

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of)	
)	
AVISTA CORPORATION)	
)	DOCKET NO. UE-000080
for a Ruling on the Regulatory Treatment of)	
the Gain on the Proposed Sale of the 2.5%)	
Share of the Centralia Power Plant Acquired)	
by Avista Corporation from Portland)	OBJECTION OF STAFF TO
General Electric to be Sold to TECWA)	PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER
Power, Inc.)	
_____)	

In the Prehearing Conference Order issued February 11, 2000 in this Docket, the Commission denied the parties' request to consolidate this case with Docket Nos. UE-991255, et al. The Commission stated that further consolidation was administratively burdensome and unnecessary because the parties in this case would be allowed to use the record from the consolidated case.

Staff has no objection to the denial of consolidation. However, allowing the parties to use the record in Docket Nos. UE-991255, et al., does not incorporate into the record in this case any evidence beyond what is contained in the parties' Stipulation of Facts. This omission is important because the Commission must still have a full record upon which to decide whether the sale of the 2.5% share of Centralia is consistent with the public interest, when the Stipulation of Facts is aimed primarily at the issue of Commission jurisdiction. It is also important because a full record must be available for any judicial appeal of the Commission's decision with respect to public interest issues.

Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission actually incorporate by reference into this Docket the entire record in Docket Nos. UE-991255, et al., absent confidential or super confidential exhibits and transcript pages. This will require the copying of the record only if there is a judicial challenge in this Docket, but otherwise presents none of the administrative burdens the Commission noted with formal consolidation.

DATED this 14th day of February, 2000.

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