



**Avista Corp.**

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January 12, 2018

Steven V. King  
Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Docket No. UE-011595, Monthly Power Cost Deferral Report, December 2017  
Docket No. UE-140188, Monthly REC Report, December 2017

Dear Mr. King:

Enclosed for electronic filing is Avista Corporation's Power Cost Deferral Report for the month of December 2017. The report includes the monthly Energy Recovery Mechanism (ERM) accounting journal together with supporting work papers (Attachment A). The native format of the Excel worksheets for the deferral calculation and the journal in "pdf" format are attached to the electronic filing. Please note "pdf" is the native form for the deferral journal.

As summarized on page 12 of the December 2017 Power Cost Deferral report, actual net power supply costs were lower than authorized net power costs for the Washington jurisdiction by \$3,179,395. A deferral entry in the amount of \$1,664,805 in the rebate direction was recorded for the month. Year to date, actual net power supply costs were lower than authorized net power supply costs for the Washington jurisdiction by \$6,219,740. Through December 2017, the Company has absorbed \$4,554,935, with a year-to-date recorded deferral of \$1,664,805 as illustrated below:

	Total	Absorbed (Avista)	Deferred (Customer)
First \$4M at 100%	\$ (4,000,000)	\$ (4,000,000)	\$ -
\$4M to \$10M at 25% (rebate)	\$ (2,219,740)	\$ (554,935)	\$ (1,664,805)
\$4M to \$10M at 50% (surcharge)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Over \$10M at 10%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ (6,219,740)	\$ (4,554,935)	\$ (1,664,805)

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Per the multiparty settlement stipulation in Docket No. UE-120436, the Company's rate adjustment trigger is \$30 million. Combined with the current year deferral balance, the current deferral rebate balance is approximately \$22.96 million (excluding interest).

In December, actual power supply expense was lower than authorized power supply expense due primarily to higher than authorized hydro generation, lower than authorized natural gas and power prices and a one-time true up for transmission revenues. Hydro generation was 37 aMW above the authorized level. The average purchased power price was \$23.57/MWh compared to an authorized price of \$32.08/MWh. The average natural gas price was \$2.49/dth compared to an authorized price of \$3.05/dth. The December deferral also included an approximately \$1.8 million true-up of ancillary service transmission revenues from BPA due to a mis-calibrated meter dating back to 2011.<sup>1</sup>

Colstrip and Kettle Falls generation was 18 aMW and 10 aMW above the authorized level respectively. Gas-fired generation was 55 aMW above the authorized level. The net transmission expense (transmission expense less transmission revenue) was below the authorized level. Washington retail sales were 16 aMW above the authorized level.

There was one forward long-term power contract executed in December 2017 which is provided in Attachment B.

The report also includes the monthly renewable energy credits (REC) accounting journal together with backup work papers (Attachment C). Per Order 05, Docket UE-140188, the Company defers 100% of the net monthly renewable energy credits (REC) not associated with compliance for the Washington Energy Independence Act. The amount of net revenues/(expense) for December 2017 is \$198,327.

Interest for the ERM is calculated pursuant to the Settlement Stipulation approved by the Commission's Fifth Supplemental Order in Docket No. UE-011595, dated December 18, 2002. Interest is applied to the average of the beginning and ending month deferral balances net of associated deferred federal income tax. The Company's actual cost of debt is used as the interest rate. The interest rate is updated semi-annually and interest is compounded semi-annually.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Johnson at (509) 495-4046 or Annette Brandon at (509) 495-4324.

Sincerely,



Patrick D. Ehrbar  
Director of Rates

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<sup>1</sup> See page 19 and 20 for additional information