1999 diluted earnings per share, preferred stock dividend requirements associated with convertible preferred stock are added back to income available to common stock. No convertible preferred stock was outstanding at Sept. 30, 1998.

FINANCIAL AND OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

(Dollars in Thousands)

For the Nine Months

(Revision 10/26/99 7:43 Access 712010)

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RECEIVED

NOV 13 1999

EDWARD JONES

991606 (N)

Edward Jones

November 11, 1999
6:37 p.m.

Paul E. Buxton
(509)684-8414

250617

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE
TABLE - Avista Corp. <AVA.N> Q3 pr(NEWS)

	Ended September 30	
	1999	1998
Energy Delivery		
Retail Electric Revenues	\$139,826	\$158,549
Retail KWh Sales (in millions)	6,025	5,802
Retail Electric Customers at End of Period		
	307,138	303,386
Total Natural Gas Revenues	132,204	129,499
Total Therm Sales (in thousands)	486,129	504,455
Total Natural Gas Customers at End of Period		
	262,498	256,416
Generation and Resources		
Revenues	533,784	466,994
KWh Sales (in millions)	15,061	14,764
National Energy Trading and Marketing		
Revenues	5,444,698	1,752,223
KWh Sales (in millions)	102,556	42,116
Natural Gas Sales		
(average BCF/day at end of period)	2.46	0.95
Coal Sales (in tons)	1,121,024	--
Non-energy		
Revenues	119,581	162,083

NOTE: The revenues by business segment do not total to the amounts reported on the Consolidated Comparative Statements of Income due to intersegment eliminations of \$4,046,000 and \$8,058,000 in the 1999 and 1998 periods, respectively.

((--New York Equity News 212 859-1700, or nyc.equities.newsroom@reuter.com))
REUTERS

(Revision 10/26/99 7:43 Access 712010)

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It would seem with such profits
a rate increase should not be warranted

Luis Haag
680 E 1st
Columbia WA
99114
509-684-4400

991606 (N)

30312

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Dear Sirs:

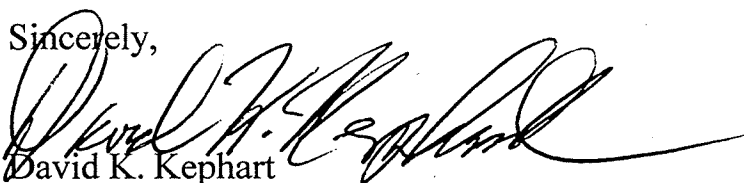
I do not believe that Avista Utilities deserves a rate increase. As far I am concerned they need a rate decrease. I am totally against it & I am including some copies of recent notices that Avista has sent to us. They come repeatedly every single month, even if we are one day late on our payment. They also sent a very nasty letter to me threatening me as you would read in the letter.

Avista Utilities knows that we are on a fixed, disability income & they keep hounding us month after month with NO let up whatsoever. When they were Washington Water Power Co., they were never this bad or this relentless in their pursuits on accounts. I am of the opinion that they thrive on picking on the people who have problems keeping up with the world in general.

Again I will repeat that I am totally against Advista Utilities receiving a rate hike.

Thank You!

Sincerely,



David K. Kephart

E. 1626 Ninth Ave.

Spokane, WA 99202-3420

RECEIVED
NOV 19 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM



PAST DUE NOTICE

S-236f (6-99)

CHARGES FOR SERVICES AT 1626 E 9TH AVE

WERE DUE ON 07/26/99

NAME DAVID K KEPHART

ACCOUNT NUMBER

1113181

ENERGY BALANCE \$ 155.58

DEPOSIT BALANCE \$.00

PURCHASED PRODUCTS AND CONTRACT BALANCES ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THIS NOTICE.

OUR RECORDS INDICATE YOUR ACCOUNT IS PAST DUE.

THE LAST PAYMENT WE RECEIVED WAS ON JUL 07 1999 FOR \$ 87.25
 TO VOID SHUT-OFF OF YOUR ENERGY SERVICE, WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR PAYMENT
 OF \$ 155.58 BY 08/10/99.

PLEASE CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER AT THE TOLL FREE NUMBER LISTED BELOW.

IMPORTANT: A CHARGE MAY BE NECESSARY IF A SERVICEMAN COLLECTS THE AMOUNT PAST DUE TO PREVENT SHUT-OFF. IF YOUR SERVICE IS SHUT OFF, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A DEPOSIT IN ADDITION TO A RECONNECT FEE.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SENT YOUR PAYMENT PLEASE ACCEPT OUR THANKS.

AVISTA UTILITIES

TOLL FREE TELEPHONE
 1-800-227-9187

ALTIMET
 PHARMACY # 000001
 AVISTA UTILITIES
 TO AVISTA 1601826
 778 28/17/99 2194 PM
 155.58 CASH PD
 155.58 TOTAL PD
 40.00
 989501 QNL
 070799 3782
 07011910
 01 AUG 09 09:11 AM
 01 STATEMENT
 CHARGE DUE

PAYMENTS MADE AT PAYSTATIONS TAKE 3-4 DAYS TO POST TO YOUR ACCOUNT

90 DAYS + BALANCE	60 DAY BALANCE	30 DAY BALANCE	CURRENT BALANCE	TOTAL PAST DUE
		\$91.09	\$64.49	\$155.58

PLEASE READ OTHER SIDE FOR IMPORTANT CUSTOMER INFORMATION

FIELD REQUEST: 736060287 ORIGINAL AVISTA UTILITIES OFFICE: SPOKANE
ACCOUNT: 001113181 CK DGT: 0 OPEN 06/21/81 E G

DAVID K KEPHART
1626 E 9TH AVE
SPOKANE WA 99202

PREM NUM: 3553
ROUTE NUM: 070313
ACTIVITY:

***** FIELD REQUEST *****
REASON: 24 HOUR NOTICE : NON PAYMENT BALANCE AND DEPOSIT SEND DATE: 06/24/99

DAY PHONE: NIGHT PHONE: (509)535-6563
MSG PHONE: REQUESTED BY: 7984
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: ~~\$87.25+\$222.00=\$309.25~~ CASH ONLY

DATE TAKEN	06/22/99	08.08	BY PHH	CURRENT TRNSFMR CNT:	000				
SRV METER NUM	STAT	DSCN	RATE	REV	*RDG INSTR*	KEY #	PREV RDG	PRES RDG	RC
E 45330888	0		001	01	SO GW XB	00000	000000984	_____	_____
G 00124688	0		101	01	WO XB	00000	000001525	_____	_____

TRANSACTIONS			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	CR	CD
06/16/99	70	7.50	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	3	0	2	0	1	
06/16/99	51	118.38	TODAYS BALANCE:													\$52.46
06/09/99	CB	91.09	CURRENT CHARGES:													\$91.09
05/26/99	20	140.00CR	30 DAY ARREARS:													\$38.63CR
05/17/99	20	118.38CR	60 DAY ARREARS:													\$0.00
05/10/99	CB	101.37	90 DAY ARREARS:													\$0.00
04/14/99	20	322.54CR	120 DAY ARREARS:													\$0.00
04/09/99	CB	118.38	DEPOSIT DUE AMT:													\$222.00
			PRIOR OBLIGATION:													\$0.00

UNLESS WE RECEIVE NOTIFICATION THAT YOUR PAYMENT WAS MADE BY 5:00PM 7/16/99
YOUR ELECTRIC/GAS SERVICE WILL BE SHUT OFF WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

IF CHECKED YOUR SERVICE HAS BEEN TURNED OFF.

WHEN A FIELD COLLECTION VISIT RESULTS IN COLLECTING PAYMENT, A CHARGE OF \$8.00 PER VISIT WILL BE MADE. THIS CHARGE WILL BEGIN WITH THE SECOND AND ANY ADDITIONAL VISITS IN ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD.

IF YOUR ELECTRIC/GAS SERVICE HAS BEEN TURNED OFF, IT WILL BE TURNED ON AFTER THE REASONS FOR SHUT OFF HAVE BEEN CORRECTED AND PAST DUE CHARGES HAVE BEEN PAID. THE RECONNECT CHARGE IS \$16.00 DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS AND \$32.00 DURING ALL OTHER HOURS.

AN INFORMAL OR FORMAL COMPLAINT CONCERNING THIS ACTION MAY BE FILED WITH THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, CHANDLER PLAZA BUILDING, 1300 S EVERGREEN PARK DR S.W., PO BOX 47250, OLYMPIA, WA 98504 TELEPHONE (360)664-1120 OR TOLL FREE 1-800-562-6150.

OFFICE: 1411 E MISSION SPOKANE WA 99202 PHONE: 1-888-427-3403

1
F
300-427-3403 FAX 509-485-4134

FIELD REQUEST: 589054718 DUPLICATE AVISTA UTILITIES OFFICE: SPOKANE
ACCOUNT: 1113181 OPEN 06/21/81 E G

DAVID K KEPHART
1626 E 9TH AVE
SPOKANE WA 99202

PREM NUM: 3553
ROUTE NUM: 070313
ACTIVITY:

* * * * * FIELD REQUEST * * * * *
REASON: COLLECT OR DISCONNECT : RETURNED CHECK SEND DATE: 01/15/99

DAY PHONE: NIGHT PHONE: (509)535-6563
MSG PHONE: REQUESTED BY: bmr 5941
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: need \$109.11, chk #1000 was nsf, account past due \$263.08

DATE TAKEN	SRV METER NUM	STAT	DSCN	RATE	REV	*RDG	INSTR*	KEY #	PREV RDG	PRES RDG	RC
01/15/99	45330888	O		001	01	SO	GE XB	00000	000000330		
	00124688	O		101	01	WO	XB	00000	000000767		

TRANSACTIONS			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	CR	CD
01/12/99	CB	202.72	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	3	0	2	0	2	
01/12/99	70	7.50	TODAYS BALANCE:													\$465.80
01/12/99	51	109.11	CURRENT CHARGES:													\$202.72
12/31/98	20	109.11CR	30 DAY ARREARS:													\$263.08
12/09/98	CB	146.47	60 DAY ARREARS:													\$0.00
11/06/98	CB	109.11	90 DAY ARREARS:													\$0.00
10/19/98	20	206.20CR	120 DAY ARREARS:													\$0.00
10/08/98	CB	73.34	DEPOSIT DUE AMT:													\$0.00
			PRIOR OBLIGATION:													\$0.00

X WE ARE SORRY BUT UNLESS WE HEAR FROM YOU BY 5:00PM 1/21/99 YOUR ELECTRIC/GAS SERVICE WILL BE SHUT OFF WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

 IF CHECKED YOUR SERVICE HAS BEEN TURNED OFF.

WHEN A FIELD COLLECTION VISIT RESULTS IN COLLECTING PAYMENT, A CHARGE OF \$8.00 PER VISIT WILL BE MADE. THIS CHARGE WILL BEGIN WITH THE SECOND AND AN ADDITIONAL VISITS IN ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD.

IF YOUR ELECTRIC/GAS SERVICE HAS BEEN TURNED OFF, IT WILL BE TURNED ON AFTER THE REASONS FOR SHUT OFF HAVE BEEN CORRECTED AND PAST DUE CHARGES HAVE BEEN PAID. THE RECONNECT CHARGE IS \$16.00 DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS AND \$32.00 DURING ALL OTHER HOURS.

AN INFORMAL OR FORMAL COMPLAINT CONCERNING THIS ACTION MAY BE FILED WITH THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, CHANDLER PLAZA BUILDING, 1300 S EVERGREEN PARK DR S.W., PO BOX 47250, OLYMPIA, WA 98504 TELEPHONE (360)753-1279 OR TOLL FREE 1-800-562-6150.

OFFICE: 1411 E MISSION SPOKANE WA 99202 PHONE: 1-888-427-3403

1 800 473 0481

FIELD REQUEST: 491065007 ORIGINAL AVISTA UTILITIES OFFICE: SPOKANE
ACCOUNT: 001113181 CK DGT: 0 OPEN 06/21/81 E G

DAVID K KEPHART
1626 E 9TH AVE
SPOKANE WA 99202

PREM NUM: 3553
ROUTE NUM: 070313
ACTIVITY:

***** FIELD REQUEST *****
REASON: 7DAY DISCONNECT: NSF CHECK DUE SEND DATE: 09/29/99

DAY PHONE: NIGHT PHONE: (509) 535-6563
MSG. PHONE: REQUESTED BY: bmr 7941

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: cash or money order only - need \$85.23, chk 1110 was written on closed bnk acct, payment due 10/8

DATE TAKEN	SRV METER NUM	STAT	DSCN	RATE	REV	*RDG	INSTR*	KEY #	PREV RDG	PRES RDG	RDG	RC
09/29/99				09.00	BY BMR		CURRENT	TRNSFMR	CNT: 000			
E	45330888	O		001	01	SO	GW XB	00000	000001323			
G	00124688	O		101	01	WO	XB	00000	000001639			

TRANSACTIONS			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	CR	CD
09/22/99	70	7.50	2	0	2	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	
09/22/99	51	155.58	TODAYS BALANCE:													\$325.71
09/14/99	70	7.50	CURRENT CHARGES:													\$70.23
09/14/99	51	240.36	30 DAY ARREARS:													\$395.94CR
09/09/99	CB	70.23	60 DAY ARREARS:													\$0.00
09/08/99	20	240.36CR	90 DAY ARREARS:													\$0.00
08/27/99	20	240.36CR	120 DAY ARREARS:													\$0.00
08/18/99	20	155.58CR	DEPOSIT DUE AMT:													\$0.00
			PRIOR OBLIGATION:													\$0.00

~~X~~ UNLESS WE RECEIVE NOTIFICATION THAT YOUR PAYMENT WAS MADE BY 5:00PM 10/8 YOUR ELECTRIC/GAS SERVICE WILL BE SHUT OFF WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

___ IF CHECKED YOUR SERVICE HAS BEEN TURNED OFF.

WHEN A FIELD COLLECTION VISIT RESULTS IN COLLECTING PAYMENT, A CHARGE OF \$8.00 PER VISIT WILL BE MADE. THIS CHARGE WILL BEGIN WITH THE SECOND AND AN ADDITIONAL VISITS IN ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD.

IF YOUR ELECTRIC/GAS SERVICE HAS BEEN TURNED OFF, IT WILL BE TURNED ON AFTER THE REASONS FOR SHUT OFF HAVE BEEN CORRECTED AND PAST DUE CHARGES HAVE BEEN PAID. THE RECONNECT CHARGE IS \$16.00 DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS AND \$32.00 DURING ALL OTHER HOURS.

AN INFORMAL OR FORMAL COMPLAINT CONCERNING THIS ACTION MAY BE FILED WITH THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, CHANDLER PLAZA BUILDING, 1300 S EVERGREEN PARK DR S.W., PO BOX 47250, OLYMPIA, WA 98504 TELEPHONE (360)664-1120 OR TOLL FREE 1-800-562-6150.

OFFICE: 1411 E MISSION

SPOKANE

WA 99202 PHONE: 1-888-427-3403

Presentation of an NSF check for payment is against the law and punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. Avista Corp. will no longer accept your checks. Any further NSF checks will be turned over to local law enforcement agencies for collection and prosecution.

Betty Young

11/23/99

991606

12:14:30 PM



"Lothar A. Kreck" <kreck@wsu.edu> on 11/23/99 11:54:46 AM

~~280873~~
57112

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: avista rate increase

At 01:19 PM 11/22/99 -0800, you wrote:

>Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

>

> Lothar A. Kreck
818SW Crestview, Pullman WA 99163

>

>

>

>"Lothar A. Kreck" <kreck@wsu.edu> on 11/22/99 01:00:32 PM

>

>To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

>cc:

>Subject: avista rate increase

>

>

>

>Secretary, WUTC

>

>We are shocked about the requested 14% rate increase AND the increase of the basic charge. (The basic charge increase would have been acceptable.)>, but both-----)

>The real issue to the above situation is the lack of COMPETITION in our State. I just returned from Germany where just 3-4 months ago electric power competition has started----and that in a country of very questionable and partially suppressed 'free trade' --a fact little known in the US. What a progress!

>THAT IS WHAT WE NEED IN THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY--FREE TRADE.

>

>Thank you

>LAK

>

>

>

>

>

991606 (N)

230528
NOV 12, 1999

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Secretary,

I am definitely opposed to the 14% residential increase submitted by ~~the~~ Ansta Utilities! I live in an energy efficient home - but can't afford the space in my less than 1000 square foot home to switch to natural gas - let alone the cost of installation & new appliances.

Please carefully review the proposal. 14% seems incredibly steep. When cost of living rises in pay checks come no where close to that!

Thank you

Melody King
3102 W. So. Loop
Spokane, WA
99224

509-838-2340

991606 (N)

250 531

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED

NOV

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 November, 1999

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

I have received the notification entitled "Important Notice For Washington Electric Customers: November, 1999". As per the instructions, I offer the following comments, which I would like to make, for the record.

First of all, now that the court has decided that Microsoft is a monopoly, perhaps we can dare to hope that victimization at the hands of monopolies will soon be a thing of the past. Since I have no option or choice as to who my electrical provider is, I will deal with Avista. If I had a choice however, I would not willingly give my money to any company that tried to raise its rates during such tough financial times.

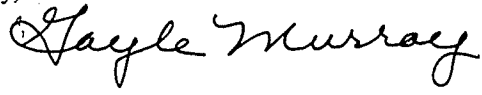
We live in times of great difficulty in money matters, and I'd be willing to bet on the fact that Avista's position is a lot more secure than mine. I have no sympathy for Avista's insistence that it doesn't make enough off of us. I've seen the building that Avista occupies. My small dwelling is testimony that they're a lot better off than I am.

