

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a AVISTA
UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-120436/UG-120437
(consolidated)

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA
UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-110876/UG-110877
(consolidated)

COMMISSION STAFF RESPONSE
TO NVEC MOTION TO
WITHDRAW DECOUPLING
PROPOSAL

1 On November 9, 2012, the NW Energy Coalition (NVEC) filed a “Motion to Withdraw Decoupling Proposal” (Motion). Commission Staff supports the Motion.

2 NVEC bases its Motion primarily on a term of the proposed Multiparty Settlement Stipulation in which Avista agrees not to support decoupling prior to January 1, 2015. As NVEC notes, per the Commission’s recent order involving Puget Sound Energy, Inc., the

Commission will not impose decoupling over a company's objection. NWECC Motion at 2, ¶ 2 (citing Order 08 in Dockets UE-111048 and UG-1111049 (May 7, 2012) at 167, ¶ 456).

3 Of course, the Commission has not yet decided whether to approve that Settlement Stipulation, so technically, that term is not yet binding. However, the language of the Settlement Stipulation NWECC relies on makes Avista's position clear, and Avista elsewhere on the record has stated it is not requesting decoupling. E.g., Ehrbar, Exh. No. ___ (PDE-9T) at 3, lines 7-8.

4 Therefore, there is a sufficient basis for the Commission to grant NWECC's Motion.

Dated this 14th day of November 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. MCKENNA
Attorney General



DONALD T. TROTTER
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel for Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission Staff