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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

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UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

) DOCKETS UE-140188

) and UG-140189

5

) (Consolidated)

Complainant,

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6

)

vs.

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AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a

)

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AVISTA UTILITIES,

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)

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Respondent.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS HEARING, VOLUME III

15

August 27th, 2014

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12:00 p.m.

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11707 East Sprague Avenue

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Spokane, Washington

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REPORTED BY:

RACHAEL L. HALL, CCR NO. 3265

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COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS:

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DAVID DANNER, Chairman (Not present.)

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JEFFREY GOLTZ, Commissioner

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PHILIP JONES, Commissioner

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1 SPOKANE VALLEY, WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2014

2 12:00 P.M.

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5 MR. GOLTZ: We'll call this proceeding to order.

6 This is the public hearing in the -- with the  
7 Utilities and Transportation Commission. My name is Jeff  
8 Goltz, one of the commissioners. With me is my colleague  
9 Commissioner Philip Jones. Our third colleague, Chairman  
10 David Danner, is on the east coast on a family event so  
11 he can't be here today.

12 We do have a court reporter here today and there  
13 will be a transcript of this proceeding, and so Chairman  
14 Danner will read the court transcript before we render a  
15 decision in this matter.

16 This is a public hearing on the proposal by Avista  
17 Utilities to increase both its gas and electric rates.  
18 There are two docket numbers: UE-140188 and UG-140189,  
19 because there's two consolidated proceedings, one to  
20 increase electric rates, one to increase gas rates and  
21 some other non-rate matters that are included in these  
22 proposals as well.

23 I also need to introduce Roger Kouchi, who is with  
24 the Commission Consumer Affairs staff. You saw him as  
25 you came in the door. Mr. Kouchi and his colleagues in

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1 the Consumer Affairs Division of the Utilities and  
2 Transportation Commission have as their primary job  
3 looking after customers of investor-owned utilities. So  
4 if you have a -- an unrelated to the rate case before us  
5 today, if you have a question about your utility bill,  
6 about your utility service, whether it be Avista or  
7 whether it be a land line telecommunications company, for  
8 example, then go ahead and see Mr. Kouchi or -- yeah, and  
9 he can get contact information and they will help you  
10 with those issues.

11 Likewise there's representatives -- and I'll  
12 introduce them a moment -- of Avista Utilities here. If  
13 you have a question about your utility service, I'm sure  
14 one of them would be eager to help you sort through those  
15 issues.

16 Also, I want to thank the City of Spokane Valley  
17 for, once again as they do for these matters, make  
18 available to us at no charge to the public, their city  
19 council chambers for this public comment hearings.

20 The purpose of this is to take public comment in the  
21 rate case filed by Avista. Also, as some of you may  
22 know, there has been a proposed settlement by all the  
23 parties to that case. So if you have comments on the  
24 underlying rate proposal or the settlement, we'd be eager  
25 to hear that today.

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1           The hearing, the formal evidentiary hearing, meaning  
2           the hearing that we have before the Commission, is on  
3           September 23rd in Olympia. At that point we have several  
4           options after that hearing. We can either approve the  
5           settlement, we can approve it with conditions or we can  
6           reject the settlement. If we approve it with conditions  
7           or if we reject it, we will go on and have a more robust  
8           evidentiary hearing as if the settlement, in case of we  
9           reject it, is that the settlement were not filed. And  
10          those hearings, you will see more of that in a second  
11          because we have a video that explains that process.

12          The Utility Transportation Commission was created by  
13          the state of -- the legislative state of Washington in  
14          1905. In 1911, we got authority to oversee the rates,  
15          services, practices of investor-owned electric and gas  
16          companies among other companies. And it's our charge in  
17          the statutory language to regulate in the public interest  
18          and also to ensure that the rates that are being charged  
19          are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. Those are the  
20          statutory terms. Again, the video will look at that  
21          we'll examine that in a minute.

22          You know, it used to be at this point, either I or  
23          one of my colleagues would launch into a more elaborate  
24          discussion of what we do and somehow we said, well, let's  
25          just have a video so we say the same thing every time to

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1 everybody and make sure we get it right.

2 There's a couple of things. There's handouts out  
3 front in the hall, and one of them is a summary of this  
4 rate proposal and the proposed settlement prepared by the  
5 Office of the Attorney General. So I urge you to have  
6 that because I don't know want to go over all those  
7 details but have that in front of you. If you don't have  
8 that, just run out and get one and I think it will be  
9 useful for you, or Mr. Kouchi may have to get some more.

10 So also in the room we have some representatives of  
11 various parties to this rate case. We have  
12 representatives of the Commission staff who serves as a  
13 party, representatives of the Attorney General's Office,  
14 Office of Public Counsel and representatives of the  
15 utility Avista.

16 So at this point I would like to let them introduce  
17 themselves and what their role is, and after the  
18 proceeding you can feel free to contact them as well.

19 So, Mr. Shearer?

20 MR. SHEARER: My name is Brett Shearer. I'm the  
21 attorney representing Commission staff in this  
22 proceeding.

23 MS. GAFKEN: My name is Lisa Gafken. I'm Assistant  
24 Attorney General for the Office of Public Counsel.

25 MR. MEYER: Good afternoon. David Meyer. I'm the

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1 attorney representing Avista, and we have a number of  
2 people here that can answer questions afterwards, which  
3 Commissioner Goltz has mentioned, so if you can just  
4 stand up if you're here for Avista. Thank you.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: So now as some more background,  
7 and those who were here last year may have seen this  
8 already, we did not update it, so we have a brief --  
9 about a 10-minute video that gives the background of the  
10 Commission, background of utility rate proceedings and  
11 also kind of focus the issues that we're here today to  
12 hear about.

13

14 (Video played but not reported:)

15

16 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Okay. So with that  
17 background, we will proceed to the event of public  
18 comments part of this proceeding. First, as I mentioned  
19 earlier, sometimes in addition to just rates, there's  
20 non-rate or related issues in rate cases. There is at  
21 least one in this rate case, and it's described briefly  
22 in the Attorney General's handout, also in the company's  
23 handout on revenue decoupling and Commissioner Jones can  
24 describe that briefly.