I am a recovering cancer patient, with a degenerative spinal condition. My only source of income is SSI and Food Stamps. The approximately \$10 raise that you make sound to be such a paltry amount, adds up to money you don't have when you live on a fixed income.

In the past 30 days, we have had three unaccounted for 'power outs' in this grid. No one can or will explain them and I can't even get a 'live' person to talk to on their automated phone service. As a result of one of the events, my computer suffered some damage (when the power came back on.) I have two surge protectors, yet my system was rather seriously damaged. I depend on my computer to help me to earn extra money, as my SSI only provides for my rent. So I am now going to have to take money out of my own pocket, to pay for what Avista refuses to own up to. As you can imagine, having them ask for a rate increase at this time is ridiculous when you're sitting where I am.

I would appreciate it if this rate increase were postponed. Avista hasn't even proved that it's "Y2K" proof yet, let alone that they can maintain service to my address without frying my electrical equipment. Please deny this request.

Sincerely,



Rev. Gayle Murray
625 East 7th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99202

991606 (N)

25053



THE SESSIONS FAMILY

Steve, Becky, Paul and Amanda

329 W DALTON

SPOKANE, WA 99205

Telephone (509)325-0160

November 9, 1999

RECEIVED
NOV 12 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

To whom it may concern:

My husband and I received notice today that Avista Utilities wishes to raise electrical rates. Our concern is that our Avista utility bill is already so high that we could not possibly afford these rate hikes. We have forced air gas heat, and since our heat comes from a furnace, we would be hit double because it takes electricity to power the fan. I figured out that on a bill of \$36 for gas and \$75 for electricity, which is a total of \$111, our rates would increase by \$2.70 for gas and \$10.50 for electricity. This would make the electricity portion \$85.50 and the gas portion \$38.70, for a new total of \$124.20. This is a total increase of \$13.20. Months in which the weather is colder and more heat is required for our very old house, (we have plugged every hole we could find and our landlords have insulated for us, in addition to covering every window with plastic), the bill would be higher. We have two children to support and we are on a limited income. An increase in rates would hurt us very badly! We cannot afford rate hikes! And what concerns me even more is that Avista has a monopoly where we live. We cannot choose another power company if we feel another one would be more economical for us. There are other power companies in the Spokane area but for the area we live in, they cannot supply us with power. Only Avista is allowed.

Sincerely,
Becky Sessions
Steve Sessions

Becky Sessions
Steve Sessions

RECEIVED
NOV 12 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

991606 (NO)

250525

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington electric rates totaling \$26.3 million or 10.4%. The Company has not had a general electric price increase in Washington since 1990. The rates approved over nine years ago no longer cover the Company's annual electric operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment necessary to provide electric service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential rates of 14%, which is higher than the overall requested increase of 10.4%, as the present rates for residential service recover substantially less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical electric-heat customer using an average of 1,500 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$10.38; a typical non-electric heat customer (gas, oil, etc.) using an average of 820 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$6.66. The present and proposed rates for Residential Schedule 1 are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>		<u>Proposed Rates</u>	
\$3.00 Basic Charge, plus		\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus	
First 600 kwhs	3.892¢ per kwh	First 600 kwhs	4.365¢ per kwh
Next 700 kwhs	4.673¢ per kwh	All over 600 kwhs	5.501¢ per kwh
All over 1,300 kwhs	5.628¢ per kwh		

RECEIVED
NOV 15 1999

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

Residential Schedule 1	14.0%
General Service Schedules 11&12 (small commercial)	7.0%
Large General Service Schedules 21&22 (commercial & industrial over 50kw)	7.9%
Extra Large General Service Schedule 25 (commercial & industrial over 3,000kva)	12.6%
Pumping Service Schedules 31&32 (agriculture & other water pumping)	12.0%
Street & Area Lighting Schedules	9.8%

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general electric rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



William A. Ware
2005 E. North Crescent
Spokane, WA 99207-5067

To -> This is totally unsatisfactory inflation 1999 was 2.4%. Where do people on fixed incomes come up with the difference?

From

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington natural gas rates totaling \$4.9 million or 6.5%. The proposed increase is necessary to recover increased expenses and provide a reasonable return on the Company's investment in gas facilities to provide gas service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential and small commercial rates of 7.5%, which is slightly higher than the overall requested increase of 6.5%, as the present rates for residential and small commercial service recover less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical residential gas customer using an average of 80 therms per month would see an average monthly increase of \$2.74. The present and proposed rates for General Service Schedule 101 (residential and small commercial) are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>		<u>Proposed Rates</u>	
\$4.00 Basic Charge, plus		\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus	
All therms	37.902¢ per therm	All therms	40.069¢ per therm

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

General Service Schedule 101 (residential & small commercial)	7.5%
Large General Service Schedules 111&112 (commercial & industrial over 200 therms/month)	4.4%
Large General Service Schedules 121&122 (commercial & industrial over 10,000 therms/month)	4.6%
Interruptible Service Schedules 131&132 (interruptible sales customers over 250,000 therms/year)	0.0%
Transportation Service Schedule 146 (transport of customer-owned gas / over 250,000 therms/year)	8.6%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general gas rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



991606
N

250513

Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Comm.
Olympia, WA.

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1999

NOV 17 1999

Dear Secretary;

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Re the Avista Utilities request for an increase in rates:

I am asking you to take into consideration people as myself who cannot afford this increase. I, as are many senior citizens, am on a very limited income. I have been concerning heat and power as much as possible for sometime. My home is older and cannot afford many more expenses just to exist in it. The proposed 14% for residential will hurt, just to keep warm.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my letter.

Yours truly,
Rita J. White
4403 E. Second A
Spokane, WA 99212

991606 (N)

Nekoa, Wa.

Nov. 10, 1999.

250539

Secy. Washington Utilities & Transportation Comm.

To all concerned,

I can't imagine that Avista is in need of the increase in power rates that is requested. Certainly it will be a tremendous hardship on their customers and I do not believe that such an increase is warranted and it should not be allowed.

Power bills are already very high and those of us living on a fixed income find it difficult enough to pay the current rates - especially during the months of the year when usage is high.

I certainly hope you will not even consider granting such an increase.

RECEIVED

NOV 12 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS
RECEIVED

NOV 12 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

A concerned customer,

Abbie Laughman

Box 853

Nekoa, Wa. 99033

991606 (A)

NOV 15, 1999
RECEIVED

NOV 15 1999 250533

To whom it may concern;

What are you people ~~doing~~ ^{trying to} do to us?

We are on a fixed income & we can't handle any more

rate hikes. We want hot in the summer & cold in the winter

to try to keep our bill at a minimum, so we could afford

things. We haven't come close to ever getting a 14% raise

in all the years my husband has been retired (18 yrs)

Why don't you collect some of the dead beats

money they owe you. Cut down on the hired help.

What I've seen with artists there is about 4 guys

standing around with their hands in their pockets

& one man working. Cut some wages.

We aren't in the position to say I

want a 14% raise, because I want more

things. We are highly against this rate

hike.

Art & Dorothy Keener



Art & Dorothy Keener
1167 18th Avenue
Clarkston, WA 99403

991606

RECEIVED 991607

250520

R. STUART KIRK NOV 10 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

207 E 5th Ritzville WA 99169

TEL (509) 659-4444 FAX (509) 659-4445

NOV 10 1999

November 8, 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia WA 99504-7250

RE: Rate Increase Request, Avista Utilities

Gentlemen:

I wish to voice strong objection to the proposed rate increase.

Avista Utilities and the previous named utility Washington Water Power (Avista) have ventured far from being a utility, the cost of which has been placed on the rate payers back. A few examples are;

Spokane Industrial Park was purchased from the Federal Government and later sold. Was there a profit?

Avista has created into numerous companies at the expense of the rate payer, not the stockholder. Remember the projected energy shortage of the 70's? The rate payer first was forced to pay for Construction Work In Progress, CWIP, the pay again for decommissioning these facilities. Was the stockholder at risk? No.

Most recently, Avista has involved themselves in merchandising marketing, selling everything from scissors to hand tools.

The rate payer should not be subjected to these non-utility endeavors.

Sincerely,



991606
991607

250528

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Secretary:

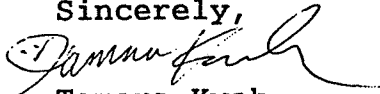
Having received your letter advising me of the proposed rate increase for my utilities, I have decided to address your letter. First of all, just because Avista has not had a general electric price increase in Washington since 1990, is not a good reason to increase rates.

Secondly, the letter states that "the rates approved over nine years ago no longer cover the Company's annual electric operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment necessary to provide electric service to its customers". This sounds to me like the company needs to cut their expenses first of all. Also, who determines what a "reasonable return on its investment" is anyway.

I do not get to arbitrarily get to determine what a reasonable rate is on my investments! I also am a small business owner struggling to stay ahead of rising costs all around me. A 10% or more increase in my electrical bills and a 7.5% or more in my gas bills at work and also at home since I pay both presents a real hardship for me.

I suggest some real scrutiny into the reasons for these increases. If their cause is to line upper management pockets with more benefits and salaries then decline the proposal.

Sincerely,



Tamara Kwak

RECEIVED
NOV 10 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

991606 (N)
991607

250535

Matthew Mitchell
10003 South Gardner Road
Cheney, Washington 99004

November 9, 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
Post Office Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

RECEIVED

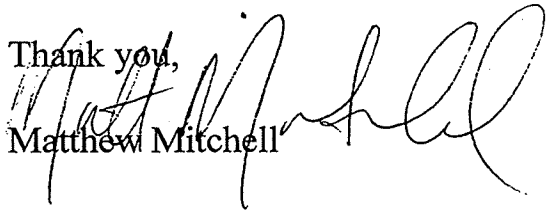
To whom this may concern:

I am OPPOSED to Avista Utilities' ^{CONSUMER ATTORNEY} filing with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission requesting an increase of electric and gas rates. I understand that Avista has not raised prices for a few years, but I believe there exists numerous cost saving strategies Avista could employ before handing their costs to a group of "captive consumers."

If you have any further comments or questions, please contact me at the above address.

Thank you,

Matthew Mitchell



SPOKANE — After 13 years of not raising its rates, Avista Utilities, which provides electric service to much of Spokane County, is asking the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to allow a 14 percent residential electric rate increase and a 7.5 percent natural gas increase.

991606

991607

249701

Nov 5, 1999

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission

Rate increase for a monopoly.

An RW is "no company can sell two kinds of fuel."

Don Johnson
2007 E. Mission Av
Spokane, WA 99202-2626

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

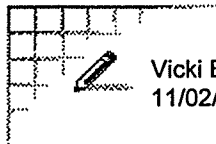
NOV 09 1999

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Penny Hansen 11/02/99 02:34:09 PM

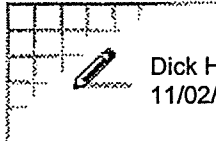


Vicki Elliott
11/02/99 01:26 PM

To: Penny Hansen/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Increase

More comments.

----- Forwarded by Vicki Elliott/WUTC on 11/02/99 01:23 PM -----



Dick Hemstad
11/02/99 12:46 PM

To: Vicki Elliott/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Increase

For appropriate response.

----- Forwarded by Dick Hemstad/WUTC on 11/02/99 12:42 PM -----

Zzx175@aol.com on 11/02/99 12:04:23 PM



To: Dick Hemstad/WUTC@WUTC
cc: Bill Gillis/WUTC@WUTC, Marilyn Showalter/WUTC@WUTC
Subject: Avista Rate Increase

Return-path: Zzx175@aol.com
From: Zzx175@aol.com
Full-name: Zzx175
Message-ID: <0.6a3c53fe.25506064@aol.com>
Date: Tue, 2 Nov 1999 10:42:28 EST
Subject: Avista Rate Increase
To: mshowalt@wutc.wa.gov
CC: RHemstad@wutc.wa.gov Wgillis@wutc.wa.gov
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: Windows AOL sub 41

Dear Commissioners.

I am writing in regard to the unbridled greed of the new management of Avista Corp.

First off I am a child raised and fed by the wages earned by my father who is a retired 39yr employee of Washington Water Power. I have always had admiration for WWP and its employees. Since the changing of the company (WWP)

Penny Hansen 11/02/99 02:34:09 PM

to Avista Corp. my feelings and those of my family and coworkers has changed. The new CEO and his overpaid entourage of V.P.'s actions toward both the rate payer and the stock holder are inexcusable.

Since their taking of the helm the stock dividend has dropped some 60% (app.), they have sold off portions of the company which masks their even more dismal performance, and given themselves LARGE raises, bonuses, incentives, perks and options.

I feel this does not warrant a rate increase, but a tightening of their personal and corporate belts.

I urge you to not approve ANY increase in rates for Avista Corp. until they make every effort to provide utilities at the current rate and not us the rate structure to support take overs, buyouts, and salary package increases.

Sincerely, Larry Osborne.

p.s. I am a locked out Steelworker at Kaiser Trentwood and know 1st hand of corporate greed and indifference to employees and stockholders.

991606

N 249594

10-31-99

129 W. 31st
Spokane, Washington 99203-1725

Washington State Utilities & Transportation Commission
Chandler Plaza Building
1300 So. Greenleaf Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 47260
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

To Whom It May Concern:

I am again writing to you in regards to Anasta. Just the other day there was an article in the paper stating that Anasta wants to raise the just electricity rates. The rates are too high as it is. They do NOT have to be raised. What with the salaries that the higher-ups at Anasta, make they don't deserve a rate hike. The salaries could be chopped to give them the extra revenue that they say they deserve. Like I have said before in previous letters I am on a fixed income that makes it very hard to meet bills and I am sure that I am not the only one in the boat. I made a bet with myself that since Anasta recently replaced some light poles that they would ask for a rate hike and it seems like I won the bet. Please refuse their rate hike request. Rate hikes should NOT be granted to any company whether it be Anasta, the phone company, the city of Spokane, or whoever. Could you get back to me as soon as possible? Thank you.

Sincerely,
Douglas Carpenter

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

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NOV 08 1999 NOV 08 1999

WASH. UT. & TR COMM CONSUMER AFFAIRS



NOV. 5, 1999

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Yes, I have some comments. I know as well as with any thing else that is tacked on to my bills that this will be ignored. It has become so easy to add fees and taxes and rate increases and the companies know there is nothing we can do.

I will sit in the dark, eat cold food, go to bed at 8:00pm. to save on the electric bill.

My income from c.d's and social security doesn't cut it any more. The c.d's are down many hundred dollars a month since 1990.

I get reduced house taxes but the large expense of health insurance doesn't count for a deduction.

Now you know how I feel. So, laugh!

Jane Sharp
Box 351
Oakesdale, WA 99158



"Sean Sheeks" <seashi@msn.com> on 11/19/99 05:38:54 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE: utilities increase

250632

991606

sean sheeks
3917 n martin
spokane, wa
99207

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov [mailto:byoung@wutc.wa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 1999 4:54 PM
To: Sean Sheeks
Subject: Re: utilities increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Sean Sheeks" <seashi@msn.com> on 11/18/99 02:16:02 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: utilities increase

to whom it may concern

I righting out of concern. I just received a letter from my utilities provider (avista). they are asking for a 14%increase.i would like to tell you its just to much our government is raising our property taxes nest year and we will probably receive tax increases form olmpia yet our salery dont increase to counter all these increses. I would appreciate a response on what else I can do to avoid this unwanted increase

thank you
sean sheeks



Keith A Fauerso <luzhombre@juno.com> on 11/19/99 06:45:50 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate Increase for Avista

250633

99/606

Dear Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission:

I was both shocked and upset when I received the most recent notice of a rate increase filed by Avista Utilities. They are a very profitable company, especially since their name change and expansion into other revenue generating enterprises. I sure would like to be able to receive a 14% pay raise. This is too great an increase and I would request you cut it back to a more reasonable amount. We consumers are at the mercy of the marketplace, it would be nice to see some restraint in at least on area of our budgets. Please help the working families impacted by the proposed rate increase.

Sincerely yours,

Keith and Diana Fauerso
11105 E. Sundown Drive
Spokane, WA 99206-9638
(509) 893-0762



chickeychickey@juno.com on 11/20/99 09:58:08 AM

250634 991606

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate increase

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a single parent making less than \$16,000 a year. I am barely affording my bills as it is. Your proposed increase is outrageous! I need every penny I can to just scrape by. I absolutely cannot afford to pay any more than I do right now. What are you going to do for customers like me? Not everybody has two people in a household working to pay bills. What about families with several children? How can they survive? Your increase may not seem like much to you, but I should not have to work two jobs to pay my bills. To afford a mortgage, daycare, and other bills that is what I need to do. To pay my oil bill, city bill, and Avista bill is more than I can afford. Please don't do this to people like me. Not without a pro-rated plan, a waiver or some other service. Project Share is not enough.

Sincerely,
Colleen Finney
4418 N. Madison
Spokane, WA 99205

Betty Young

11/19/99

05:04:39 PM



"Bob Floyd" <iepb@icehouse.net> on 11/19/99 05:05:57 PM

991606

250635

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Utilites Raise

----- Original Message -----

Our address is:
Bob and Jane Floyd
27421 N. North Rd.
Deer Park, WA 99006
From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov
To: Bob Floyd
Sent: Friday, November 19, 1999 7:46 AM
Subject: Re: Avista Utilites Raise

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Bob Floyd" <iepb@icehouse.net> on 11/18/99 09:53:06 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilites Raise

Nov. 19, 1999

Dear Sirs:

Please.....Deny or at least reduce the rate increase amount that Avista would like you to approve. The Wed. Oct. 27th Business section of the Spokesman-Review showed Avista posting strong quarterly earning. Last year the company earned \$8 million dollars on revenues alone. So far this year Avista has income for stock of \$39.4 million on revenues of \$6.37 Billion. That's a mind boggling amount of money, and yet, they have the nerve to ask for a 14% increase to all residential customers??? Their justification seems only to be that they haven't increased rates in a while. Why do they need the rate increase? My income certainly hasn't increased 14%.

