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Corp.

May 5, 2006

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

Attention: Ms. Carole Washburn, Executive Secretary

RE: Docket No. UG-060518

Through their letter dated May 1, 2006, the Public Counsel Section of the Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel) requested that Avista's natural gas decoupling proposal be set for hearing. In their letter they state that it is their belief "that broad notice and formal discovery necessitate setting a hearing." The Commission Staff has scheduled an informal meeting with all interested parties on May 17th to discuss the Company's proposal. Public Counsel has indicated that they will be represented at the meeting. Avista believes that setting a hearing prior to this meeting would be premature and could limit the potential outcome of this meeting. Further, Avista will attempt to openly address any issues and concerns raised by the parties prior to this matter coming before the Commission. Therefore, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission reserve judgement on the need for a hearing until this matter is brought before the Commissioners in a public meeting.

Sincerely,

Kelly Norwood
Vice President, State & Federal Regulation

cc: Glenn Blackmon

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