25 COMMISSIONER JONES: So I'm just going to take a



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1 minute or two to explain what decoupling is. It's  
2 explained both in the Avista mailer to you and the Public  
3 Counsel handout. And the reason I'm going to explain  
4 this to you is this is really the first time that Avista  
5 has enjoyed this particular sort of rate mechanism.

6 Decoupling is a mechanism that's intended to break  
7 the length between the utility's revenue requirement and  
8 actual energy usage. This is an issue that has been  
9 hotly debated around the utility commissions around the  
10 country for many years. Many states have adopted  
11 decoupling mechanisms but many states haven't. And this  
12 has been an issue before the Commission for several  
13 years.

14 We have authorized a decoupling mechanism both for  
15 natural gas and electricity for Puget Sound energy. And  
16 as you can see in the settlement stipulation, all parties  
17 agreed to allow decoupling for Avista and we call this  
18 full decoupling because Avista currently enjoys partial  
19 decoupling on the natural gas side.

20 But this is a mechanism that is a little bit  
21 complicated to understand, but you may see it on your  
22 bill in the future. So what it means is that the utility  
23 has a lot of fixed costs that it needs to get cost  
24 recovery on, but part of the bill is in the fixed charge,  
25 what we call the basic monthly charge, and part of it is

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1 in the volumetric charge, what we call on the electric  
2 side it's per kilowatt hours; for natural gas, it therms.  
3 So the more you consume in therms or kilowatt hours, the  
4 more you're charged.

5 Many advocates of greater energy conservation,  
6 environmental groups and others have advocated for  
7 decoupling for many years. And they do so because they  
8 want to make the utility indifferent to greater energy  
9 conservation. Their argument is that the more you  
10 conserve, the better it is for the earth --

11 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: It's a different degree of  
12 energy consumption.

13 COMMISSIONER JONES: Yes. Different from energy  
14 consumption. Thank you, Commissioner.

15 So those are the arguments on one side, and then on  
16 the other side people are concerned about the fixed  
17 charge going up too much. The monthly charge, they argue  
18 that if the fixed charge goes up too much, that's unfair  
19 to low-income customers, and it may not incent people  
20 because we have many economists who come before us that  
21 say the higher the price of electricity or natural gas,  
22 the more the incentive to conserve.

23 So anyway, this is a complex subject, but suffice it  
24 to say that we, in the settlement stipulation, all  
25 parties including public counsel and the industrial

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1 customers and the company and our staff have agreed to a  
2 full decoupling mechanism both for natural gas and  
3 electricity.

4 And let me just explain what this may mean because  
5 you may see it on your bill in the future. And I'll just  
6 talk about weather because differences in revenue  
7 requirement may be changed by weather conservation or the  
8 economy going up and down.

9 But let's say it's a colder weather because we're  
10 forecasting in the future. If it's a colder weather than  
11 normal, the utility will probably sell more kilowatt  
12 hours or more therms than what is forecasted, right. So  
13 at the end of the year there will be an adjustment or  
14 true-up. So, probably in that case if there are no other  
15 mitigating factors, you will -- the customer will receive  
16 a rebate at the end of the year because the company  
17 enjoyed more revenues than was forecasted.

18 On the flip side, if it is a warmer winter than  
19 usual -- I'm just talking about weather now -- if it's a  
20 warmer weather than usual, the company will not receive  
21 sufficient revenues to cover its estimated revenue  
22 requirement. In that case you will receive a surcharge  
23 on your bill, so you will billed additionally for -- for  
24 that.

25 Now there are some in the settlement as I read it,

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1 all parties agree that a decoupling surcharge cannot  
2 exceed 3 percent annually, and then if there are any  
3 recovered, recovered balances are carried to future  
4 years, but if there's a credit back to the customer,  
5 there's no limit.

6 So that's kind of the essence. It's a little bit  
7 complicated to understand. It's a new mechanism of --  
8 the parties have said five years, let's give it a try,  
9 let's give it a pilot, but this is going to be a new  
10 mechanism for Avista customers here in Spokane Valley and  
11 Spokane, and I thought I would try to explain that  
12 briefly.

13 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Thank you. So -- and if you  
14 have any further questions, please ask the company or the  
15 public counsel or the staff representatives here today  
16 after the hearing.

17 So we have a number of people who have signed up.  
18 Now, as was mentioned in the video, this is an  
19 evidentiary proceeding. We make our decision based on  
20 what we read, what we hear, so that's why we have a court  
21 reporter. So when you come up to testify, we will ask  
22 you to state your name and then spell your name so we can  
23 make sure we get it correctly.

24 Also ask you to state if you're an Avista customer,  
25 whether it's electric, gas or both, and mention if you're

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1       testifying on behalf of yourself or some of you will be  
2       testifying on behalf of an organization.  Speak slowly so  
3       we don't have to interrupt you and the court reporter has  
4       to catch up.

5               And also in some cases in the past, we've set a time  
6       limit on how long people can talk.  Usually three to five  
7       minutes.  You can say a lot in three to five minutes.  I  
8       don't see a need to do that today because we don't have  
9       that many people signed up but still try to be concise,  
10      and if the speaker ahead of you mentions something and  
11      you agree, just go ahead and say, "Me too."

12              Also, if you think of something after today you  
13      wanted to say or wanted to get some more detail, the  
14      record's open until September 23rd, feel free to make  
15      some of the online comments as -- comments online, write  
16      a letter, make a phone call, as was mentioned on the  
17      video, those same Web sites and addresses, phone numbers,  
18      et cetera are in the Public Counsel handout or you can  
19      get them from Mr. Kouchi afterwards.  And if you have  
20      some documents you want to give us, make sure Mr. Kouchi  
21      gets a copy so it gets into the record.

22              So, with that we will proceed to the public hearing.  
23      Because it is a hearing, we need to put you under oath.  
24      So I would ask that all those people who have agreed to  
25      the -- or wish to testify, even if you're just thinking

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1 about it, to stand and raise your right hand and I will  
2 read the oath -- or since I can't seem to find it, I will  
3 recite it from memory. And then we'll ask you, do you  
4 agree with that, you simply say I do or something and  
5 then we'll proceed.