Please bear in mind that many consumers live on a fixed income and a 14% rate increase will present a very real hardship.

Sincerely,

Bob and Jane Floyd
iepb@icehouse.net

991606

"Dan Cover" <dcover@earthlink.net> on 11/18/99 07:50:13 PM



~~250580~~
52075

Please respond to "Dan Cover" <dcover@earthlink.net>

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Avista rate increase comments

I believe Avista's proposed rate increase of 14% for residential electric and 7.5% for residential gas service is an exorbitant amount. Many, many people are either on a fixed income, receive tiny annual pay increases, or have families and subsist on welfare and meager part-time jobs. The Spokane area is known for its low wages and lack of skilled-manufacturing. Housing costs have out-stripped earned income in this area dramatically in the past 9 years, putting a heavy burden on most families. I am not opposed to a smaller rate increase, but please consider the detrimental effect this proposed \$120-\$150 annual increase will have on many of us residential consumers.

Sincerely,

Dan Cover
3427 W 5th Ave.
Spokane, WA 99224



- att1.htm

Betty Young

11/19/99

991606

07:41:31 AM



mhasche@powerworx.net (mhasche) on 11/18/99 08:32:47 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities rate increase request

250579

Thank you. My address is:

Marcella Hasche
16619 N. Morton Drive
Spokane, WA 99208

----- Original Message -----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov
To: mhasche
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 1999 4:53 PM
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities rate increase request

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

mhasche@powerworx.net (mhasche) on 11/18/99 03:22:16 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities rate increase request

I am sending you this email in response to a notice I received from Avista regarding a proposed rate increase to be effected the second half of 2000. I very much oppose this increase, primarily because it is so huge. To increase our electric rates 14.0% and gas rates 7.5% in one year will put a tremendous financial burden on my family. We are currently trying to survive on one income and are squeaking by paying all the bills, with no money left over at all until the next pay period. Our tight budget would suffer in trying to recover from such an increase to our electric and gas bill, which was at an all-time high last winter. We expect this winter will be worse. My prayer is that the Washington Utilities Commission DENY Avista's request for such a large increase in our monthly rates.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Mrs. Marcella Hasche



- att1.htm

Betty Young

11/19/99

991606
10:17:30 AM



AIA Component <spokaia@ior.com> on 11/19/99 10:11:51 AM

Please respond to spokaia@ior.com

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Re: Avista rate increase

250578

byoung@wutc.wa.gov wrote:

>
> Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would
> like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would
> you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.
>
> AIA Component <spokaia@ior.com> on 11/17/99 10:06:39 AM
>
> Please respond to spokaia@ior.com
>
> To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
> cc:
> Subject: Avista rate increase
>
> The proposed residential rate increase of 14% is excessive. Please hold
> the line and limit that increase as much as possible. Home owner
> expenses are going through the ceiling.
>
> Homeowners throughout the service area will appreciate your
> consideration.
>
> Evelyn Creager

1212 S. Wall St., Spokane, Wa 99204

December 14, 1999

991607
N
252438

Secretary, WUTC
Box 47250

Olympia, Wa 98504-7250

RECEIVED
DEC 17 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED
DEC 17 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

I would like to make the following comments about the proposed rate increase requested by Avista. First, their proposal was based on a typical non-electric heat customer using 820 kWh per month. I consider my wife and myself to fit in this category. We are both retired and live in a 1450 sq manufactured home. We have a full complement of electric appliances plus a large shop where I tinker with woodworking most days. In the shop I utilize several high amperage (8-12a) tools and lots of lighting. Our normal electrical usage is only about 420 to 450 kWh per month. Based on this usage our increase would be more than 20% per month. If the basic charge were not increased, which would be my proposal, our service would cost over 15% more than current rates. Avista provides a quality service & I realize they must be profitable, however despite a dip in revenue the past quarter analysts are forecasting a 9% dividend for next year. The stock is also rated fairly highly, at this time, for potential purchasers.

For the above reasons, if my figures are accurate regarding the companies financial forecasts, it seems to me that much of the requested increase should be disallowed. I would expect the company got some excellent considerations at their last rate increase by agreeing not to raise rates until 2000.

Sincerely yours

John M. Grimes

RECEIVED
DEC 20 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

09/1607
N
N/A

December 17, 1999

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia WA 98504-7250

Dear Sir or Madam:

In the last year, Spokane has undergone many changes. It has also sustained a great deal of unemployment due to many circumstances.

I am extremely aware of the influx of people moving into the area with fewer and fewer jobs. I have been a lifetime resident of this city and have seen many corporate changes, and downsizes, including the increasing lack of customer service.

This is now the case with Avista. They no longer have an office in which people can go and speak with a representative. It now has phones in which you are connected with a 1-800 number to speak with a long distance rep. Avista does not intend to open the customer service office again, so the elderly or young people, who are working two or three low paying jobs, feel like this large corporation does not give a damn. It is imperative that customer service, "one on one", be offered in any major corporation. I feel pity and compassion as I hear from many people I meet these days that say "there is no one to talk to, no one cares that I am trying as hard as I can to make the payment". The lack of customer service since Washington Water Power sold is reprehensible.

I am aware that in this day and age, it is important to cut out parts of the corporate structure to continue maintaining a profit. However, cutting out customer service should not be the section eliminated. There are many manager levels that could be reduced in order to keep the "person to person" service and not decrease the profit level.

Therefore, I am suggesting that the corporation be allowed to increase the normal 2 to 3 percent increase due to increasing costs. Each of the proposed gas service increases should not exceed the 2 to 3 percent level.

The only large self-important group of people that received an 8% raise was Congress. **Let that not be an example for the utilities corporations. We need to keep those monthly heat bills to a minimum for the residential customer!**

A Concerned Voter and Customer of Avista

491007 Luff
12/10/99 N

31422

Acc# 25290955

Quista Utilities
1411 E Mission Ave
Spokane, WA 99252-0001

Don and Judy Littleton
928 S. Whitman
Rosalia, WA 99170

and
Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED
DEC 17 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Sirs,

I'm against the increases of electricity & gas & especially that high amount 66 1/2% in the base charge of electricity & up 12% on the regular rate!

On gas it's up 25% on the base & 7.4% on the regular!

If I were earning 18 per hour base wages & got a 6.5% increase I would be making 29.67 per hour.

Pretty out of reason. I thought Quista to be very efficient & has been selling a lot more electricity & gas in the last 10 years. This volume & a decent price has made you thrive.

I have heard this is because you made a bad investment some ~~place~~ ~~else~~ ~~partly~~ In Eastern US.

I say no raise because we need the good rates for all of us.
PROTECT OUR DAMS

RECEIVED
DEC 17 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COM.

and our good prices on power, thus protecting all of us retired wage earners business people all of us. Other are buying power. Less than we are in the middle of our State & other States like the Dakota etc.

You have a project some of which we've given to at times, but if prices keep going up we're going to have all the more working poor getting sick & getting food stamps etc. A power raise would just make more of it.

Please keep it reasonable

Thank you Don Littleton

Acct #3529033-

Don and Judy Littleton
928 S. Whitman
Rosalia, WA 99170

PS. Watch out for those big & little investment deals that are usually bad deals. That could scam & dunk you & us!

- 1- Copy for Anita
- 1- Copy for Washington Utilities Com
- 1- Copy for me.



"Jeff Danner" <goldwing@nextdim.com> on 12/13/99 09:45:45 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Rate Hike Request

Jeff Danner
2111 S Fawn Dr
Spokane WA 99206

----- Original Message -----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov
To: Jeff Danner
Sent: Thursday, December 09, 1999 1:05 PM
Subject: Re: Avista Rate Hike Request

4172

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Jeff Danner" <goldwing@nextdim.com> on 12/05/99 07:09:50 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Hike Request

My wife & I TOTALLY oppose granting the rate hike that Avista is asking for electricity & natural gas. The day after our newspaper reported that they were asking for this rate hike, the headlines read "Avista posts strong quarterly earnings". How nice. The rest of us are trying to scrape by from day to day & they want to increase my gas bill 7.5% and my electric 14%. This is RIDICULOUS!!!!!! Please act in a responsible manner -



- att1.htm

	HOME	HELP!!!	SEARCH
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Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here will be included in the formal record.

To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	Ra Minton 252103
Your Street Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	P.O. Box #787 City: Deer Park , State: Wa Zip: 99006
Your County:	Spokane
Phone Numbers:	Home: Day/Work:
Your E-Mail address:	mintoni@hotmail.com
Date:	12/11/99
Your Comment:	Concerning Avista's proposed rate hikes, we feel it is not warranted, fair, or in the tax payers favor. Number one there is no competition for utilities, so we as consumers and citizens are stuck eating continuous hikes! Not only by Avista Corp. (which we expected from corporate take over)but also from "all" forms of daily needs. Being Wa. residents all our lives, it saddens us to see our quality of life dwindle. While companies and corporations get fatter. If these Avista proposals fly, it will show why citizens and taxpayers of our great state are angry with government as we speak. It will also show why referendum's such as #695 pass, allowing tax payers a voice. Maybe its time the state government listened to the needs of citizens and taxpayers, while we are paying them to look out for our best interests.
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?	

Notice of Public Record:

Betty Young

12/09/99

03:33:59 PM



TGreg0524@aol.com on 12/09/99 03:37:51 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Re: Avista rate increase!

Trevor Gregory
P.O. Box 97
Reardan, WA

99029

252105



TGreg0524@aol.com on 12/02/99 03:39:21 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase!

Please do not approve this rate increase by Avista. Why aren't there other utility companies to choose from? They are running a monopoly and should not be allowed to increase their rates. Does the government receive any percentage of these electric rates? If not, why? I think the government should control this a little more. There are just too many bills to pay and this one is hard enough to make. Please notify me when there are hearings in Spokane.

Trevor

Betty Young

12/13/99

10:25:14 AM



Lylacrawf@aol.com on 12/13/99 10:21:33 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Re: comments on the proposed Avista utilities increase

606 West Sharp
Spokane, WA
99201

252107



Lylacrawf@aol.com on 12/07/99 10:29:32 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: comments on the proposed Avista utilities increase

To whom it may concern,

I am against the proposed Avista utilities rate increase. Asking for a 14% increase in residential rates is too much. I have heard from sources inside Avista that the money the company wastes is phenomenal. I think before raising the rates at all, an outside company should evaluate if Avista Corp is wasting money they are already collecting. I also believe that asking for 14% in one year is very questionable. If it was 3-5%, I could believe it but to ask for 14% all at once, why?

When it comes to utility companies we do not have a choice like we do with long distance carriers or cable vs satellite service. The consumer is unable to "shop around" for better rates. We have no choice but to use Avista. We rely on people and organizations such as yourselves to make sure that Avista does not abuse the situation. I am asking you to investigate this matter very thoroughly before you consider allowing Avista to increase rates.

Thank you for your time,
Lyla Mae Crawford



"larry reisnouer" <lreisnouer@hotmail.com> on 12/10/99 11:54:27 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase

WUTC:

It does seem that Avista may be inline asking for a rate increase since there has not been a "general" increase since 1990.

My concern is that 14% for residential customers seems a bit much. I would think that an increase of that percentage could cause hardship for users on a fixed income. Social Security is not going to increase 14%, or for that matter neither is very few workers salaries.

Costs to Avista certainly increase the same as any other person or company, and they certainly need to make a profit. The question is how much. Avista has diversified into technology and other fields. I would hope they are not using residential electric rates to support their other ventures. Larry Reisnouer 7008 N. Westgate Place. Spokane, WA 99208

Get Your Private, Free Email at <http://www.hotmail.com>

252110



"Lawrence Schuchart" <lls@icehouse.net> on 12/09/99 10:27:04 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Rate Increase

In regards to the request that you would like my mailing address it is, Please send any and all information to:

Lawrence Schuchart
P.O. Box 10671
Spokane, Wa. 99209

252113

Thank you.

----- Original Message -----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov
To: Lawrence Schuchart
Sent: Thursday, December 09, 1999 1:04 PM
Subject: Re: Avista Rate Increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Lawrence Schuchart" <lls@icehouse.net> on 12/02/99 04:36:58 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Increase

I have worked all my life both as an employee and as an employer. I have recently become disabled and I am on limited income. (Which is below the poverty level).

The proposed rate increase for commerical services runs 7-12.6% depending on the size of the company while the largest 14% hangs around our necks. Avista's proposed rate increase hurts the working poor and disabled. Heating assistance is being limited. Last month alone my bill went up \$15.00. What will happen when it starts getting cold? Who knows.

I am in favor of S.N.A.P. being able to represent me in matters concerning me, Avista and the W.U.T.C. since they have the facts and figures at hand.

Thank you and remember us when you vote.



"AJ-TONDINI" <AJ-Tondini@email.msn.com> on 12/11/99 07:39:40 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Submittal for Rate Increases.

Dec 11/99

Atten; Utilities Commission

Please review The Performance of WWP, and compare it to the 'Changes' brought about by the Conversion to Avista by the current management.

With the current Avista President/Board, their desires initially were to diversify and become more worldly.....supposedly in keeping with the 'times'. All past summer, large expansion plans went forward with acquisition of personnel and offices everywhere. Currently, the Spokane Journal of Commerce has articles of the impending closure of said 'diversified business groups that are not generating any business'.

Above is further displayed by the confidence in the current management, in the price of Avista stock..... compare this, to when it was managed as an 'economical local utility'.

Rate payers are not desirous, anymore than stockholders, for the uneconomical direction that the current management is going.

Please make the current management be accountable for their management style, and do not make the UTILITY USERS, PAY for Avista's diversified management adventures. Deny any increases to the current rate structure.

Regards,

A. J. TONDINI.
4515 S. Farr Rd.
Spokane, WA. 99206

252115

991606




"herman stark" <hermans@triax.com> on 12/16/99 10:20:31 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities Request for rate increases

The Avista Utilities notice for a possible increase is misleading i.e. that the residential increase would be 14%. When you add the increase for basic charge the overall increase to the consumer is 18+%. Request you deny there request as a exhorbitant amount. what a nice way to increase there profits --just jack up the price.

Herman Stark -Kettle Falls, Washington

 - att1.htm



Charles H Moore <cvm77@juno.com> on 12/12/99 10:20:03 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Proposed Rate Hike

It would appear that the typical homeowner, which represents over 50% of Avista's income, is shouldering the majority of the increase (14%). The magic of numbers is almost as deceiving as the magic of the magician. If you look at these "homeowner" costs under the microscope the actuality is:

Basic Charges = 66.6 % increase
First 600 kwhs = 25.7% increase
+ 600 kwhs = 6.8% increase (5.150 avg. cents = 4.673 + 5.628 cents)

If the following scenarios are used:
Minimal Usage @ 600 kwhs = 19% increase
Average Usage @ 1300 kwhs = 18% increase
Heavy Usage @ 2100 kwhs = 9% increase

Here is the tragedy:

66.6% of Avista Residential = 18.5% increase (Minimal + Average Users)
33.4% of Avista Residential = 9% increase (Heavy Users)
Average Residential = 13.7% increase
If Avista is claiming a 10.4% overall increase, then Avista's commercial accounts must only represent an increase of 7.1% (13.7% + 7.1%)

Here is my solution:

Residential Customers should have the advantage as they represent over 50% of Avista Income:
Average Residential = 8.3% (Minimal = 10.5%, Average = 8.3%, Heavy = 6.1%)
Average Commercial = 12.5% (Minimal = 15.7%, Average = 12.5%, Heavy = 9.3%)
Overall Average Increase = 10.4%

Please remember us, the common folk, who have been and always will be the best source of revenue for industry and government to "pick the pockets" from.

Sincerely,
Charles Moore



Shelly Houghtaling <shoughtaling@turbonet.com> on 12/09/99 10:12:49 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: questions regarding Avista's proposed rate hikes

I have a few questions.

1. When was the last time the rates were raised for Pullman residents? Avistia has only been our utility provider for a short time.
2. A 14% hike for electiricty usage seems rather high. Are they planning well into the future? I would rather have a small increase as needed as opposed to a huge jump every 9 years.
3. I am also frustrated by the fact that I have no other utility provider to choose from. What am I supposed to do if I don't agree with what they are doing?

Thank you for your time.
Shelly Houghtaling



maycock@attglobal.net on 12/06/99 11:17:09 AM

Please respond to maycock@attglobal.net

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Avista Rate Increase

On Oct. 22, Avista Utilities filed with Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for an increase in electric rates of 10.4% but the increase for residential is proposed at 14%.

I have expected a substantial increase when I heard and read some of the plans the new Chairman of the Board of Avista has for the company.

I do not believe a raise in rates needs to be 14%-----and your department should be on top of this ridiculous proposal to stop such an exorbitant rate increase!!! You must be in a position to defend any allowed increase. Please keep me advised.