6 In this matter -- do you solemnly swear that in  
7 this matter the testimony you are about to give will be  
8 the truth, and do you assert that under penalty of  
9 perjury?

10 PUBLIC SPEAKERS: I do.

11 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Thank you. We'll start from  
12 the beginning. Sorry for mumbling that, but I think  
13 that's sufficient.

14 I'll start with Ms. Julie Honekamp to the stand.

15 MS. HONEKAMP: So good afternoon. My name is Julie  
16 Honekamp, J-U-L-I-E, H-O-N-E-K-A-M-P. And I am the CEO  
17 at Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners, also known as  
18 SNAP. We are Spokane's community action agency.

19 I wanted to begin first by thanking you for making  
20 the time to come to Spokane and to listen firsthand to  
21 us, the Avista consumers. I know it's a trek and staff  
22 is here as well, and I appreciate that.

23 SNAP is both an electric customer and a gas customer  
24 at more than 20 locations within the county including in  
25 excess of 300 affordable housing units. In partnership

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1 with Avista, SNAP administers the low-income rate  
2 assistance program, LIRAP. We've worked side by side  
3 with Avista since 2001 to help design and implement an  
4 effective and efficient program that helps to serve over  
5 12,000 households with LIRAP dollars across the Avista  
6 service territory last year.

7 At SNAP, we consider Avista to be a very strong  
8 community partner, a great corporate citizen and believe  
9 we have a sound and positive working relationship. In  
10 all of that Avista and SNAP work together to serve those  
11 in needs. There are times when SNAP as a community  
12 action agency must step forward to express the different  
13 perspective on behalf of those we are serving. And this  
14 is such a time.

15 Organizationally, SNAP is guided by three core  
16 principles every day, so community, respect and justice.  
17 And in the category of justice, we believe in advocating  
18 what is fair, honorable and equitable. So, like the  
19 Commission, who is charged with evaluating whether a  
20 proposed settlement is fair and just, reasonable,  
21 sufficient and in the public's best interest, SNAP is  
22 called to advocate for those living in poverty.

23 I want to begin this afternoon by sharing just some  
24 brief context about our remarks about the Spokane  
25 community that I believe underscores the level of poverty

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1 as compared to the state as a whole. So according to the  
2 US Census Bureau, Spokane County has an estimated 2013  
3 population of 479,398 people.

4 Of the roughly 479,000 Spokane residents, 14.8  
5 percent are nearly two full percentage points higher than  
6 the state which equates to about 71,000 people are living  
7 in poverty. That's 71,000 of our neighbors, colleagues,  
8 brothers, grandchildren living in poverty. Of the  
9 71,000, 22 percent of those are persons under 18; 14  
10 percent are those over 65.

11 In a report that was commissioned by Avista,  
12 completed by Eastern Washington University in 2010, it  
13 was reported that in 2009, which was at some of our peak  
14 funding levels particularly for LIHEAP, SNAP only had  
15 enough resources to serve 30 percent of the eligible  
16 households. That leaves a remaining 70 percent of the  
17 eligible households, or an estimated 49,000 Spokane  
18 low-income people do not have access to heating systems.  
19 I believe this is a conservative estimate and it only  
20 calculates individuals at or below the federal poverty  
21 line. And our heating assistance programs go up to 125  
22 percent of the federal poverty level.

23 But before I get too abstract and buried in the  
24 numbers, I want to share with you Margaret's story.  
25 Margaret is one of the lucky 30 percent who received



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1 energy assistance. Margaret shared with us that she was  
2 married to a soldier from World War II and left her  
3 hometown in Oregon, New York for Montana. The couple had  
4 four children and eventually found their way to Spokane.

5 Over the years, Margaret never sat idle. She worked  
6 at a hospital, in hotel management, and as the secretary  
7 at a bank and in housekeeping in establishments like  
8 Spokane Club until she finally retired at the age of 77.  
9 These days, Margaret who is 84, rents a humble apartment  
10 in the Garry neighborhood just north of Gonzaga. Her  
11 45-year-old home overlooks the Spokane river and she is  
12 living on \$925 a month.

13 So when she was working, Margaret told us she  
14 considered calling SNAP for help but decided not to  
15 saying that, "I always felt that other people needed it  
16 more than I did."

17 Now on a fixed income, provided largely through  
18 Social Security, Margaret has utilized SNAP energy  
19 assistance as a way to cover her utility cost,  
20 particularly in our cold winters. She stated, "It really  
21 helped and I'm so glad it's here." For Margaret and  
22 others, as you know, the support means the difference  
23 between not having to cut back on groceries or  
24 medications instead of covering the heat bill.

25 So Margaret's story highlights for us three points.

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1 One, that we do not support the proposed rate increase,  
2 particularly for the basic monthly charge. We're  
3 concerned about the rate increase as a percentage and  
4 that we understand our low-income folks' incomes are not  
5 going up at the same rate.

6 The real per capita income for Spokane County shows  
7 that incomes have not yet returned to the pre-recession  
8 2008 highs. And as was mentioned by ALTCEW folks last  
9 night, our clients on Social Security in 2013 saw the  
10 lowest coal increase since 1975. Plainly stated, incomes  
11 are not increasing as quickly as the proposed rate  
12 increases.

13 Secondly, we are really committed to looking at our  
14 service delivery model, as well as other design options,  
15 with the goals of keeping people connected and serving  
16 more households. However, we do feel strongly that any  
17 pilot should be well-considered and financially modeled  
18 and that additional resources may be needed to make this  
19 pilot happen.

20 I'd like to close by correcting one last  
21 misperception that there is a surplus or underutilized  
22 money in the LIRAP program. SNAP and Avista have worked  
23 together to design a program that spends the LIRAP money  
24 down during the heating season and then allows the LIRAP  
25 money to build back up over the summer. And because

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1 LIRAP models, all those LIHEAP, no heating money from  
2 LIRAP heat can be spent after June 30th.

3 So naturally there's a build-up. This arrangement  
4 was agreed to with Avista jointly and has worked well,  
5 but that also means that there are not surplus monies  
6 there to be pulled for a pilot.

7 So we encourage the Commission to consider whether  
8 the proposed rate increase is indeed just and equitable.  
9 We also encourage you to consider additional funding for  
10 the LIRAP program in order for all income-eligible  
11 households to have access to the remaining connected and  
12 for staying warm in their homes.