Loy C. Maycock



"Jeff Danner" <goldwing@nextdim.com> on 12/05/99 07:09:50 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Hike Request

My wife & I TOTALLY oppose granting the rate hike that Avista is asking for electricity & natural gas. The day after our newspaper reported that they were asking for this rate hike, the headlines read "Avista posts strong quarterly earnings". How nice. The rest of us are trying to scrape by from day to day & they want to increase my gas bill 7.5% and my electric 14%. This is RIDICULOUS!!!!!! Please act in a responsible manner -



- att1.htm



"Lawrence Schuchart" <lls@icehouse.net> on 12/02/99 04:36:58 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Increase

I have worked all my life both as an employee and as an employer. I have recently become disabled and I am on limited income. (Which is below the poverty level).

The proposed rate increase for commercial services runs 7-12.6% depending on the size of the company while the largest 14% hangs around our necks. Avista's proposed rate increase hurts the working poor and disabled. Heating assistance is being limited. Last month alone my bill went up \$15.00. What will happen when it starts getting cold? Who knows.

I am in favor of S.N.A.P. being able to represent me in matters concerning me, Avista and the W.U.T.C. since they have the facts and figures at hand.

Thank you and remember us when you vote.

Lawrence Schuchart



- att1.htm



"Denny Klaja" <dlzs@asaccess.com> on 11/28/99 03:48:44 PM

Please respond to "Denny Klaja" <dlzs@asaccess.com>

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: comments

I pastor a small church in the valley, and our budget (like anyones) needs to be stewarded with care. I don't feel it's good business to allow large increases in rates over such a short amount of time. I could see a 1 or 2% increase each year over a three year period, but not these ridiculous numbers.

I also have a hard time with a company that spends literally millions of customer dollars just to change their name. This is not good business sense as well as being unjust to valued customers. Please refuse this unjust rate appeal.

Thank you.

Pastor Denny Klaja



- att1.htm



Pat Hughes <PHughes@ymcaspokane.org> on 11/24/99 02:28:54 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Exorbitant electric rate increase

I think that the 14% increase in residential electric rates is too high. 8% would be more reasonable. Thank you. Pat Hughes



Iris Carnes <IrisC@Loganind.com> on 11/19/99 12:07:37 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject:

I think it is a shame that Avista has decided to try for an increase in Utilities, what happens to people that are on fixed income, don't you ever take them into concederation before doing things like this, I think the increase is to high, we are already paying high utilities, but I guess you have to keep your stockholders happy no matter what the cost

Thanks, Iris



"Johnson, Daniel C" <daniel.c.johnson@rssmb.com> on 11/15/99 02:28:01 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Avista Rate Case Filing

Why is the residential rate schedule seeing the highest % increase? This increased seems extremely high and not allocated fairly amongst the customers. Please consider my comment and make AVISTA demonstrate the rate of return request is valid.

Reminder: E-mail sent through the Internet is not secure.
Do not use e-mail to send us confidential information
such as credit card numbers, changes of address, PIN
numbers, passwords, or other important information.
Do not e-mail orders to buy or sell securities, transfer
funds, or send time sensitive instructions. We will not
accept such orders or instructions. This e-mail is not
an official trade confirmation for transactions executed
for your account. Your e-mail message is not private in
that it is subject to review by the Firm, its officers,
agents and employees.



"Jeff Chaney" <jeffc@omnicast.net> on 11/10/99 10:06:54 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: rates

I do NOT want Avista corporation to raise my rates.



- att1.htm



Garnetlucy@aol.com on 12/21/99 07:08:28 AM

99/607
252457

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista 14% Increase

To Whom It May Concern:

While I understand that Avista may believe they have good reason to propose a 14% increase in residential service, I believe that they would be devastating many poor / low-income families already being vigilant about their use of electricity. Perhaps decision-makers felt that residential customers have the greatest potential for conserving electricity: maybe just turning off lights when leaving rooms, lowering the thermostat, or just not watching so much darn TV.

Although I can't really second-guess their reasons, I can tell you what the increase would do to my family. I am writing to you after returning from my paper route, which I have taken to add to my family's income. I am a single parent supporting 2 teenagers basically on my own, yet my situation is not because I am uneducated or lazy. In fact, most mornings I go to my job at a local university, where I am a professor teaching 3 to 4 courses a quarter. My wages are controlled by the state of Washington and, unlike public school teachers or tenured professors, I am guaranteed nothing except from contract to contract. While I am grateful for my job and its benefits, I am furious to find myself among this state's working poor despite my best efforts. In 1990, I was a secretary making about what I do now. In the economy of 1999 and 2000, that means an ongoing state of financial emergency.

Many of us have not had "a [net] increase since 1990" -- in fact, many of us are now worse off financially than we were ten years ago! Many of us have endured mergers, layoffs, the necessity to reeducate ourselves, and the task of making drastic changes in the way we have been doing things. Before Avista attacks my family with a 14% increase, why don't they reduce some of the handsome salaries paid to people who do nothing more than delegate responsibility to others, or search out their own organization for greater efficiencies? My family cannot bear one additional financial straw. The best I can hope for is a 3% increase -- maybe, next year, infinity from now. Even with an advanced degree and a history of excellence in my profession, I can't hope for an increase of \$14, let alone 14%.

Unlike other sources for the funds they seem to need, I can't increase what I charge my customers to absorb an increase. I can't feed my family less, pay less anything, or reduce anywhere to compensate for this increase. We are already getting by with as little as possible. I'm sure the creative minds at work in the Avista organization can find many alternative solutions -- as most of us have been forced to seek and discover -- than trying to get more money out of the "rock" of families already spread too thin.

You can scoff if you want, but I simply can't take on a third job and take care of my kids too. An "average monthly increase of \$10.38" seems conservatively optimistic and, believe it or not, even that is a lot of money to some people. This adversarial approach to residential customers will backfire as people are forced out of their single-family homes and into

apartments. The burdens created would hit the state and region's economy in a hundred other places -- everything from family services to decreased property values.

Avista must find a way to do what the rest of us are doing -- watching for and creating financial opportunities and miracles. When there is not enough coming in, you have to go back and look at what you do have and make it work in a more cost-effective way. Yes, it seems difficult, even impossible, but take it from someone who has no choice -- it won't happen as long as they think the solution is asking others for money.

Thank you for listening,

Annie Oakes
East 10414 Empire Way
Spokane, Washington 99206



Alexander D Stuart <kiddiespal@juno.com> on 12/17/99 09:44:27 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista

252348

1999

December 17,

Dear Sirs;

I recently learned that Avista will be seeking a rate hike. My friends and I are extremely opposed to any further raise in our utility rates. Many of us are retiree's living on a fixed income. The rate increase that Avista wants far exceeds any raise I will see in my social security benefits. In the new year I will also face considerably higher health insurance premiums.

The stock holders, administrators, and big bosses are receiving obscene raises and bonuses that are not deserved. Eliminate these fringes and there will be no reason to punish the ratepayers with further increases.

I hope you will give my humble request some consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexander D Stuart
406 S. Van Marter Road
Spokane, WA 99206-5562

Betty Young

12/20/99

07:32:59 AM



"herman stark" <hermans@triax.com> on 12/17/99 11:09:51 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities Request for rate increases

LS2349

Herman Stark 2392 Eagle River Way, Kettle Falls, Wa

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: herman stark <hermans@triax.com>
Date: Friday, December 17, 1999 8:25 AM
Subject: Re: Avista Utilities Request for rate increases

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"herman stark" <hermans@triax.com> on 12/16/99 10:20:31 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities Request for rate increases

The Avista Utilities notice for a possible increase is misleading i.e. that the residential increase would be 14%. When you add the increase for basic charge the overall increase to the consumer is 18+%. Request you deny there request as a exhorbitant amount. what a nice way to increase there profits --just jack up the price.

Herman Stark -Kettle Falls, Washington



- att1.htm

Betty Young

12/16/99

08:14:32 AM



"Jack Retherford" <jack@theofficenet.com> on 12/15/99 08:00:32 AM

991606

252346

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: rate increases

2426 Indian Ridge Rd.
Chewelah, Wa. 99109

Thank you for your response,
Margaret Retherford

----- Original Message -----

From: <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: Jack Retherford <jack@theofficenet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 1999 1:26 PM
Subject: Re: rate increases

> Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I
> would
> like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so
> would
> you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

> "Jack Retherford" <jack@theofficenet.com> on 12/14/99 11:37:36 AM

> To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
> cc:
> Subject: rate increases

> I am writing to oppose the rate increases by Avista utilities. The present
> rates take a considerable percentage of our income now. I especially
> oppose

> the increase on behalf of those who have less income than I do and are
> trying to make ends meet with children in the home.

> People all over have not experienced raises to compensate for the increase
> of prices of everything from groceries, gas, taxes, etc.

> When I consider I am working outside of the home now, no children at home,
> which means I am not cooking hardly at all, we have no furnace, the list
> of

> nonuse could go on and on and our electric bill is still very high
> considering the small amount we use electricity.

> Again I would appreciate your consideration of rejecting the rate increase
> proposed by Avista utilities.

Betty Young

12/16/99

08:14:32 AM

> - --
> Thank you,
> Margaret M. Retherford
>
>
>
>
>
>

251747



"rog" <rog@pancom.net> on 12/08/99 07:13:30 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities rate increase

I Appose the rate increase. I donot want to reward them for bad buisness decisions, i.e. failed merger. Nor do I approve of the high saleries of upper management. Iam, also a stock holder. Thankyou, Roger Repp S.416 Howe Rd. Spokane, Wash. Phone 535-5574



- att1.htm

251746



Richard J Johnson <rjj@completebbs.com> on 12/07/99 04:17:02 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista rate increase

I assume that an e-mail re the above subject is an exercise in futility but hope springs eternal.

14% for electric rates and 7.5% for natural gas rates must be excessive increases. The cry of Avista is that they are losing money at the current rates. I doubt it but even if it is so does anyone ever examine the possible inefficiencies and excessive salaries as a possible reason for the "need" for increases. I protest this request as excessive and plea for a ruling that if there is an increase it be well below the request.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Johnson
310 SE Crestview
Pullman, WA 99161

Phone 509-332-2385

251745



"Dave & Sue Chambers" <chambersnw@plix.com> on 12/06/99 09:57:20 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Hike

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this e-mail to urge the Commission not to approve the 14 % electric rate increase that Avista Utilities has requested. A small rate increase may be warranted, but 14% is outrageous. In most situations in life, if we feel we are being asked to pay too much for a product, we simply go to a different supplier. Unfortunately in this situation we don't have a choice, there is only one supplier. We are at the mercy of Avista and the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission. I am asking that you make a fair decision.

Sincerly,

David A. Chambers

P.O. Box 516

Northport, Wa 99157



- att1.htm

251743



"Rick Boyette" <rangeric@omnicast.net> on 12/06/99 09:42:08 AM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista proposed rate increase

To the utilities commission:

I find it incredulous that Avista is asking for a 14% rate increase in electric power costs, and a 10% increase in natural gas rates. When was the last time the average person got a 10%, or 14% salary increase? Never! Avista has taken an aggressive place in the utilities market, and it would seem that Avista wants it's users to fund it's investments thru rate increases. It has already ceased paying dividends on it's stock, and makes stock ownership rather useless. The overall effect of such a huge rate increase will be many more people here in Spokane going without heat and the basic necessities of life because they simply won't be able to afford it. Avista derives it's electric power free from hydroelectric dams; why the need to gouge its customers? Simply to pay for all of the CEO's wants and wishes? Is Avista a public service company, or a profit motivated company? It's workers enjoy salaries that are far beyond the range of the average blue or white collar worker. Why should you as the utilities commission grant such a ridiculous rate increase? How about a rate decrease? I carefully manage all my use here at my home, and my lowest bill ever was \$96.00 for a month. Please tell me where the additional money is going to come from? I already have trouble making ends meet with my wife and two toddlers and a teenager. Spokane is a minium wage town, and 90% of its workers make minium wage. I know this personally, I am a mail carrier, and I know what kind of people I deliver mail to. I think Avista's rate increase is Mr Matthews way of socking it to the people he is in business to serve. He is not from the Pacific Northwest, but from Houston, Texas, where there is a much higher standard of living.

I urge the utilities and rate commission to deny this rate increase due to its enormous impact on the rate payers. Avista is obviously profitable, and given its method of calculating its rates, will always be profitable. Please deny this out of hand, and require Avista to resubmit its request along with its balance sheets, and what they want the extra money for.

Respectfully,

Rickey Boyette 27 West Elcliff Ave. Spokane, Wa. 99218-3704
rangeric@omnicast.net



Bobsherauc@aol.com-on 12/03/99 08:37:39 AM

251739


163951

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc: mccaslin_bo@leg.wa.gov, crouse_la@leg.wa.gov
Subject: Proposed Avista Rate Increase

My electric and gas bills run nearly \$100 a month on the average. I am retired and on a fixed income and cannot afford a 21% increase for gas and electricity. Avista says my monthly gas bill will increase \$2.74 a month--not true. They say my monthly electric bill will increase \$6.66--not true. Its pretty difficult for them to plead poverty when they pay the head guy upwards of a million bucks a year. I feel they need a dose of reality. Please deny this proposal.

Robert C. Aucutt
8305 E. Boone Ave.
Spokane, WA 99212
bobsherauc@aol.com

251737

	HOME	HELP!!!	SEARCH
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164774

Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here will be included in the formal record.

To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	Charles E. McCollim	
Your Street Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	305 E. High Drive City: Spokane , State: Washington Zip: 99203	
Your County:	Spokane	
Phone Numbers:	Home: (509) 624-7557 Day/Work: Same	
Your E-Mail address:	CMccollim@aol.com	
Date:	12/04/99	
Your Comment:	Avista's proposed rate hike. The new "Head Jasper" was paid \$1 Million signing BONUS + his \$750,000 annual pay W/Stock options. Texas folks were happy to see him leave. Wonder why? He will be a hero if he pulls the wool over your eyes with this obnoxious raise. They had a fine year, sold plants Etc. Paid good dividends. It is a pocket lining sham on the part of the new manager! Thanks for protecting the users!	
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?		

Notice of Public Record:

Electronic messages received at the Commission will be treated the same as if the message had been sent via the post office (paper correspondence). You may expect to receive a response within a reasonable time period. Please be aware that all information you submit using this form is public record, and is subject to public inspection in compliance with RCW 42.17.260.

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW - Olympia, WA 98504-7250

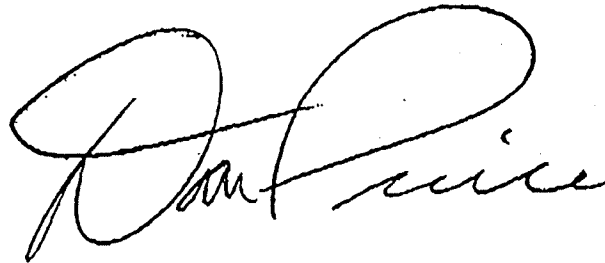
Phone: 360-664-1160 (in state toll-free: 1-800-562-6150) FAX: 360-586-1150

Attention Renny Hansen 251731

TO: WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: DAN PRICE D.J. R.V. PARTS AND UPHOLSTERY
DATED: 12-02-1999

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW AN INCREASE OF AVISTA UTILITIES AS THEY ARE REQUESTING THIS IS TOO HIGH OF A RATE INCREASE FOR EVEN MYSELF AS A RESIDENT OF SPOKANE AND A CUSTOMER OF AVISTA UTILITIES I THINK THEY ARE ASKING FOR TOO MUCH AND IT IMPACTS MY BUSINESS EVEN MORE I DO NOT SAY DO NOT GIVE THEM AN INCREASE BUT LETS BE A LITTLE MORE REALISTIC I WILL BE WATCHING YOUR DECISION IN THIS MATTER I WILL BE VERY DISSAPPOINTED WITH YOU IF YOU ALLOW THIS HIGH OF AN INCREASE IN GAS AND ELECTRIC IT'S HARD ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE IN SPOKANE TO PAY THERE HEATING BILLS AS IT IS WHEN MAKING YOUR DECISION PLEASE CONSIDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS AND THE LOW INCOME PEOPLE HERE IN SPOKANE THE EFFECT IT HAS ON THESE PEOPLE THE PAY RATE HERE IN SPOKANE AND THE VERY TINY NOT EVEN LIVABLE BENEFIT INCREASE (1%) THESE FOLKS GOT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE RATE INCREASE THAT AVISTA IS ASKING FOR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME



DJ RV PARTS & UPHOLSTERY
5006 N. MARKET ST.
SPOKANE, WA 99207
(509) 483-6011

	HOME	HELP!!!	SEARCH
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251730

Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here will be included in the formal record.

To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	jim thomas	
Your Street Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	700 w. 7th ave #805 City: spokane , State: wa Zip: 99204	
Your County:	spokane	
Phone Numbers:	Home: 509-455-9280 Day/Work: 509-623-4050	
Your E-Mail address:	jetman@boink.net	
Date:	12/02/99	
Your Comment:	Re: Avista Utilities request for rate increase for gas & electric. The increases requested are not in line with cpi or inflation numbers which would be a more realistic guideline. If not modified to more reasonable levels the request should be denied.	
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?		

Notice of Public Record:

Electronic messages received at the Commission will be treated the same as if the message had been sent via the post office (paper correspondence). You may expect to receive a response within a reasonable time period. Please be aware that all information you submit using this form is public record, and is subject to public inspection in compliance with RCW 42.17.260.

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW - Olympia, WA 98504-7250
Phone: 360-664-1160 (in state toll-free: 1-800-562-6150) FAX: 360-586-1150
[Comment Form](#) | [Complaint Form](#) | [Contact Us](#)
 To request availability of documents



mylespaul@juno.com on 11/26/99 02:19:55 PM

251729

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Rate Increase request by Avista Utilities

I have received notice of a proposed rate increase request by Avista Utilities. I live in Almira, WA, and am served by Avista Utilities.