13 I thank you for your attention and your  
14 consideration and on behalf of the low-income folks in  
15 this community for being here.

16 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Thank you, Ms. Honekamp. Thank  
17 you again, you always give very thoughtful presentations  
18 at these public hearings and we really appreciate it.

19 MS. HONEKAMP: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: I have a couple of questions  
21 and just heads-up to everyone else. Normally, we don't  
22 ask any questions here, but I have a couple of questions  
23 because the low-income component of the rate case and  
24 also is for settlement does implicate SNAP, I believe,  
25 and your clients.

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1           So just a couple of things. First of all, the  
2 energy project was a party to this case, so can you  
3 describe the relationship between SNAP and the energy  
4 project?

5           MS. HONEKAMP: Sure. So the energy project  
6 represents the low-income providers that administer the  
7 LIRAP program in our community of which I believe there  
8 are six or seven. So we speak with them frequently but  
9 not all the time do all six or seven fully agree, so they  
10 have to kind of wrestle us and get our opinions and carry  
11 the greater group consensus forward.

12           COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: So the energy project did sign  
13 off on this proposed settlement?

14           MS. HONEKAMP: Correct.

15           COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: You said you were opposed, SNAP  
16 was opposed to the rate increase --

17           MS. HONEKAMP: Uh-huh.

18           COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: -- but you didn't -- you're  
19 silent on whether you support this settlement. Do you  
20 have a position on settlement?

21           MS. HONEKAMP: You're going to pin me down here,  
22 aren't you?

23           COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Well, you can say no.

24           MS. HONEKAMP: You know, I will actually say no.

25           COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Okay.

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1 MS. HONEKAMP: So -- I mean, while I support the  
2 energy project and their work, I guess I would still like  
3 to see the rate of increase for rates remain consistent  
4 with what incomes are going up at, and I do believe that  
5 additional funding for low-income would be helpful.

6 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Okay. So -- then so are you  
7 the only active agency in Avista's territory that --

8 MS. HONEKAMP: No.

9 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Okay. You said there were six  
10 total?

11 MS. HONEKAMP: Uh-huh.

12 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Okay. So let me ask you  
13 also -- but you're the largest one I, believe.

14 MS. HONEKAMP: We are.

15 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: And part of the settlement in  
16 addition to some adjustments for the funding levels  
17 increases not as much as you would like --

18 MS. HONEKAMP: Sure.

19 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: -- I understand.

20 There is also a proposal to -- subsequent to the  
21 settlement's approved, subsequent to their approval, to  
22 undertake a process to consider modifications to the  
23 LIRAP program. Are you supportive of that?

24 MS. HONEKAMP: I am.

25 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: And would you -- would SNAP

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1 have the resources to be able to participate in that in  
2 some meaningful way?

3 MS. HONEKAMP: We definitely hope so.

4 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Okay. Thank you. That's all I  
5 have.

6 MS. HONEKAMP: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER JONES: I have a couple of questions,  
8 too. So you mention pilot, and you just responded to  
9 Commissioner Goltz saying that you would support this  
10 process as a process equals pilot?

11 MS. HONEKAMP: I support the exploration of  
12 different rate designs, and I think it's quite a  
13 complicated issue and I was really pleased to see the two  
14 goals established. And I guess I would ask for  
15 clarification, and whether it's directly to you or  
16 through Chuck, making sure that those two goals, is that  
17 the correct order which is keeping folks connected as  
18 being the first goal, and secondly, serving more  
19 households. Some designs make work to achieve one but  
20 not the other, so it would be great to have clarification  
21 on that.

22 COMMISSIONER JONES: Why don't you check with Chuck  
23 Ebert on this because I haven't read this process with  
24 the third-party facilitator in detail, but yeah, I think  
25 it would be best to check directly with him.

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1 MS. HONEKAMP: Okay. We'll do that.

2 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: And if you have any few more to  
3 add, to get them in by the 23rd.

4 MS. HONEKAMP: We can.

5 COMMISSIONER JONES: Just a couple more. You  
6 mention 49,000 people in Spokane County are under the  
7 federal poverty line.

8 MS. HONEKAMP: Correct.

9 COMMISSIONER JONES: Do you have households for  
10 that? What do we divide by to get households?

11 MS. HONEKAMP: You know roughly 2.4, I believe.

12 COMMISSIONER JONES: So if I do the math, 49,000 --  
13 because of course all of the LIHEAP weatherization  
14 assistance is per household, right? So that's about  
15 20,460 households.

16 MS. HONEKAMP: The caveat to that being that is  
17 again federal poverty line and these programs go to 125  
18 percent of FPL, so there's still another group of them  
19 there.

20 COMMISSIONER JONES: Okay. And we at the Commission  
21 have had hearings on low income, whether it's in both  
22 weatherization assistance, heating assistance in the  
23 past, and I think you participated or you or know about  
24 those. But I'd be curious, and if you have anything, you  
25 could submit it for this record or another docket, but

0101

1 have you weighed in on the FPL issues, the definition of  
2 federal poverty line and whether 125 percent is  
3 appropriate, 150 percent? There are a lot of arguments  
4 about this.

5 MS. HONEKAMP: We have not, but we can sure give  
6 that some thought as an agency and submit something.

7 COMMISSIONER JONES: I think that would be helpful.

8 And then finally you ask here in Point No. 3, if  
9 there were full utilization of these 20,500 households in  
10 Spokane County, how much would that cost?

11 MS. HONEKAMP: Yeah. And we've got the  
12 back-of-the-cocktail-napkin answer, I will be happy to  
13 delve in and submit it as well.

14 COMMISSIONER JONES: Could you, please?

15 MS. HONEKAMP: I could.

16 COMMISSIONER JONES: Okay. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Okay. Thank you very much.

18 So this is going a little slower than I thought.  
19 That's not that we've got lots of time, but we have this  
20 at lunch hour. Some people may be only available during  
21 the lunch hour so anyone who is signed up who needs to  
22 run off at one o'clock or before -- so we will take them  
23 out of turn, otherwise we're just going to proceed  
24 through here.