I would like to request that WUTC deny this proposed increase request because it is inflationary and excessive. Also note that Residential users are those most impacted by 14%.

We are on Social Security Income of a little more than \$400. per month and we can hardly afford the present rates now. Our only heat source is electric in a mobile home and with the winter temperatures below 40 deg., our electric bill is over \$100. per month.

Again, I urge you to deny this proposed rate increase as pertains to residential customers.

Thank You,

Myles and Brigida Wagner

Betty Young

12/09/99

10:19:16 AM



mylespaul@juno.com on 12/04/99 10:02:11 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Rate Increase request by Avista Utilities

My mailing address is PO Box 204, Almira, WA, 99103



DaleCAC@aol.com on 12/02/99 02:54:49 PM

251305

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Proposed Avista rate increases

The electric rate increases proposed by Avista will hurt primarily the low income and elderly users who are conserving on their electrical use. The base rate increase proposal is an increase of 66.7%. In addition the rate increase for the first 600kwhs is 12.1%, however, the wealthy people with large homes and other large users will have a rate reduction for their use above 1300 kwhs. Please do not approve this regressive revision in the rate structure that will significantly harm our lower income and elderly residents. A straight 10 to 14% increase of fees using the existing rate structure would result in a \$3.30 basic charge, a \$0.0428 per kwh for first 600 kwh, \$0.0514 for next 700 kwhs and \$0.0619 for the remaining usage. This would be a fairer rate increase that continues to reward conservation.

Dale Miller
P.O. Box 122
Uniontown, WA 99179
509/229-3655
dlmiller@inlandnet.com

Betty Young

12/02/99

01:47:53 PM



"Charlotte Knechtel" <hlngteacher@earthlink.net> on 12/02/99 01:30:02 PM

Please respond to "Charlotte Knechtel" <hlngteacher@earthlink.net>

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Re: Rate Increase

251304

My mailing address is: Charlotte A. Knechtel
7312 E. Euclid
Spokane, Washington 99212

----- Original Message -----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov

To: Charlotte Knechtel

Sent: Thursday, December 02, 1999 7:46 AM

Subject: Re: Rate Increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Charlotte Knechtel" <hlngteacher@earthlink.net> on 11/27/99 12:24:43 PM

Please respond to "Charlotte Knechtel" <hlngteacher@earthlink.net>

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Rate Increase

TO: Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission

FROM: Charlotte A Knechtel hlngteacher@earthlink.net

Re: Rate Increase

DATE: 11/29/99

I am registering objection to the 14.0% rate increase on the residential schedule. It is not true that the rates currently charged do not provide a reasonable rate of return for Avista's investors. Just last week, in the Spokesman Review, it was reported that Avista had recorded its largest return on investments. This rate hike is an example of the greediness of Avista

Corporation. I did not receive a 14% increase in my pay this year. In fact I received no increase in pay as a result of legislative action and voter action this past year. This increase will cause me and hundreds like me additional hardship. It is not my fault that the winter has been mild, that consumers are trying to conserve on their energy requirements and usage in an effort to protect our natural resources. This rate hike will go straight to the enormous salaries that the upper management of Avista Corporation. This rate hike will cause more people to be cold and without power. I now keep my home at 65 degrees in the winter and do not run my air conditioner in the summer just to maintain my ability to pay my current power bills. Please deny this rate increase. Send a message to Avista that they are an example of a greedy company who cares nothing about its trapped customers. There is no other power company that I can go to for power in Spokane. This is a great example of a monopoly. Do not allow this powerful giant to continue to grind us under their heel. Thank you.



- att1.htm

Betty Young

12/02/99

07:54:24 AM



"Lothar A. Kreck" <kreck@wsu.edu> on 11/29/99 01:46:41 PM

57112

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista

Secretary, WUTC

Here is another comment in regard to the rate increase.
Early this year Avista bought Vitol Gas & Electric. Now "it will scale back its national energy marketing and trading operation....It will take three to six months and cost \$10 million to \$15 million to refocus Avista's electrical and natural gas marketing and trading business (THE PRESS, CdL, Idaho). It seems as if this was a poor management decision in the first place for which we now have to pay !!

Also, to my surprise both storefront offices (in Pullman and Moscow) have been closed. No chance for the consumers to go by anymore and to chat about any business matters.

It adds up to: POSSIBLE POOR MANAGEMENT DECISIONS AND LESS SERVICE FOR A HIGHER COST. Sad.

Again:WE NEED COMPETITION

Thank you
LAK

Betty Young

12/02/99

07:51:23 AM



Susan Bordges <SBordges@ymcaspokane.org> on 11/29/99 08:43:34 AM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE: Avista proposed 14.0% residential increase

251286

Susan Bordges
419 S. Farr Rd. #10
Spokane, WA 99206

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov [mailto:byoung@wutc.wa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 1999 2:15 PM
To: Susan Bordges
Subject: Re: Avista proposed 14.0% residential increase

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

Susan Bordges <SBordges@ymcaspokane.org> on 11/24/99 01:56:59 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista proposed 14.0% residential increase

I think that this will be a big hardship on low income people. They already struggle to pay their heating bills. I know this because I turn the heat to the lowest setting and use blankets to keep warm. My daughter called to say she was cold and could she wear another sweatshirt. I feel that there are a lot of people that this increase will add another burden to their monthly expenses.

Thankyou,
Susan Bordges

Betty Young

12/02/99

07:53:06 AM



To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Public Comment from WebSite

251284

Can you please handle this? thanks ph

Forwarded by Penny Hansen/WUTC on 11/29/99 10:07 AM

InterNotes1@wutc.wa.gov on 11/27/99 09:04:20 AM



To: Penny Hansen/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Public Comment from WebSite

(Embedded image moved to file: pic28168.pcx)	(Embedded image moved to file: pic24892.pcx)
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Web Site Public Participation Comment Form:

Thank you for using the WUTC Web Site. Use this form to submit comments regarding a filing or hearing. Be sure to provide your mailing address if you want to be notified of public hearing dates. Providing your daytime phone number helps us respond back faster. Your comments here will be included in the formal record.

To submit a comment on a Commission filing or hearing, please use the Public Participation Comment form. To send a message to the webmaster regarding the use of this site, please use the Visitor Comment Form.

Your Name: (required)	NICHOLAS T ANDRIZZI
	3505 S SUNDOWN DR.
Your Street Address: (We need your address in order to process your comment)	City: SPOKANE , State: WA Zip: 99206
Your County:	SPOKANE

Phone Numbers:	Home: 509 9260428 Day/Work: 509 6253391
Your E-Mail address:	
Date:	11/27/99
Your Comment:	I OPPOSE APPROVAL OF AVISTAS RATE INCREASE FOR THE INLAND NW. AVISTA HAS INCREASED RESPONSE TIME FOR SERVICING THEIR CUSTOMERS AND INCREASED INDIVIDUAL SERVICE FEES. THEY CARE LESS THAN WWP ABOUT THEIR CUSTOMER BASE. BE MORE EFFICIENT AND MAKE LESS PROFIT! THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS THIS CHALLENGE TODAY, LETS MAKE THE MONOPOLIES DO THE SAME.
Would you like to be placed on the mailing list for our FREE Consumer Newsletter?	

Notice of Public Record:

Electronic messages received at the Commission will be treated the same as if the message had been sent via the post office (paper correspondence). You may expect to receive a response within a reasonable time period. Please be aware that all information you submit using this form is public record, and is subject to public inspection in compliance with RCW 42.17.260.

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW - Olympia, WA 98504-7250

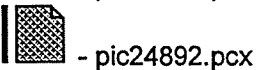
E-Mail: Webmaster@wutc.wa.gov Phone: 360-664-1160 (in state toll-free:

1-800-562-6150)

FAX: 360-586-1150



-pic28168.pcx



-pic24892.pcx



"Rick Addington" <raddington@uswest.net> on 11/24/99 09:20:27 PM

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: RE:

251288

Thank you for your response.
Mymailing address is:
5216 S. Palouse Hwy.
Spokane, WA. 99223

Thanks,

Richard Addington

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov [mailto:byoung@wutc.wa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 1999 9:43 AM
To: Rick Addington
Subject: Re:

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

"Rick Addington" <raddington@uswest.net> on 11/23/99 08:58:39 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject:

I am writing to express my concern for the Avista rate increase.

Avista says that they only want a 14% increase, but it would appear that the people who use the least amount of electricity will have the highest percentage increase. I personally don't want an 18 percent increase in my electric bill. Is Avista trying to take more from the lower income family?

A person who uses 600 KWH will have their bill go from \$26.35 to \$26.19 for an increase of 18.36 %.

A person who uses 1130 KWH will have their bill go from \$51.12 to \$60.35

Betty Young

12/02/99

07:49:55 AM

for an increase of 18.05 %.

A person who uses 1800 KWH will have their bill go from \$87.20 to \$97.20 for an increase of 11.47 %.

I don't believe that the cost of living justifies that kind of increase. Maybe a company as big as Avista needs to cut some of their cost of doing business from the inside as well as asking for a rate increase. I understand rising costs, but I feel that rate increase is just too much.

Please take a close look at this rate increase and let me know if I can be of service.

Thank You,

Richard Addington



"Virginia Danner" <virgda@lahman.com> on 11/25/99 02:28:39 PM

Please respond to "Virginia Danner" <virgda@lahman.com>

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC

cc:

Subject: Re: electric increases

251289

My mailing address:
6805 N. Crestline #12
Spokane, WA 99217-7574

Thank You

-----Original Message-----

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>
To: Virginia Danner <virgda@lahman.com>
Date: Wednesday, November 24, 1999 2:15 PM
Subject: Re: electric increases

>Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I
>would
>like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so
>would
>you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

>
>
>
>
>

>"Virginia Danner" <virgda@lahman.com> on 11/24/99 11:02:29 AM

>

>Please respond to "Virginia Danner" <virgda@lahman.com>

>

>To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC

>cc:

>Subject: electric increases

>
>
>

>I would like to voice my opinion about the proposed rate hikes that Avista
>Utilities are seeking.

>I think that 14% is a large increase at one time, and that we senior
>citizens are just being eaten away with these increases to the point it
>makes it harder and harder to keep our heads above water with rent,
>utilities and food.

>Something needs to be done to help us be able to live comfortably.

>Every year when we get a little bit of cost of living increase in our
>social

>security then they increase everything else, and we end with less than we
>had the year before.

>

>Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

13 April 2000

991606
N

69564

RECEIVED RECEIVED
APR 17 2000 APR 17 2000
WAS AFFAIRS
CONSUMER UT. & TP. COMM.

Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O.Box 47250
Olympia, Wa. 98504-7250

To Whom It May Concern:

According to Avista you are considering the 14% residential rate hike they have requested. Prior to granting the request, please take into consideration my complaint.

Enclosed you will find dates and times of the power bumps and outages we have experienced since January 1994. There is a period from September 1997 to April 1998 that is missing, as I have misplaced that tablet, so this is not a complete list.

I have had neighbors and friends call Avista to inquire about the power bumps. None of us received the same explanation. Some of the answers given were:

1. Squirrels on the lines.
2. Cows scratching on the poles.
3. Turkeys on the lines.
4. Tree limbs rubbing the lines.
5. Possible construction in the area.
6. Only 1 line crossing the Columbia River at Barney's Junction which splits to go both south to Inchelium and north to Laurier.
7. Cities don't have power bumps because the utilities can more easily control power in urban areas. If we choose to live in rural areas we have to expect to be inconvenienced.
8. The only reason we know there are power bumps is because we have VCRs and microwaves to show them. (I didn't realize we "rural people" are too stupid to know when we have power interruptions).

Over the years we have spent many hundreds of dollars to replace equipment and appliances damaged by the power bumps. Even having surge protectors hasn't helped much. We have to replace them, too.

We know to expect power outages during bad storms and prepare for that. However, when the sun is shining and there is no wind we do not expect to have 3-4 bumps per day, as has happened. During one outage of 3 days we were told we would likely be the last area connected because "You people in the rural areas know how

to make-do and survive without electricity".

If Avista wants a raise in rates maybe they should consider delivering dependable electricity first and not giving the CEOs such big bonuses. We wouldn't mind a small increase in rates if we weren't having to spend so much for repairs and replacement of our appliances and equipment.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration. I shall continue to record the power bumps and outages and have asked others in this area to do the same.

Sincerely,

Marva L. Kisman

Marva L. Kisman
2386 Kettle River Rd.
Kettle Falls, Wa. 99141
(509) 738 2656

POWER OUTAGES & OVER VOLTAGES
(power surges)

DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME
---1994---		08-21-95	08:30 off 35 min.
01-19-94	09:06	08-29-95	09:30 off 45 min.
01-30-94	15:49		
02-01-94	15:00	09-14-95	08:30 off 45 min.
02-03-94	08:25	09-22-95	09:30
02-20-94	08:30		
03-05-94	07:31	10-05-95	19:00
03-21-94	16:00	10-12-95	09:45
04-20-94	07:50	11-28-95	08:25 off/on
05-04-94	07:55		10:31 & 10:35
05-04-94	09:36		
		12-11-95	14:10
05-10-94	15:25	---1996---	
06-13-94	13:27	01-04-96	12:45
06-13-94	14:00	01-23-96	15:35; 18:55
07-08-94	08:05	02-28-96	06:00
07-21-94	08:35		
07-27-94	15:20	03-28-96	19:40
		03-30-96	08:15
08-03-94	19:00 off 19 hrs	04-01-96	10:47
08-04-94	17:00	04-12-96	01:00
08-20-94	16:45	04-21-96	10:22
09-05-94	13:00 off/on	05-11-96	08:40
09-09-94	08:00 off/on		
10-18-94	off ? on 11:25	08-06-96	18:15
11-25-94	08:00 over volts	08-11-96	early am
11-25-94	power out	08-22-96	18:22
12-10-94	20:10	10-14-96	10:23
12-26-94	09:10	10-14-96	13:00
		10-30-96	09:23
---1995---			
		11-05-96	13:45
03-05-95	08:05	11-08-96	16:37
03-09-95	07:25	11-17-96	09:00 off 8 hrs
03-10-95	12:35	11-27-96	14:15 & 16:17
03-15-95	14:30 off 6 hrs	11-27-96	23:05 on??
03-18-95	over volt off/on	11-29-96	13:15
03-21-95	off 7.5 hrs		
03-27-95	09:45	12-02-96	10:10
		12-06-96	07:10
05-20-95	18:30		09:10 off 2 hrs
		12-8-96	01:00 & 10:00
07-07-95	10:10	12-14-96	03:00
07-29-95	08:30 off 3 hrs	12-39-96	03:30

12-31-96	early am	09-25-98	12:35
12-31-96	15:00	09-27-98	06:00
---		11-05-98	16:00
---1997---		12-04-98	10:30
01-21-97	09:15	12-13-98	23:21
01-21-97	07:05 off 3 hrs.	12-14-98	10:35
01-26-97	15:00	12-27-98	16:50; 18:15 until 19:10
03-10-97	13:40	---	
03-23-97	17:40	---1999---	
04-11-97	11:00 off 3 hrs	01-05-99	07:45
04-20-97	19:00 off 20 min	01-15-99	07:15 until 08:30
05-02-97	13:00	01-16-99	16:25
05-20-97	15:30	01-18-99	03:00
		01-18-99	2:20 until 09:00
06-21-97	12:10 & 17:55	01-19-99	07:09
06-22-97	10:20 off 4 hrs	01-20-99	07:10
		01-21-99	07:09
09-20-97	16:45	01-22-99	13:33 until 13:45
12-11-97	08:30 off 1 hr		
12-11-97	09:40 on/off	02-06-99	19:30
12-16-97	04:00 & 07:50 1 hr.	02-14-99	06:45
---		03-25-99	13:30
---1998---		03-26-99	05:23
01-17-98	14:20	04-18-99	19:10
02-06-98	06:40	07-21-99	18:40
02-11-98	16:10	07-24-99	17:28 & 23:08
02-23-98	06:00	07-27-99	16:50 until 19:30
03-12-98	15:30		
		09-10-99	off/on
04-15-98	00:40	09-24-99	13:15 until 18:30
04-23-98	17:00 & 17:16 & 19:35		
		10-03-99	06:58
05-01-98	03:00	10-06-99	05:45
05-26-98	18:40	10-22-99	07:00 & 15:55
05-30-98	12:45		
		11-04-99	10:12
07-05-98	19:30 off 8 hrs	11-12-99	06:50
07-06-98	20:40	11-15-99	15:35 & 16:10
07-10-98	23:30 off 8 hrs	11-16-99	15:55
07-19-98	06:10	11-24-99	17:00
07-19-98	16:40	11-28-99	07:00
07-24-98	06:12		
07-26-98	04:45 3 1/2 hrs.	12-30-99	07:50
07-29-98	10:05	---	
07-30-98	12:20	---2000---	
08-31-98	06:00	01-02-00	06:05
		01-14-00	06:00
09-03-98	21:10	02-01-00	03:20

---2000---

03-17-00

08:15

03-22-00

07:50

04-02-00

10:59 & 11:01

04-04-00

14:43 & 17:04



"Thomas R. McGarry" <mcgarry.law@worldnet.att.net> on 04/12/2000 12:04:39 PM

99/606/
99/607
26987
JP

To: <comments@wutc.wa.gov>

cc:

Subject:

I am an Avista customer and I believe I have standing to object to the rate increase requested by Avista Utilities.