25 Okay. So we'll go with the next which is Mr. Ken



0102

1 Vorhees.

2 MR. VORHEES: Good afternoon. My name is Ken  
3 Vorhees. That's V, as in Victor, O-R-H-E-E-S. I'm the  
4 chief financial officer for Spokane Industries. Spokane  
5 Industries is a electric and gas consumer. I'm here just  
6 to really speak on the electric. And we're not  
7 residential, so we are on Schedule 25, so we are a large  
8 consumer of electricity.

9 And the point I want to make is that -- for a little  
10 background, Spokane Industries is a 60-year-old  
11 family-owned business here in Spokane Industries. We're  
12 family-owned, 300 employees, about 275,000 square feet  
13 out in the Spokane industrial park.

14 And I also want to comment that Avista is a good  
15 company to work with. You know, we respect them, we have  
16 a good working relationship with them. We are dealing in  
17 a high-power environment and so, you know, we work  
18 together and have a healthy respect for their  
19 capabilities.

20 It was advertised in the press release back down --  
21 10 days or so, August 18th, that the Schedule 25  
22 consumers would have an average rate of 1.9 percent  
23 increase and it was to build up for the infrastructure  
24 improvements, et cetera, that Avista is working on. And  
25 we told them we were a manufacturer, we build things.

0103

1 We totally believe in improving infrastructure certainly  
2 for reliability purposes, supply purposes. It serves the  
3 whole community.

4 But -- and thankfully, I'll just say also to  
5 Avista's credit, they brought it to our attention that an  
6 average 1.9 percent increase is -- it's an average and  
7 different people are impacted differently. And so I was  
8 able to obtain, I believe it's the settlement, proposed  
9 settlement rate sheet, which is the third page of the  
10 handout that I passed through.

11 And I took those rates and applied them against our  
12 rates for both the month of July using actual consumption  
13 and also the month of February for actual consumption  
14 because we're a manufacturer and our usage fluctuates on  
15 a month-to-month basis depending on seasonality,  
16 depending on business levels.

17 And lo and behold the proposed rate increase  
18 actually for July would be a 6.1 percent increase. The  
19 increase for February would have been a 7 and a half  
20 percent increase. And the reason for that is because of  
21 a substantial increase of the demand charge.

22 And so that fixed base rate -- and I don't have  
23 any idea if that relates at all to the conversation of  
24 decoupling, but that fixed base rate, Spokane Industries,  
25 the way I look at it, must be at the low end of the

0104

1 Schedule 25 consumption band, and so that fixed rate  
2 number is the \$6,000 per month increase or \$72,000 a  
3 year.

4 And when we put that against our annual monthly  
5 bills, that's a -- I'll just say a 6 or 7 percent  
6 increase. That's way more than 1.9 percent average,  
7 which just leads me to believe then those that are at the  
8 high end of Schedule 25 consumption are maybe seeing a 1  
9 percent increase or something lower.

10 So we believe that, you know, 6 or 7 and a half  
11 percent-type rate increases are not necessarily fair or  
12 appropriate, and we'd like the Commission to take a look  
13 at, you know, strictly as Schedule 25, but obviously  
14 there would have been some design to generate a certain  
15 amount of revenue coming out of Schedule 25 and trying to  
16 balance that across all the users who are in Schedule 25,  
17 I don't think that there's that many users in that group,  
18 but that it somehow get a better balance so those of us  
19 like Spokane Industries that are at the low end of  
20 consumption of that schedule have such a large increase.

21 That would be my comments.

22 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Well, thanks very much. A lot  
23 of the -- I don't have any questions. I do just have a  
24 comment that one of the advantages of these public  
25 hearings and the timing of them for securing of merits is

0105

1 that we get ideas for things that we then can ask the  
2 company when we have a public hearing. So I just want to  
3 put the company on notice that I will ask about these  
4 questions that Mr. Vorhees has raised about Schedule 25,  
5 so maybe at the hearing you'll be -- have someone be  
6 prepared to answer those questions.

7 MR. VORHEES: Okay. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: So next, Ms. Carolyn Pickett.

9 MS. PICKETT: Hello. Thank you. I forget I'm not  
10 tall. Thank you. My name is Carolyn Pickett. I live in  
11 Spokane County.

12 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: That's P-I-C-K-E-T-T?

13 MS. PICKETT: It's P-I-C-K-E-T-T. And the first  
14 thing I'm going to do is make -- that I say this  
15 testimony is in good faith respectfully, however, I am  
16 going to jump down to one of the last things I wrote on  
17 my paperwork.

18 Avista, when I called them, they called me or I got  
19 ahold of them somehow, and they wanted me to change the  
20 paperwork in the office because my husband had passed  
21 away in 2009 and I left it in the paperwork that it was  
22 his estate. They wanted everything they could find out  
23 about me, and they sent me a whole packet of information.  
24 I wouldn't even give my Social Security to the next-door  
25 neighbor, why would I give it to Avista, and they wanted

0106

1       it all in writing.  And just after that, they -- they --  
2       rip off from somebody they got a lot of their  
3       information.

4             My husband told me when he was alive -- he was an  
5       electrical engineer and he also worked at the hydroplant  
6       where they get their electricity from.  He told me never  
7       to hook into computers.  He knew all about them, and he  
8       said they can be broken and cracked -- and whatever they  
9       call the word -- very easily, and it's been obvious.  So  
10      I surely am not going to give all my background  
11      information even to Avista, and when I call them, they  
12      call -- they tell me they're in Boise, Idaho, and I'm  
13      going, how do I know that?  The last people I talked to  
14      were in the Philippines.

15            So this is -- there's too many people in between  
16      that I'm not going to give back any information like  
17      that.  And all I wanted them to do was to -- if I needed  
18      them, was a tree had blown out of the ground and was  
19      across lines but it didn't break any of them, and I had  
20      friends come out and we got it all off the line and never  
21      needed them, but they said they had to have all that  
22      information with them -- I was the person, not my  
23      departed husband.

24            Okay.  Now, as for this testimony, one, I'm opposed  
25      to a rate increase.  I do not think it is a just thing to

0107

1 do at this time because there are many people unemployed.  
2 Employment hasn't changed since the last time I talked  
3 here. And there are too many unemployed people, and SNAP  
4 has already told you how many they are taking care of.  
5 Those people have a hard time paying the bills that they  
6 have.