Before the Washington Transportation and Utilities Commission grants a rate increase to Avista Utilities, it should investigate Avista Utilities' practice of soliciting goods through brochures in its monthly billings. The income from sales related to these solicitations should be factored into any request for a rate increase. Avista sells these goods through some subsidiary that probably shields income disclosure to the WTUC.

The practice came to light to me recently. In October or November 1999 I ordered a special furnace filter for approximately \$63 from a flyer that came with my monthly Avista Utility Bill. The charge appeared on my Avista Utility Statement. The filter was not suitable so I returned it unopened after following the instructions of the Avista sales person. While I paid the monthly utility bill, I did not pay for the filter. After two or three months when my bill was not credited, I contacted Avista Utilities and after navigating the automated telephonic runaround machine I reached a live person who assured me that my bill would be credited. I followed up with a written dispute. Someone from Avista called my residence and told me that my bill would be credited.

The following month the charge again appeared on my account. This time I would not put off. I contacted Avista who gave me the name and number of another department. The "other department" turned out to be an Illinois credit card billing company who told me that I wasn't being billed! I remained firm and informed the telephone clerk that I was in fact being billed and that I wanted to know the name and address of this billing company. The clerk wanted to know why I wanted to know the address. She was most reluctant to disclose the address and put me on hold for quite some time. The clerk came back on the line and provided me with an Illinois address. She assured me that the billing problem would be resolved. I had heard that before so I contacted Avista's Spokane Office again and spoke with a customer service representative. The customer service representative faxed me a computer screen that apparently showed that my account was credited. Avista kindly sent me a small box of chocolates for which I was most grateful.

During the course of my efforts to correct the error, I concluded that Avista must generate a sizeable income from the sale of goods that it solicits through flyers in its billings that are charged on subsequent billings. I suspect it shields this income from the WTUC through an elaborate shell game that employs subsidiaries and other

venders. The WTUC should demand to know the income generated from these solicitations and factor that income into any rate increase requested by Avista.

Sincerely

Thomas R. McGarry
Avista Account Number: 650015526



hal-bryn-gramie@webtv.net (gramiepat) on 04/07/2000 05:28:46 PM

99/606/607

243477

IP

To: comments@wutc.wa.gov

cc:

Subject: Avista rate increases

I am totally opposed to any rate increases by Avista for gas and or electric rates for the following reasons.

1. Avista(wwp) expects we the consumer to pay these increases when our wages do not in any way have those such percentge of increases. this wil impact the middle class wage earners not to mention the elderly on fixed incomes and our very poor. Avista, must learn to live within their bugets as we the consumers have to.

2. We in the Colvile area have had to contend with Avist(wwp) electrical interference for well over 20 yrs and they refuse to fix the problem.

3. They too can cut costs by having the consumers read their own meters, mail in the reading and once a year Avista can have someone come read the meters . This method is done in many parts of the US and works very well.

I feel with Avista having a monopoly as they do, there should be no rate increases do to fact we have no choices as we do with telephone lond distance service.

Pat Halland

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

991606
W
257986

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington electric rates totaling \$26.3 million or 10.4%. The Company has not had a general electric price increase in Washington since 1990. The rates approved over nine years ago no longer cover the Company's annual electric operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment necessary to provide electric service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential rates of 14%, which is higher than the overall requested increase of 10.4%, as the present rates for residential service recover substantially less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical electric-heat customer using an average of 1,500 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$10.38; a typical non-electric heat customer (gas, oil, etc.) using an average of 820 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$6.66. The present and proposed rates for Residential Schedule 1 are shown in the following table:

RECEIVED
MAR 29 2000

Present Rates		Proposed Rates	
\$3.00 Basic Charge, plus		\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus	
First 600 kwhs	3.892¢ per kw/h	First 600 kwhs	4.365¢ per kw/h
Next 700 kwhs	4.673¢ per kw/h	All over 600 kwhs	5.501¢ per kw/h
All over 1,300 kwhs	5.628¢ per kw/h		

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

Residential Schedule 1	14.0%
General Service Schedules 11&12 (small commercial)	7.0%
Large General Service Schedules 21&22 (commercial & industrial over 50kw)	7.9%
Extra Large General Service Schedule 25 (commercial & industrial over 3,000kva)	12.6%
Pumping Service Schedules 31&32 (agriculture & other water pumping)	12.0%
Street & Area Lighting Schedules	9.8%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general electric rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



*This rate increase is obscene.
15% should be enough. They can adjust
some of the \$1 Million salaries.
J. Thompson*

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington natural gas rates totaling \$4.9 million or 6.5%. The proposed increase is necessary to recover increased expenses and provide a reasonable return on the Company's investment in gas facilities to provide gas service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential and small commercial rates of 7.5%, which is slightly higher than the overall requested increase of 6.5%, as the present rates for residential and small commercial service recover less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical residential gas customer using an average of 80 therms per month would see an average monthly increase of \$2.74. The present and proposed rates for General Service Schedule 101 (residential and small commercial) are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
\$4.00 Basic Charge, plus	\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus
All therms 37.902¢ per therm	All therms 40.069¢ per therm

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

General Service Schedule 101 (residential & small commercial)	7.5%
Large General Service Schedules 111&112 (commercial & industrial over 200 therms/month)	4.4%
Large General Service Schedules 121&122 (commercial & industrial over 10,000 therms/month)	4.6%
Interruptible Service Schedules 131&132 (interruptible sales customers over 250,000 therms/year)	0.0%
Transportation Service Schedule 146 (transport of customer-owned gas / over 250,000 therms/year)	8.6%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general gas rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



991606

Jeff Horlen <horlenj@cet.com> on 02/11/2000 04:58:17 PM



To: comments@wutc.wa.gov
cc:
Subject: Avista Utilities Proposed Rate Increase

I feel that the proposed rate increase is way too much. A family that uses both electric and gas is looking at probably a \$13.00 a month rate increase. I feel even \$10.00 a month is too much.

Instead of a flat increase, why not one over the next five years. They want 14% on residential - make it a 3% hike each of the next five years. This would be easier on the consumer. I don't like the biggest jump going to residents. Commercial and industrial should have the biggest jump - they can afford it.

Have Avista define for you what a "reasonable return on its investment" is. If the chairman of the board and their many presidents and vice presidents of Avista took 14% decreases on their salaries and had no bonuses, I bet they would see their return on investment go up somewhat!!! Instead of jacking the price up on consumers and businesses, have them do an internal audit and get rid of some dead weight.

In conclusion, I can accept a 3-5% increase for each of their proposed increases, but not what their requesting. It's too much, too quickly. If they "have" to have it, make it over a longer period. Thank you for reading this and good luck on your findings.

Sincerely, Jeff Horlen

253320

991606
RECEIVED

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

JAN 07 2000

WASH. UT. & TP. COM.

JAN 07 2000

RECEIVED

TO:

Secretary of Washington Utilities
& Transportation Commission:

Re:

Aurora Utilities Filing for an
increase in electric rates.

We would like to comment on the above
proposed increase in electric rates. On
behalf of many private residential
patrons of Aurora, we are strongly
urging them to reconsider the 14.6%
increase in residential rates.

The fact that private homes & families
are the target for their largest rate
of increase concerns & upsets us, for
many reasons.

1) Spokane has one of the highest poverty
rates in the U.S. today according to
national statistics falling even higher
than cities such as Washington D.C.
& Atlanta. This rate increase would put
undue burden on this low-income individuals
and families.

2) Commercial & industrial increases of
only 7.9% & 12.6% show unfair justifications
of increase. Many CO.s & industries are very
wasteful with power when they use the electrical

ie, business keeping signs on all night, and/or lights even after hours, & if they choose to use an excessive amount of electricity they should shoulder the higher rates instead of placing this burden on the backs of residential patrons who are for the most part quite conservative in their use.

3.) Alternative ^{Programs} devices; as to how to cover the Company annual electric costs & operating expenses, should be looked into more thoroughly and these problems such as waste of resources and problems arising therefrom should be addressed (by at least 1/2) by changes made within the Company policies and allotment & then the other 1/2 by rate increases. Managers salaries, tentative downsizing, pinpointing wasteful practices & uses of electricity.

We feel if the above measures are taken into account that a reasonable rate increase could be concluded or maybe no rate increase at all. And all decisions should be made with keeping in mind that electricity comes from a natural resource for the most part, which is free, the cost is more about getting it to the people who need it. And remember it is the people who need it the most (ie disabled elderly, low income) who need to be considered.

Sincerely
Andrea ZAACMAN

Betty Young

12/29/99

07:46:19 AM



John Kraus <kraus@gorge.net> on 12/28/99 11:34:02 PM

191608

To: Betty Young/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Re: Avista Rate Hike

John A. Kraus
81 Orchard Lane
Underwood, WA 98651

From: byoung@wutc.wa.gov
Date: Tue, 28 Dec 1999 13:43:01 -0800
To: John Kraus <kraus@gorge.net>
Subject: Re: Avista Rate Hike

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the official record. I would like to add your name to the mailing list for this particular issue, so would you please send me your mailing address? Thank you.

John Kraus <kraus@gorge.net> on 12/26/99 09:38:38 PM

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Hike

Dear Sirs, We would like to register our objections to the proposed rate hike for Avista Utilities. If their books show they must have a rate hike to stay solvent my question would be, why do the residential customers have to shoulder the burden of the hike?

WWP was just purchased by Avista. If it was unprofitable then why did they purchase it?

We oppose any rate hike at this time, particularly one which puts the largest rate increase on the residential customer.

Sincerely,
John A. Kraus
Martha A. Kraus



John Kraus <kraus@gorge.net> on 12/26/99 09:38:38 PM

99/606

To: Public Comments/WUTC@WUTC
cc:
Subject: Avista Rate Hike

Dear Sirs, We would like to register our objections to the proposed rate hike for Avista Utilities. If their books show they must have a rate hike to stay solvent my question would be, why do the residential customers have to shoulder the burden of the hike?

WWP was just purchased by Avista. If it was unprofitable then why did they purchase it?

We oppose any rate hike at this time, particularly one which puts the largest rate increase on the residential customer.

Sincerely,
John A. Kraus
Martha A. Kraus

Dec. 3/1999

991606

Dear Sir,

We are very much ^{against} another rate increase for Avista. I can't believe they haven't had one since 1998.

They seemed to have enough money to pay their top man such high wages. (I think, like \$64,000 a month + other moneys)

Everyone on a fixed income has a hard time.

It would be nice once to have a rate decrease.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harold Weber

6802 SR 195

Thrustown Wa,

99179

RECEIVED

DEC 07 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

RECEIVED

DEC 07 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

To: Wa. Utilities & Transport
attn: Secretary

RECEIVED

DEC 09 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RE

DEC 09 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

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To whom it may concern,

We are responding to a flyer we received from Avista Utilities in regards to a proposed rate increase they are requesting on their electric and gas customers.

We feel the rates Avista is requesting are much in excess of what is reasonable and would put a large burden on many customers, especially the mid and lower income and elderly.

It appears to us and other customers we have contacted that Avista has made some ill advised management and business ventures and are now attempting to recoup their losses on their customers.

We are not against a more modest and reasonable rate increase but what they are requesting is obscene.

We are asking the Commission to please consider the tremendous impact this huge rate increase will place on the resident, who will also eventually bear the Commercial and Industrial rate increases as a consumer. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Mr. & Mrs. Joe A. Mathala
7920 N. Yale
Spokane, Wa. 99217
509-467-7331

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991607
A
25256

18909 E Jackson Drive
Otis Orchards WA 99027-9525
509/928-9372

December 10, 1990

RECEIVED

DEC 13 1990

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

DEC 13 1990

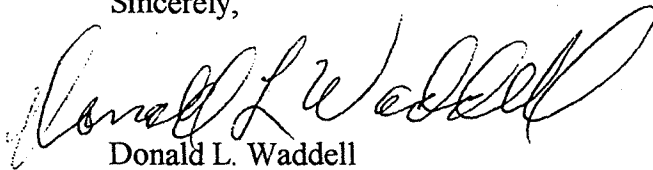
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Secretary, Washington Utilities
& Transportation Commission
P O Box 47250
Olympia WA 98504-7250

We would like to protest Avista Utilities' request for increases of 14% and 7.5% for residential consumption of electricity and gas, respectively.

We firmly believe this increase is extremely exorbitant, especially in view of the fact that our Social Security COL increase will only be 2.4% for the year 2000.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Waddell



Frances A. Waddell

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~~991607~~
n
252154

December 09, 1999

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DEC 13 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

To Whom it may concern, the following letter addresses Avista's proposed rate hike:

I do not feel a basic rate hike is justified for the following reasons:

- A 75% hike is too extreme when the inflation rate has been so low. My wages have not moved up at all in that amount of time.
- You should make Avista run more cost effective by getting more out of the employees. Example: I saw an employee in Wall-Mart looking for Birthday cards. When I asked him how he could shop on my time he replied, "It's not your time, it's the shareholder's and they don't know." I also know an employee that takes a truck home (40 miles one way) for lunch on our time. I feel that the employees should live within 10 miles of the office if they're going to take a truck home like other employers require.
- The wages the employees make are way over comparable jobs in the private sector.

However, I feel that the cost per KWH is within reasonable guidelines and that a cost increase will help make people consider more; which is where we should all be heading anyway.

Sincerely,

Dan Pedersen

RECEIVED
DEC 13 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

12/9/99
Secretary, WUTC
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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DEC 13 1999 252148

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

DEC 13 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Dear Secretary:

I have never commented on increases suggested by Avista because they always seemed reasonable in the past. I must, however, comment on the proposed Electrical Rate changes you are being asked to consider. The 14.0% increase proposed for Residential Schedule I is exhorbitant when compared to the 7.0% for Small commercial & 7.9% for Commercial & Industrial over 50kw. Too long Elec Power has subsidized major users like Kaiser. I feel it is time for all users except Residential to step up & pay their share. When asked to conserve the only ones that do anything to turn off lights reduce heat etc etc are the residential little guys. Do not penalize residential users by allowing Avista to disproportionately increase their rates. The increase requested (if really needed)

Should be born more equitably.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Trickett

BRIAN R. TRICKET

RECEIVED
DEC 13 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

99160 Mrs. Mary Jones
N 10404 E, Holman Rd
Spokane, WA 99206
252079

December 10, 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Comm.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing about the proposed rate increases by Avista. Many of us live on Social Security income and any increase in our expenses is very costly to seniors. This big company took over Washington Water & Power and is now saying they are not making enough money. This is what happens - expenses keep going up and never come down.

I say, these rate increases are too much and must not be allowed.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Mary Jones

RECEIVED
DEC 13 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Thursday 28th 1999

991606

991607

To the Washington Utility
Commission

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P.O. Box 47250

NOV 23 1999

NOV 23 1999

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Olympia, Washington 98504

CONSUMER AFFAIRS WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Please do not grant Avista the rate increase they are requesting a 14% increase on residential electricity and gas is outrageous. Spokane has many low salary jobs where the income yearly is \$5,000 or less a year now avista wants to have a total increase of 14% for gas and electricity.

Then they don't raise business cost because they say they have less service! Saying they have to give us more service! when & how, do we see service?

I called to speak to Tom Dukich rates manager who said inflation increased 14 percent, no other area of business is affected this to consumers. In fact, the federal government maintains inflation hasn't changed. I called Mr. Tom Dukich to discuss these raises, on Tuesday 26th when this raise

hit the Spokesman Review. I left my phone number. Out of course, he hasn't returned my call. He has forgotten that his livelihood comes from each customer paying the rates he proposes!

I pray some other electrical and gas company come into Washington (Eastern) or Northern Idaho that we can purchase electrical or gas from in near future, and leave Avista sitting along the Spokane River with a greatly reduced list of customers.

Investors are people with money or they wouldn't invest in stock of Avista their increases are high enough and shouldn't receive more on the hardship of elderly or seniors & poor people. Because the Congress & Senate say inflation is low we on S.S. receive a 1.1% increase last few years. So last year my raise in S.S. was \$8.00 The gas and electricity is much more. Spokane has a large senior population. Please add me to your mailing list if I'm not on it already.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely

Elnora Stoller-Callen

2010 East 13th Avenue

Spokane, Washington

99202-3519

Phone 1-509-534-2820



11/18/90

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250878

Dear Mrs,

In regard to your letter for Wash. electric customers, I simply want to say the increase is too much. There are too many people living on social security alone, and can't afford that much rate increase.

A price increase of \$5 would be more realistic and fair.

I knew a rate increase would come because of the change over from Wash. Water Power to Avista, but not as much as requested.

I know this is a David - Goliath situation, but I wanted to put my 2 cents worth.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Hubbard

RECEIVED

NOV 23 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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NOV 23 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Nov. 19, 1999

Dear Sirs:

Please.....Deny or at least reduce the rate increase amount that Avista would like you to approve. The Wed. Oct. 27th Business section of the Spokesman-Review showed Avista posting strong quarterly earnings. Last year the company earned \$8 million dollars on revenues alone. So far this year Avista has income for stock of \$39.4 million on revenues of **\$6.37 Billion**. That's a mind boggling amount of money, and yet, they have the nerve to ask for a 14% increase to all residential customers??? Their justification seems only to be that they haven't increased rates in a while. Why do they need the rate increase? My income certainly hasn't increased 14%. Please bear in mind that many consumers live on a fixed income and a 14% rate increase will present a very real hardship.

Sincerely,

Bob & Jane Floyd
27421 N. North Rd.
Deer Park, WA 99006
(509) 276-7667

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NOV 23 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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NOV 23 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.