7 And every time anybody gets a rate increase from the  
8 callers, you know, all this down the line, the grocery  
9 store in the neighborhood, now rate increases by Avista,  
10 anybody that wants a rate increase, they just put that on  
11 the consumer. The consumer is being taken advantage of  
12 because they can't really tell you, no, because you're  
13 going to shut off their lights if they do.

14 Rate increases are inflationary, and they are not  
15 going to make it any better for anybody else. So these  
16 companies that have -- and the last time they got a rate  
17 increase, they put the pocketed -- the money for the CEOs  
18 of Avista, and now they're gone and we have a whole bunch  
19 of new people as board members there. Most of them don't  
20 even live in Spokane.

21 They are big corporations, and they've got the idea  
22 that they're going to help the public by making charts on  
23 a piece of paper that tell them that it will be 1.1 or  
24 1.5. And mathematics wasn't my key point in school, but  
25 I do know when I have been taken advantage of when

0108

1 somebody's got more money than I have to give them.

2           There was another paper in -- and what they do is  
3 they fill the packet of information to us from Avista  
4 full of papers. And one of them I got recently that I  
5 was looking at and they were taking benefit for 125 years  
6 of doing so much for Spokane. Well, I've got the paper  
7 from the library that tells me who really does, who  
8 really owned that property and where it went and how it  
9 is.

10           And I went down to the big park that they had taken  
11 out all the parking into City Hall. You have to park in  
12 a parking meter along the street or across the street in  
13 a parking garage thing, and I'm saying they are not  
14 looking out for the little guy. They are looking out to  
15 make it look like they are doing something for Spokane,  
16 and that park was there for years. They cleaned off the  
17 brush that was there, but it's not been changed since way  
18 back when.

19           And so I'm very opposed to what they have put out  
20 in their -- and I also wonder why if they've got so much  
21 caring for money, why aren't they putting less paper out  
22 to the public in those bills that they send us.

23           The Avista board do not represent Spokane County  
24 residents. The present board is made of person all over  
25 the county, I've said that. The raised rate would go

0109

1       against all residents, and the landlords would pass this  
2       on to their people that live in these apartment buildings  
3       and duplexes, et cetera and so forth, they would be --  
4       have to pay the rate. And it can -- as the SNAP person  
5       told, it can be very expensive for some of those people.

6               The people, residents of Spokane County, will be  
7       asked to pay more for the least expensive form of  
8       electricity in the whole county. Water is the least  
9       expensive form of making electricity. And another thing  
10      most people don't know is the return of sewage water,  
11      reclaimed water they call it, you know, a purple pipe  
12      that goes right into the river, that comes from all the  
13      sewage water. So they get more running through that dam  
14      now further on the river than they probably had before,  
15      so they even have -- can generate more power that way.

16             Maybe they should let people know where they're  
17      really getting the water from so that they know what kind  
18      of water is being put into the river and the fact that  
19      they have more water going through that it must generate  
20      some more energy than they were getting before.

21             I said this before and I say it again: The CFL  
22      light bulbs that were given away free by Avista were not  
23      free. The people just don't realize how dangerous those  
24      things are and how they can burn up the ground wire and  
25      not shut off the fuses to your house and burn your house



0110

1 down.

2 One person I knew was away from home, he came home  
3 and that bulb had broken and he just got in the house in  
4 time to keep it from going and causing -- starting a  
5 fire. So they aren't giving anybody something for  
6 nothing. In fact, it's very dangerous, the materials in  
7 that, because mercury and chloride are gassed off into  
8 the home.

9 People are not aware of this harm, and even some of  
10 the Avista people were using them, and they looked at me  
11 really strange. Where did you get that information?  
12 It's on American Thinkers in the computer, and I was sent  
13 that information so that I could sit and read it  
14 thoroughly.

15 The -- and I'm --

16 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Ms. Pickett --

17 MS. PICKETT: -- going to say one more thing. This  
18 admin -- this -- this board is controlled by the  
19 administrative act, was done in 1948, '49, to keep from  
20 having tyranny -- tyranny and syndicate control by  
21 systems.

22 And I'm going to let the next person do their thing  
23 because I've said all I've got written down here. You  
24 can reread it if you want to because I made sure that  
25 you've got plenty copies. Thank you.

0111

1 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Thank you very much.

2 Next we have Ms. Rose Marie Larson.

3 MS. LARSON: My name is Rose Marie Waldram-Larson.

4 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Can you spell those for the  
5 court reporter, please?

6 MS. LARSON: When I married Mr. Larson in 1986, I  
7 kept my maiden name, so I am legally Rose Marie Waldram.  
8 That's W-A-L-D, like David, R-A-M, like Mary, Larson, L,  
9 like Larry, A, like Albert, R, like Roger, S, like Sam,  
10 O, like Orville, N, like Nelly.

11 I'm going to be brief because what I've already  
12 heard is pretty much what I would possibly have said to  
13 you anyway, but I will explain myself to you so that in  
14 the future when I'm somewhere -- and for the most part  
15 I've been the last nearly 20 years at the Board of Health  
16 meetings. When I'm somewhere doing my  
17 watchman-on-the-wall thing, that you will remember that  
18 all I'm obligated to do is sound a warning. If you don't  
19 pay attention to it, then whatever happens is on your  
20 head, not mine.

21 I am in my 75th year. I have nothing in common with  
22 my chronological peers except when I look in a mirror and  
23 then say, gosh, I don't feel that way. I've been doing  
24 Bloomsday for over 30-some years. I don't train for it.  
25 I just do it. I've raised for the last 23 years a

0112

1 grandchild who was made homeless by a severe auto  
2 accident that disabled her mother.

3 My background, my education for the last 50 years, I  
4 have been self-educated in order to survive because I am,  
5 quote, toxic allergic to fluorine-bearing compounds, in  
6 other words, fluorides, and that has been medically  
7 established by double blind testing for both myself and  
8 my now 50-year-old son who lives in Portland, Oregon,  
9 which recently voted against fluoridation, if I may  
10 remind you.

11 My background of education is in nutrition,  
12 biochemistry, immunology and a little smattering of  
13 astrophysics and quantum physics, which are the sciences  
14 that if you delve into it prove that there is a God.

15 There was a world-renowned atheist who committed  
16 suicide some years ago because the more he studied in  
17 those two sciences, the more he came to realize that he  
18 had been wrong. It's too bad someone didn't get to him  
19 with a salvation message, we might still have the benefit  
20 of his expertise.

21 My husband and I are retired now. We are on fixed  
22 income. We live in a 50-year-old manufactured home that,  
23 according to the aerial photographs, they thought just  
24 because we put a roof over it, they raised our taxes  
25 because they thought we'd built a new house. We finally

0113

1 had -- my husband went down there several years in a row  
2 to make them aware of that. They finally sent out an  
3 inspector and they saw the I.D. number on the  
4 manufactured home and we now have a more sensible tax  
5 rate.

6 We are -- I am a certified master composter. I  
7 recycle virtually everything thanks to Mrs. Pickett who I  
8 learned that from, but we still have problems, and so  
9 whatever you do relative to making your decisions on  
10 behalf of the people who I'm representing here today, we  
11 just merely ask that you at least consider putting  
12 yourselves in our shoes when you make those decisions.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Thank you very much,  
15 Ms. Larson.

16 Next is Wendal Fryar -- Wendla?

17 MS. FRYAR: It's actually Wendla Fryar, and that's  
18 spelled W-E-N-D-L-A, and last name, F-R-Y-A-R.

19 Okay. So you know my name. I work for ALTCEW,  
20 serve vulnerable adults over which would include the  
21 population of the elderly, disabled and low-income in  
22 Spokane. I myself have been in Spokane for the majority  
23 of my life and personally have family and friends who  
24 will be greatly impacted by your increases. Getting the  
25 basic needs met -- their basic needs met which include

0114

1 electricity is an everyday struggle, and I personally  
2 have seen that going into their home and looking at the  
3 people I serve.

4 We're also -- I would just ask that you please  
5 reconsider the rate increases based on impact that they  
6 will have on this vulnerable community. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Thank you very much.

8 Lynn Kimball.

9 MS. KIMBALL: Hello. My name is Lynn Kimball,  
10 L-Y-N-N, K-I-M-B-A-L-L, and I'm also here on behalf of  
11 Aging and Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington. You've  
12 heard lots of statistics from us between today and  
13 yesterday, last night, at the City Hall, so I'll try not  
14 to repeat too many of them.

15 We really -- when we look at the rate increase, and  
16 I know we provide testimony year after year, the reason  
17 we do it is just the impact it has on the people we  
18 serve. Low-income seniors, low-income vulnerable adults,  
19 people with disabilities throughout our service region.

20 Last year we served almost 9 -- over 9,000 people in  
21 our five-county region, and of those, almost 4,000 were  
22 living in poverty. So when we hear of rate increases, we  
23 know it has an impact on the people we serve in their  
24 day-to-day life.

25 You received some information yesterday about the

0115

1 elder economics security index. Please do take that in  
2 account when you look at the impact of increases. The  
3 poverty level isn't the only measure of what real poverty  
4 is.

5 And as Julie stated, 14.8 percent of persons are  
6 below poverty in Spokane County. We know according to a  
7 2010 data from the Office of Research with Department of  
8 Social and Health Services that elder economic security  
9 index, 17 percent of seniors in Spokane County were  
10 living below the elder economic security index standard.  
11 So that's --

12 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: So what was the percentage  
13 again?

14 MS. KIMBALL: 17 percent. So that's what you need  
15 to just make basic needs, you know, food, medicine,  
16 housing, electricity, transportation.

17 So increases add up. We know over year after year  
18 increases, incomes don't keep pace so please do keep this  
19 in consideration and the impact on vulnerable adults in  
20 consideration when you examine rate increases.

21 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Can you just -- Aging and  
22 Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington, is that a  
23 nonprofit? Is that a government agency?

24 MS. KIMBALL: We are intergovernmental agency, so we  
25 are a council of government with Spokane County, city of

0116

1 Spokane, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille and Whitman County.

2 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Okay. Thank you.

3 And I don't have the first name. I have initial "A"  
4 Pitstick. You will have to spell that one for us.

5 MS. PITSTICK: I always do. So my name is Alyssa  
6 Pitstick, spelled A-L-Y-S-S-A, P, as in Paul, I-T, as in  
7 Tom, S, as in Sam, T, as in Tom, I-C-K. And I always  
8 have to spell both of them anywhere I go.

9 So first of all, I apologize for being late, and  
10 second of all, just for clarification I actually came  
11 today with a question more than a comment, so I was  
12 doubly disappointed that I was unable to arrive on time  
13 because I had hoped your presentation might have answered  
14 my question. So if it did and I ask it, I again  
15 apologize.

16 I have a doctorate in theology, a master's at --  
17 from Gonzaga in philosophy and an undergraduate degree in  
18 mathematics and science. I was teaching in Michigan and  
19 I came back to Spokane to care for my mom who became ill  
20 very quickly. She spent a year in and out of the  
21 hospital and passed away last year and this is how I came  
22 to be, once again, a resident of Spokane.

23 I am unemployed for the second year. Hiring  
24 academia can be a cutthroat market, particularly in a  
25 highly specialized field, so I am currently still

0117

1 unemployed. So I wanted to be clear that I don't have a  
2 business degree. I don't fully understand utility  
3 ratings and how that works, so part of my questions if  
4 they're simply ignorant, but I wanted to explain how I  
5 understood the brochure that we received.

6 So I understand from this that I'm an energy --  
7 excuse me -- I'm an electricity and gas customer of  
8 Avista. I live in the city of Spokane. I understand  
9 from this brochure that my residential rate, the basic  
10 charge would go up \$7.00 for electricity and \$4.00 on  
11 natural gas.

12 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: That's the original proposal.  
13 There's been a proposed settlement where the basic charge  
14 would go up \$0.50 for electric and \$1.00 for gas.

15 MS. PITSTICK: Instead of \$7.00 and \$4.00, that's  
16 much more reasonable.

17 I guess, you know, that -- my concern was about  
18 the enormous rate increase that was proposed, and I would  
19 still like to make my comment and question because I  
20 think they're still perhaps relevant to the process.