Red Rose Interiors **RECEIVED**
 2727 W. Weile Ave.
 Spokane, WA 99208
 (509) 325-2605
 Fax (509) 326-1961
 E-mail: RedRoseDes@aol.com

DEC 06 1999
 WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

991606
 N
 12-2-99 116902/

TO: Secretary, Wash. **RECEIVED**
 OFFICES & Transp. Comm.
 DEC 06 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Hello,

I am writing in response to the proposed rate increases by the Avista company. I am a single mom, with a small business, and my home has electric heat (unfortunately). I am on a monthly plan now for payments on the utilities. In the winter my family wears lots of sweaters inside, because I cannot afford to keep the heat above 60°, and this is only in certain rooms. The other areas are very cool. 1500 kWhs per month

Avista says the average electric user (see their enclosed letter) will pay \$10.38 more per month. I don't know who they call average. I use 1750 kWhs per month, which is a \$15.57 monthly jump.

Please consider the constituents of our wonderful city, and grant avista a Much lower raise.

Thank you,
 Rose Bachman

Don't "let them eat cake"

over
 ↓

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington electric rates totaling \$26.3 million or 10.4%. The Company has not had a general electric price increase in Washington since 1990. The rates approved over nine years ago no longer cover the Company's annual electric operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment necessary to provide electric service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential rates of 14% ^{WOW} which is higher than the overall requested increase of 10.4% as the present rates for residential service recover substantially less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical electric-heat customer using an average of 1,500 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$10.38; a typical non-electric heat customer (gas, oil, etc.) using an average of 820 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$6.66. The present and proposed rates for Residential Schedule 1 are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>		<u>Proposed Rates</u>	
\$3.00 Basic Charge, plus		\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus	
First 600 kwhs	3.892¢ per kwh	First 600 kwhs	4.365¢ per kwh
Next 700 kwhs	4.673¢ per kwh	All over 600 kwhs	5.501¢ per kwh
All over 1,300 kwhs	5.628¢ per kwh		

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

Residential Schedule 1	14.0%
General Service Schedules 11&12 (small commercial)	7.0%
Large General Service Schedules 21&22 (commercial & industrial over 50kw)	7.9%
Extra Large General Service Schedule 25 (commercial & industrial over 3,000kva)	12.6%
Pumping Service Schedules 31&32 (agriculture & other water pumping)	12.0%
Street & Area Lighting Schedules	9.8%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general electric rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington natural gas rates totaling \$4.9 million or 6.5%. The proposed increase is necessary to recover increased expenses and provide a reasonable return on the Company's investment in gas facilities to provide gas service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential and small commercial rates of 7.5%, which is slightly higher than the overall requested increase of 6.5%, as the present rates for residential and small commercial service recover less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical residential gas customer using an average of 80 therms per month would see an average monthly increase of \$2.74. The present and proposed rates for General Service Schedule 101 (residential and small commercial) are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>		<u>Proposed Rates</u>	
\$4.00 Basic Charge, plus		\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus	
All therms	37.902¢ per therm	All therms	40.069¢ per therm

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

General Service Schedule 101 (residential & small commercial)	7.5%
Large General Service Schedules 111&112 (commercial & industrial over 200 therms/month)	4.4%
Large General Service Schedules 121&122 (commercial & industrial over 10,000 therms/month)	4.6%
Interruptible Service Schedules 131&132 (interruptible sales customers over 250,000 therms/year)	0.0%
Transportation Service Schedule 146 (transport of customer-owned gas / over 250,000 therms/year)	8.6%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

✓ 12-2-99

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general gas rate increase.

Request

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED
DEC 06 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

991606
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251476

December 1, 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Commission:

According to Avista Utilities there hasn't been a rate increase in the electric and gas fee's since 1990. One of the advantages to living in the state of Washington has always been cheaper electricity rates since the state contains the hydro-electric power plants. I am concerned that the rate increase requested is not going towards improvement for the Washington based customers but instead will be used to service those customers that now have Avista power that are located out of state. My question to you is why should we pay increased rates so that Avista can transport and service other customers outside our state. One of the few perks of living in Washington State one of the highest taxed states has been the cheaper electrical power. If you do approve this increase is there some way you can regulate where the increased revenues will be spent? I don't mind paying for services rendered however I do object to paying increased rates to service Avista Utilities customers located outside of Washington or paying increased rates so they may expand the selling of our power outside the state. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely:



Therese Schroeder
1429 E. 13th Ave
Spokane, WA 99202

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DEC 01 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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DEC 06 1999

Dec 3, 1999 251428

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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DEC 06 1999

WASH. UT. & TP COMM

W.U. & T. Commission

Olympic, Wash.

Happy Holiday

In the Oct. 29 Spokesman-Review

was the headline "Avista asks
an increase in gas & electricity rates"

In paper next day "Avista posts
strong quarterly earnings."

They are asking for a 14 percent
increase and in yesterday's paper 12/2/99
they want this increase to go into
effect by Jan 1, 2000.

It does not seem like a good time
for a raise when small businesses
and we people who are struggling
to hang on ^{with} a limited income.
Our Social Security income for 1999
was 1.3% - Lot of difference
between 1.3% & 14%.

Hope you see fit to keep these
raises in reason.

Sincerely
Dorothy Parker

RECEIVED

DEC 06 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

711010

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12/3/99

251480

I AM WRITING IN
REGARDS TO AVISTA UTILITIES REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE
IN THEIR ELECTRIC RATES.

AVISTA IS SAYING THE PRESENT RATES RECOVER
SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN THE COSTS OF PROVIDING
SERVICE WHICH I FIND HARD TO BELIEVE

I LIVE IN A 3 BR SPLIT HOUSE WITH
MY WIFE AND THREE SMALL CHILDREN +
OUR AVERAGE BILL (GAS + ELECTRIC) IS \$65 PER
MONTH. OUR HOUSE IS ONLY ABOUT 1100 SQ. FT
+ ELECTRICITY IS ABOUT 80-85% OF OUR BILL.

I MAKE APPROX 45,000 PER YEAR AND TO
SEE THE RATES RISE AN AVERAGE OF UP TO
AN ADDITIONAL 17 PER MONTH WOULD MAKE IT
EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO PAY OUR BILL, LET
ALONG OUR OTHER ONES.

IF THEY ARE NOT GETTING A REASONABLE
RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT, MAYBE THEY
SHOULD QUIT GIVING THEIR EXECUTIVES SUCH
LARGE BONUSES + RAISES EVERY YEAR.

I WOULD ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER THE POOR
+ WORKING CLASS THAT LIVE CHECK TO CHECK
WHILE CONSIDERING A INCREASE, IF ANY.

RECEIVED

DEC 06 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS



RIK GRONWER
960 E. CAVALIER DR.
SPokane, WA
99108

RECEIVED

DEC 03 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

991606

N

25484

Dec. 1, 1999

RECEIVED

DEC 03 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Dear Commission,

I am writing concerning Avista Utilities request for an increase in electric rates.

I oppose these increases, especially for residential service.

I am a residential customer. Their current rates are hard enough to pay - especially in the winter months.

A residential rate hike would only make things more difficult for myself and many other folks here in eastern Washington.

I believe that their earnings do not justify an increase in residential rates. The proposed 14% rate increase for residential customers seems outrageously high to me.

Please do not approve any rate increases for residential service. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Diane Doig

Diane Doig
P.O. Box 556
Spokane, WA 99210

991606

N

251491

11/26/99

To: Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission

From: Tim McFarland

4707 E. Upriver Dr. # T-206

Spokane, WA 99217

Subject: Utilities increase

RECEIVED

DEC 01 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to tell you I am absolutely not in favor of the electricity increase request brought forth by Avista Utilities. My budget is tight enough as it is and can't afford another increase. Please take my comments into consideration as one of many who feel the same.

Sincerely,

Tim McFarland

Tim McFarland

RECEIVED
DEC 1 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

November 8, 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Sir or Ms.

I think that the 14% residential schedule I rate increase being proposed by Avista is too steep.

Sincerely,

Donella Young
Donella Young
11806 S. Stangland Rd.
Medical Lake, WA 99022

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607
N 25664

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DEC 03 1999
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED
DEC 03 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

WV 1006

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Dec. 1 '99

9271

Secretary, WA Utilities & Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia WA 98504-7250

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DEC 03 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

RECEIVED

DEC 03 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Commission Members:

I am greatly concerned about the rate increases Avista Utilities is requesting. As both a stockholder of the company (WVP) and a consumer I believe the management of the company, especially Tom Matthews, is going "to grow the company" at the expense of the average residential user. The huge increase in the basic charge is too large. Also, the percentage increase for residential users is too severe. Perhaps a raise in rates is justified but not the % & amount asked in this proposal. Why didn't the CEO ask for a small rate increase after Firestorm or Ice Storm? Certainly the expenses of these disasters could justify a raise in rates. I'm living on a fixed pension with no COLA. If the rate increases go into effect as proposed, I'll be turning my temperature down & wearing more than a sweater over my clothing. I hope you'll also consider others who barely can manage to have heat & food.

Sincerely,
R. J. M...

RECEIVED 991606

DEC 03 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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I object to the 14.5% increase that Waste has proposed. There are numerous avenues to explore before increasing rates.

Example, cut the high cost of the wages to your local officers.

David Hill
1213 S. Pines Rd
Spokane wa 99206

RECEIVED

DEC 03 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.



Beth Ann Daigre
Professional Organizer & Personal Coach

991606
607
N

251489
2620 South Bolivar Road
Veradale, WA 99037
(509) 921-9581
FAX (509) 922-4676

RECEIVED

DEC 03 1999

November 30, 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

DEC 03 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P O Box 47250
Olympia WA 98504-7250

RE: Avista Utilities

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to state that I believe Avista should not be allowed a 14% increase for residential. It is more than many people here can afford.

We still have many unemployed and the local assistance organizations are running out of funds. My husband and I are on a fixed income, he is disabled, and a 14% increase would hurt out monthly budget.

I do not oppose them being allowed some sort of increase - about 5%. If they have not needed to raise their prices for the last 9 nines, I do not see why they should now need 14%.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours truly,

BETH ANN DAIGRE

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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Nov 29, 1999

Dear Sirs:

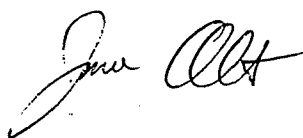
This letter is in opposition to Avista Utilities proposed rate increases.

An increase of 66% of Basic Charge from \$3 to \$5 is unacceptable business practices. The other proposed rate changes for electric use is misleading and the total rate increase depends on the amount of kwhs used. I oppose the restructuring of rates and the added increases.

The increase of Natural Gas rates shows a 25% increase from \$4 to \$5 and additional increases for therms when the price of Natural Gas from Canada is not increasing.

I can support a modest increase but lets be realistic on what is going on here and only support a total of 5% increase across the board and no restructuring of rate plans or large increases in Basic Charge rate.

James Alto
6304 S. Pittsburg
Spokane, WA 99223
(509) 448-4868 Home



RECEIVED

DEC 01 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

991606-991607

I do not want an Increase ^{250%} in my Utility Bill. We Can not afford it. Everything goes up But our wages. I feel as long as Avista Shows a profit they don't need any of my extra Charge. They want 14% How about 2%.

If this happens we will have to cut Back. Pull the plug on Outside lights & they use minimal lights at night. We already heat only with wood. So you see 14% sounds like a lot to us. Thank you,
Marilyn Brooks

991606 + 607
Spokane Wa 99212
November 23, 1999

N
25039

Secretary, Wa. Utilities +
Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Wa. 98504-7250

Gentlemen: - re: Anista
A residential rate increase
of 14.0% seems exorbitant.
In view of the obscene
salaries paid to CEOs,
perhaps 4% would be
reasonable. Live on social
security and receive 2%!

Yours sincerely,
Kline M. Harrison

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NOV 23 1999

WASH. UT. & TR. COMM.

RECEIVED

NOV 29 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

11/26/99

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NOV 29 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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Secretary, WU & TC -

This is to say NO to your rate increase.

When WWP sent notices to customers that they were changing their name to Svista, they assured us only the name was being changed. They said there would be no rate increases, that we customers wouldn't pay for their business expansions.

So much for WWP/Svista integrity.

Bobbie Taylor

RECEIVED
NOV 29 1999
WU & TC

AAG / Evans Insurance

PO Box 308

Rockford, WA 99030-0308

1-509-291-5151 ----- Fax 1-509-291-3891

1-800-899-5151 ----- email phil@ieway.com

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991607
N 251241

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NOV 29 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

November 24, 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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NOV 29 1999

Re: Avista Utilities

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Secretary:

I am writing to oppose the utility rate increase request by Avista Utilities. My reason for my opposition is because my small business simply cannot absorb such an increase. In addition there many, many low income families that simply cannot afford to pay their utilities bills. There are many low income families that hold down two and even three jobs just to survive. The rate increase would simply break them.

Perhaps, if Avista didn't pay their CEO, their Board of Directors and other officers in their company such outrageous salaries, generous stock options and other generous bonuses perhaps they would not need such an increase. They should even consider eliminating administrative positions.

Sincerely,



Linda G. Clark-Evans

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

November 23, 1999

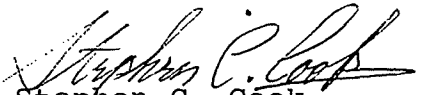
Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Secretary:

Enclosed with the last billing received from Avista Utilities (Company) was a copy of their request for proposed increases in their rates for service to their customers of Washington. The proposed rates for residents, under "Residential Schedule 1", amounting to 14%, makes no sense at all. With the two companies having merged to form Avista, they should have been able to reduce management costs plus operating expenses.

I hope you will disapprove of their ridiculous request.

Sincerely,


Stephen C. Cook
P. O. Box 474
Asotin, WA 99402-0474

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NOV 29 1999
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

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NOV 29 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Hello

I am writing to you in response to the proposed rate increase.

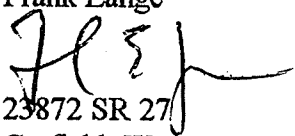
I am against any increase.

Commodity prices are in a prolonged downward trend. Energy is a commodity.

Management made a costly mistake in changing name from WWP.

Poor management should not be the expense of the customer.

Thankyou
Frank Lange



23872 SR 27
Garfield, Wa.
99130

RECEIVED

NOV 29 1999

WASH. UT. & TR. COMM

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
O.Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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Nov. 19, 1999

Dear Sirs:

Please.....Deny or at least reduce the rate increase amount that Avista would like you to approve. The Wed. Oct. 27th Business section of the Spokesman-Review showed Avista posting strong quarterly earnings. Last year the company earned \$8 million dollars on revenues alone. So far this year Avista has income for stock of \$39.4 million on revenues of **\$6.37 Billion**. That's a mind boggling amount of money, and yet, they have the nerve to ask for a 14% increase to all residential customers??? Their justification seems only to be that they haven't increased rates in a while. Why do they need the rate increase? My income certainly hasn't increased 14%. Please bear in mind that many consumers live on a fixed income and a 14% rate increase will present a very real hardship.

Sincerely,

Jay L. Hartill

Jay L. Hartill
2642 Highline Rd.
Chewelah, WA 99109
(509) 935-8355

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NOV 22 1999
WASHINGTON & TERRY

991606
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November 20, 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NOV 24 1999

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2005 N. Cedar Street
Colfax, WA 99111-9708

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NOV 24 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

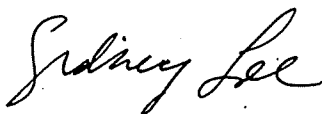
WASH. UT. & TR. COMM.

RE: Proposed Avista Utilities rate increase.

Dear Secretary:

For the record, I am opposed to the utility rate increase as proposed by Avista. Isn't it typical that soon after, within one year, that the new owner of a monopoly company is seeking to increase profits at the expense of the public? Looking at the overall economy, the inflation rate as been low and the outlook for the economy is strong. In the area of the Washington State served by Avista, I ask, how can you justify requesting a 14% residential rate increase? Better to ask too high than too low, but even 7% would be "profit taking". I place my trust in the sound and common sense judgement of the Commission to arrive at fair increase. After all, we are not Communists.

Sincerely,



Sidney Lee

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

11/20/99

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WASH. UT & TR. COMM.

Dear Commissioners,

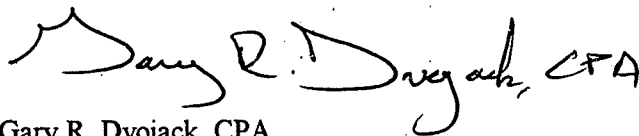
I am sending you this letter because I object to both increases proposed by Avista Utilities. The proposed increase for residential electrical use is more than five times the rate of inflation and should not exceed three percent. We both realize they will be back next year asking for another increase, and I see no reason why they should be receiving increases that exceed inflation. They need to be more efficient, and get their higher rates of return that way.

The Natural gas increase, while not as ridiculous as the electrical request is still well above inflation for the requested residential increase. Again, I feel that profitability above inflation should be derived from increased efficiencies, and reductions in waste, and not through gouging the customer.

Most businesses over the last several years have had to lower prices or hold prices steady due to intense competition, and I see no reason why Avista should not function under that same environment. My recommendation is to deny any increase, or to at least hold the increase to one or two percent.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,



Gary R. Dvojack, CPA
418 W. 26th Ave.
Spokane, WA 99203

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25/256

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Nov. 19, 1999

Dear Sirs:

Please.....Deny or at least reduce the rate increase amount that Avista would like you to approve. The Wed. Oct. 27th Business section of the Spokesman-Review showed Avista posting strong quarterly earning. Last year the company earned \$8 million dollars on revenues alone. So far this year Avista has income for stock of \$39.4 million on revenues of **\$6.37 Billion**. That's a mind boggling amount of money, and yet, they have the nerve to ask for a 14% increase to all residential customers??? Their justification seems only to be that they haven't increased rates in a while. Why do they need the rate increase? My income certainly hasn't increased 14%. Please bear in mind that many consumers live on a fixed income and a 14% rate increase will present a very real hardship.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jim Wastell
380 Valley Westside Rd
Colville Wa 99114

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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WASH. UT. & TR. COMM.

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Stephen L. Chin
15206 N. Gleneden Street,
Spokane, WA 99208

991606N
991607N
47256

November 20, 1999

Secretary
Washington Utilities & transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Wa 98504-7250

RECEIVED

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

NOV 24 1999

Dear Sir:

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

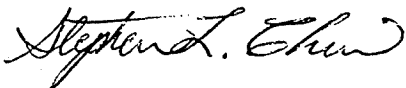
I am writing to object to the electric and gas rate increases request filed by Avista Utilities Company on October 22, 1999. The Company is proposing an average increase in residential electric rates of 14% and an average increase in residential gas rates of 7.5%.

The 14% electric rate and 7.5 % gas rate increase requests are excessive and unreasonable. The requests are not in line with the current and projected CPI and annual inflation rate.

The Company stated that the current electric rate "no longer cover the Company's annual electric operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment necessary to provide electric service to its customers". It further stated that " the proposed gas increase is necessary to recover increased expenses and provide a reasonable return on the Company's investment in gas facilities to provide gas service to its customers. I do not believe it has much to do with annual operating expenses. It has a lot to do with the annual dividends to its share holders and it's current lackluster management performance.

Please hold Avista to the projected CPI and annual inflation rate in granting it's request for rate increases. A 3% to 4% rate increase is more reasonable and in line with the current economic conditions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Chin

To the Commission: 11-18-99
9916006
In regards to AVISTA's proposed
general Electric rate increase ^{N 751261}

I think we are paying
more than enough for our
electricity bill. Did the
Merger do this? Buy Out.

Ruth M. Trost
10026 N. I Vanhook Rd
SPOKANE, WASH 99218

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington natural gas rates totaling \$4.9 million or 6.5%. The proposed increase is necessary to recover increased expenses and provide a reasonable return on the Company's investment in gas facilities to provide gas service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential and small commercial rates of 7.5%, which is slightly higher than the overall requested increase of 6.5%, as the present rates for residential and small commercial service recover less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical residential gas customer using an average of 80 therms per month would see an average monthly increase of \$2.74. The present and proposed rates for General Service Schedule 101 (residential and small commercial) are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>	RECEIVED
\$4.00 Basic Charge, plus	\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus	NOV 24 1999
All therms 37.902¢ per therm	All therms 40.069¢ per therm	

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

General Service Schedule 101 (residential & small commercial)	7.5%
Large General Service Schedules 111&112 (commercial & industrial over 200 therms/month)	4.4%
Large General Service Schedules 121&122 (commercial & industrial over 10,000 therms/month)	4.6%
Interruptible Service Schedules 131&132 (interruptible sales customers over 250,000 therms/year)	0.0%
Transportation Service Schedule 146 (transport of customer-owned gas / over 250,000 therms/year)	8.6%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

RECEIVED

NOV 24 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general gas rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington electric rates totaling \$26.3 million or 10.4%. The Company has not had a general electric price increase in Washington since 1990. The rates approved over nine years ago no longer cover the Company's annual electric operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment necessary to provide electric service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential rates of 14%, which is higher than the overall requested increase of 10.4%, as the present rates for residential service recover substantially less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical electric-heat customer using an average of 1,500 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$10.38; a typical non-electric heat customer (gas, oil, etc.) using an average of 820 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$6.66. The present and proposed rates for Residential Schedule 1 are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>			<u>Proposed Rates</u>		
\$3.00 Basic Charge, plus			\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus		
First	600 kwhs	3.892¢ per kwh	First	600 kwhs	4.365¢ per kwh
Next	700 kwhs	4.673¢ per kwh	All over	600 kwhs	5.501¢ per kwh
All over	1,300 kwhs	5.628¢ per kwh			

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

Residential Schedule 1	14.0%
General Service Schedules 11&12 (small commercial)	7.0%
Large General Service Schedules 21&22 (commercial & industrial over 50kw)	7.9%
Extra Large General Service Schedule 25 (commercial & industrial over 3,000kva)	12.6%
Pumping Service Schedules 31&32 (agriculture & other water pumping)	12.0%
Street & Area Lighting Schedules	9.8%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general electric rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



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NOV 24 1999

WASH. UT. & TR. COMM.

251263

Dear Secretary

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NOV 24 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

I am writing you regarding the proposed Avista 14.0% raise in residential rates.

They claim that the present rate is substantially less than the cost of providing service. It is absurd to think that they need \$26.3 million++ to cover operating expenses and a reasonable return on their investment.

My home, purchased in 1952, has electric baseboard heat. I would have converted to gas several years ago, but could not afford the furnace and duct work. My children are grown, so I am able to close off part of the house to conserve heat and be able to pay my electric bill. I am recently retired and receiving social security, certainly with a fixed income as are many people of my generation. Maybe we will be getting a 2% raise in our social security checks.

Obviously, a 14% raise in residential electric rates will be a hardship. I have no objection to Avista getting a reasonable rate raise, but their request is out of line.

You might want to ask them what it cost to repaint all of their trucks with Avista, not to mention all of their stationery, bills, etc.

Thank you for your consideration
Doris M. McDonnell

December 16, 1999

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252442

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dear Commission:

I am writing in regards to Avista's proposed plan to increase rates. Avista claims the rates approved nine years ago no longer cover the Company's annual electric operating expenses. Maybe if they would quit increasing their own salaries, they would find the money to cover operating expenses.

Electric bill are expensive enough. In the winter, electric bills are outrageous. It is very hard for me to pay them. I am asking you to please remember poor and underpaid people when making your decision. Please decide NOT to implement the increases. Thank you for your time and consideration to this letter.

Sincerely,



Coby Patterson
PO Box 89
Mead, WA 99021

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DEC 20 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

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Town of Rosalia

P.O. Box 277
Rosalia, WA 99170-0277

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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DEC 20 1999

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

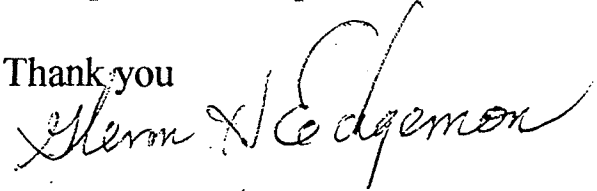
December 13, 1999

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Sirs:

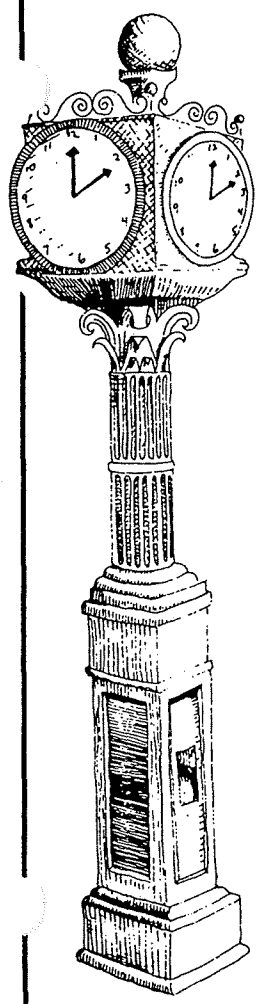
This letter is to protest the increase rates in Electric and Gas service that Avista is proposing to you for approval. With the loss in revenue from the farm economy and the problems that I 695 have put on the Citizens in this area, we are asking you the Utilities Commission to turn down their request. And please inform us of the upcoming hearing that will be held in Spokane so that we might attend to promote our protest.

Thank you



Glenn H. Edgemon

Mayor of Rosalia Washington



A Great Place To Live

N 2617 Napa
Spokane, Wa. 99207
Dec. 16, 1999

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1999

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.C. Box 47250
Olympia, Wa. 98504-7250

Dear Commissioners,

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

I submit the following information for your consideration in evaluating the requested rate increases for electrical and natural gas services provided by Avista Utilities Company in Washington State.

On October 22, 1999 Avista Utilities Company filed with the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission a request for rate increases for electrical and natural gas. They mailed a notice of this filing with their November customer bills.

I believe the information supplied to the consumer by Avista Utilities is incomplete and misleading. It does not address the percentage increases as they relate to the customers bill. They cite examples of proposed increases in dollar amounts only. Most electrical customers will be faced with increases of 18%, not the 14% quoted in their information supplied to customers. If both requested increases were approved for natural gas, the average consumer would then pay roughly 21.68% more for natural gas.

An analysis of the information in this notice reveals that the proposed % increases quoted for KWH does not include the proposed % increase requested for BASIC CHARGES. When proposed BASIC CHARGE increases are added to proposed KWH increases, the % increase substantially exceeds the 14% average quoted by Avista in the dollar examples used in their notice of filing that was mailed to their customers.

In a call to Avista, a representative stated the average Schedule 1 Electrical Customer would use an average of 1034 KWH monthly. The representative said the Avista Utilities has approximately 200,000 electrical customers and approximately 100,000 natural customers. Natural Gas customers may or may not also be electrical customers.

Avista is proposing an AVERAGE increase of 14% in KWH costs for Residential Schedule 1 customers..

Avista is also proposing a 66.6% increase in BASIC CHARGE fees, from \$3.00 per month to \$5.00 for all Residential Schedule 1 customers.

This proposed increase in BASIC CHARGE fees would generate approximately \$400,000.00 monthly or \$4,800,000.00 annually.

Avista is proposing an AVERAGE increase of 7.5% in per therm cost for General Service Schedule 101 customers.

In addition Avista is proposing a 25% increase in BASIC CHARGE fees for General Service Schedule 101 customers, from \$4.00 monthly to \$5.00 monthly.

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The proposed increase in BASIC CHARGE to natural gas customers would generate approximately \$100,000.00 monthly or \$1,200,000.00 annually.

The combined proposed increase in BASIC CHARGE for electrical and natural gas customers would amount to approximately \$6,000,000.00 annually.

Avista Electrical and Natural Gas Residential Customers currently pay a combined BASIC CHARGE of \$7.00 per month. The proposed increases would go from \$7.00 per month to \$10.00 per month, a combined increase of 42.85% for an electrical and natural gas customer. An electrical customer only would realize a 66.6% increase in BASIC CHARGE. BASIC CHARGES are a fixed monthly fee regardless of use of services.

Comparing the Present KWH rates and BASIC CHARGE for electricity and the Proposed KWH rates and BASIC CHARGE for electricity:

A typical non-electric heat customer using 820 KWH per month would experience a total increase of 18.180% in costs.

For the AVERAGE Avista customer using 1034 KWH per month the increase would be 18.07%.

For a typical electric-heat customer using an average of 1500 KWH per month the increase would be 14.598%.

For a customer using 2,000 KWH per month the increase would be 8.190%.

For a customer using 3,000 KWH per month the increase would be 5.486%.

Comparing the Present THERM rate and BASIC CHARGE rate with the Proposed THERM and BASIC CHARGE rate for a natural gas customer:

The TYPICAL residential gas customer using 80 therms per month would experience an increase in costs of 7.98%.

On November 29, 1999 Avista Utilities filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and additional request for an increase of approximately 13.7% for a PURCHASE GAS COST ADJUSTMENT. The typical 80 therm user is now facing a total increase of 21.68% in natural gas prices.

According to reports, Spokane has the highest per capita of LOW INCOME residents in the State of Washington. A program called PROJECT SHARE is in effect in Spokane to help low income people pay their electrical and natural gas bills. This program is funded through donations. The monthly utilities bill from Avista has a customer message reminding the customer that "A Little Each Month Goes A Long Way. Please Donate \$2, \$5, \$10 to Project Share."

Thank You For Your Consideration.

Sincerely,


Richard P. Olberding

nc: 2

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington electric rates totaling \$26.3 million or 10.4%. The Company has not had a general electric price increase in Washington since 1990. The rates approved over nine years ago no longer cover the Company's annual electric operating expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment necessary to provide electric service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential rates of 14%, which is higher than the overall requested increase of 10.4%, as the present rates for residential service recover substantially less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical electric-heat customer using an average of 1,500 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$10.38; a typical non-electric heat customer (gas, oil, etc.) using an average of 820 kwhs per month would see an average monthly increase of \$6.66. The present and proposed rates for Residential Schedule 1 are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>		<u>Proposed Rates</u>	
\$3.00 Basic Charge, plus		\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus	
First 600 kwhs	3.892¢ per kwh	First 600 kwhs	4.365¢ per kwh
Next 700 kwhs	4.673¢ per kwh	All over 600 kwhs	5.501¢ per kwh
All over 1,300 kwhs	5.628¢ per kwh		

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

Residential Schedule 1	14.0%
General Service Schedules 11&12 (small commercial)	7.0%
Large General Service Schedules 21&22 (commercial & industrial over 50kw)	7.9%
Extra Large General Service Schedule 25 (commercial & industrial over 3,000kva)	12.6%
Pumping Service Schedules 31&32 (agriculture & other water pumping)	12.0%
Street & Area Lighting Schedules	9.8%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general electric rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

November, 1999

On October 22nd, Avista Utilities (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission a request for an increase in the Company's Washington natural gas rates totaling \$4.9 million or 6.5%. The proposed increase is necessary to recover increased expenses and provide a reasonable return on the Company's investment in gas facilities to provide gas service to its customers. The Commission can take up to eleven months to review the Company's request, so any approved rate increase is not expected to occur until the second half of 2000. The Commission will determine the actual amount of the rate increase, if any, based on the results of their investigation.

The Company is proposing an average increase in residential and small commercial rates of 7.5%, which is slightly higher than the overall requested increase of 6.5%, as the present rates for residential and small commercial service recover less than the costs of providing service. Based on the proposed rates, a typical residential gas customer using an average of 80 therms per month would see an average monthly increase of \$2.74. The present and proposed rates for General Service Schedule 101 (residential and small commercial) are shown in the following table:

<u>Present Rates</u>		<u>Proposed Rates</u>	
\$4.00 Basic Charge, plus		\$5.00 Basic Charge, plus	
All therms	37.902¢ per therm	All therms	40.069¢ per therm

The proposed increases in the rates by service schedule are as follows:

General Service Schedule 101 (residential & small commercial)	7.5%
Large General Service Schedules 111&112 (commercial & industrial over 200 therms/month)	4.4%
Large General Service Schedules 121&122 (commercial & industrial over 10,000 therms/month)	4.6%
Interruptible Service Schedules 131&132 (interruptible sales customers over 250,000 therms/year)	0.0%
Transportation Service Schedule 146 (transport of customer-owned gas / over 250,000 therms/year)	8.6%

If you have any questions about this filing, please call Avista Utilities at 1-800-227-9187. If you would like to submit comments to the Commission on the Company's proposed filing, or have questions about the process, you may contact the Commission at the following address, phone number, or e-mail address:

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
1-800-562-6150
e-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov

All comments to the Commission must be submitted in writing or be presented at a public hearing. A public hearing regarding the Company's filing will be held in Spokane with the date, time and place to be announced at a later date. If you would like to be added to the Commission's mailing list to be notified of all Commission hearings addressing the Company's proposal, please call 1-800-562-6150 and leave your name, complete mailing address and state that you are calling about Avista's proposed general gas rate increase.

A copy of the Company's application is available for public review at the offices of both the Company and the Commission.

Sincerely,



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NI

37879

2372 Eagle River Way
Kettle Falls, WA 99141
December 17, 1999

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1999

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Secretary, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Secretary:

Avista Utilities has just advised its customers of its recent filing of a proposal for a rate increase. As one of Avista's electrical consumers, I would like to comment.

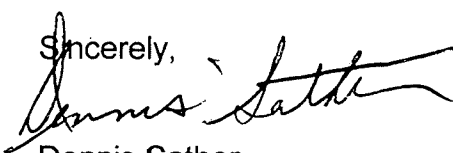
Based on Avista's flyer, the proposed rate increase for Residential users is 14%, higher than for any other class of user described on their rate schedule. Unlike a commercial business or a manufacturing operation, a residential user has little opportunity to reduce electrical usage, unless one is an all electrical customer and can convert to another energy source for heating. Avista provides a commodity and its distribution and is disingenuously attempting to saddle its most politically voiceless class of customers with the largest rate of increase.

Avista proposes to raise its basic monthly fee from \$3.00 to \$5.00, an increase of 66.7%!! If I am able to cut my usage, the basic fee becomes a proportionately larger percentage of my bill. What about a declining basic fee based on actual usage?

Avista is proposing compressing its rate schedule from three categories to two categories. Consequently, the first 600 kwhs show an increase of 12.1%, and the next 700 kwhs (the eliminated category) show an increase of 17.7%. A residential user starts saving money (2.26%) under the proposal after reaching 1300 kwhs, far higher than the average non-all electrical user. As an example, under the current rate structure, a bill for 1000 kwhs is \$45.04. Under the proposed structure, the same 1000 kwhs would cost \$53.19, an increase of 18.1%, far more than the so-called average increase of 14% Avista claims and much more than the over-all 10.4% Avista claims it needs.

Of course you will be performing a thorough audit of Avista's financial condition. Provided an over-all rate hike of such magnitude is legitimately justified, I certainly hope you will closely examine the legitimacy of the proposed rate schedules among the various classes of users as well as the fairness of the proposed rate structure for Residential customers.

Sincerely,



Dennis Sather

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1999

WASH. UT. & TR. COMM.