21 So prior to pursuing the humanities, I did work for  
22 an environmental consulting firm in Spokane and from that  
23 gained a great appreciation for business, small business  
24 ownership, and how businesses fix their rates and their  
25 cost to customers.



0118

1           So in principle I am not against rate increases. I  
2 understand sometimes they are appropriate and necessary  
3 for the maintenance of, you know, infrastructure and  
4 replacement of necessary machinery, and that sort of  
5 things, as well as the appropriate role of profit in  
6 business and providing goods and services to the  
7 community, so I'm not in general against rate increases.

8           On the other hand, when a business proposes a rate  
9 increase of what we were initially told, having had this  
10 experience, I have to wonder about how that business is  
11 being operated that it comes to the point of needing to  
12 ask for such a drastic rate increase all at once.

13           So -- and again, perhaps some of this has been  
14 addressed in the settlement process, but as a generally  
15 well-educated consumer, that's a question that came to me  
16 as I was looking at this pamphlet, that what is going on  
17 in the business model that you have to ask for a nearly  
18 100 percent increase on your basic charges.

19           Given the current economic climate and, you know,  
20 the frequent talk about the top 1 percent, the question  
21 then, of course, crossed my mind what are the top three  
22 to five administrative officials of Avista earning and  
23 how much of this rate increase goes to salary increases.

24           I wish to second as well the comments made by the  
25 very well-spoken SNAP person. I have known people who

0119

1 have been served by their programs and have seen that,  
2 yeah, the federal poverty line is kind of a dart on the  
3 dartboard. What that really means would bear  
4 reexamination, and one way we propose that be done is  
5 that the people who are making those sort of salaries  
6 consent to live for a year at that level and see if they  
7 might not support an increase to what that means then.

8 So that's my comment such as it is. If you can  
9 provide any clarification or refer me to how I might  
10 understand better the change in the settlement in  
11 relation to their salaries. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER JONES: Sure. First of all, if you  
13 have a copy of this that describes the basic contours of  
14 the settlement, speak to Ms. Gafken there or speak to  
15 Mr. Veigh, a representative of the company, the rate  
16 increase is much lower.

17 In response to your two basic questions: Talk to  
18 the company about the basic monthly charge. Were you  
19 here when I tried to explain decoupling?

20 MS. PITSTICK: I was. I didn't understand it.

21 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: It's not your fault.

22 COMMISSIONER JONES: Many people don't understand  
23 it, but yeah, how shall I respond to that. Talk to  
24 Mr. Veigh in the company, but basically the idea of  
25 decoupling is to enable the company to recover its fixed

0120

1 charges --

2 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: Fixed cost.

3 COMMISSIONER JONES: Fixed cost -- through a basic  
4 monthly charge as opposed to what we call a volumetric  
5 charge. Do you understand what a volumetric charge is?

6 MS. PITSTICK: Yeah. You pay on by how much you  
7 use.

8 COMMISSIONER JONES: For example, per kilowatts and  
9 therms.

10 So because of declining usage in gas and perhaps  
11 declining usage in kilowatt hours in Avista, we are  
12 seeing, not only in this state but around the county,  
13 utilities wanting to increase their assurance that they  
14 will have their fixed charges including aging  
15 infrastructure and others replaced.

16 So that would be my surmise. I haven't read their  
17 full direct testimony, other than the case is about this  
18 big, but I will do that.

19 MS. PITSTICK: My condolences.

20 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: And also there's a handout out  
21 in front on utility decoupling.

22 MS. PITSTICK: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER JONES: So that -- you may want to talk  
24 to the company about that, but that would be my basic  
25 understanding of your first question.

0121

1           Your second question was on executive compensation.  
2           This has been brought up in many Avista rate cases over  
3           the past 10 years or eight years. I don't know how much  
4           of the increase is due to executive comps. There are  
5           many layers of executive compensation. Avista has  
6           covered employees under the unions. They have  
7           non-covered employees. They have incentive plans for  
8           their executives, and then they have their top five  
9           executives, as you know, that go to the SEC. These are  
10          all reported to the SEC. And you can get all that  
11          information online for how much Mr. Morris,  
12          Mr. Vermillion and their top five make.

13          So again, I haven't read the full testimony yet to  
14          see how much goes to them, but we did ask the company to  
15          submit an executive compensation report to us last, what,  
16          two years ago. It was in the previous case. It details  
17          how much the shareholders pay for and how much the rate  
18          payers pay for from both the basic wage compensation of  
19          the top five, plus all the fringe benefits, you know,  
20          invested stock, insurance, all these other things that  
21          they get.

22          So I think that is a public document. You could get  
23          a copy of that. Mr. Kouchi would know how to get that.  
24          But for this specific case, I must confess I haven't read  
25          all of it yet and all the direct testimony. My guess is

0122

1 that not much would be toward executive compensation,  
2 that more would be due to operations and maintenance of  
3 the dams, wage increases for both union employees and  
4 non-union, so the wage increases would be much greater,  
5 the overall revenue requirement would be much greater for  
6 the employees, I would think, but again, that's all  
7 subject to confirmation.

8 MS. PITSTICK: Okay, sir, yes, if I can. I thank  
9 you very much for giving me those resources and I  
10 understand how it's a larger company, you know, executive  
11 compensation is going to have smaller role perhaps.

12 Again, my experience with small business in which I  
13 think because of the immediate invest -- personal  
14 investment of the executives where they say, gee, my  
15 business -- you know, I need to double my prices to my  
16 clients, maybe I need to cut back on my own salary in  
17 order to make my business more stable, and that's the  
18 model and example I have in my mind. So thank you very  
19 much.

20 COMMISSIONER JONES: Okay. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER GOLTZ: So that concludes the people  
22 that have signed up on the sign-in sheets.

23 Is there anybody else who, after hearing all this,  
24 wishes to give some comments?

25 So I have taken Phil's, I found it, so I won't

0123

1 fumble it this time.

2 Okay. With that, I want to thank for taking time  
3 out of your day to come and again help us out with this.  
4 I think as usual we have heard some very perspective --  
5 very good perspective and heartfelt comments and some  
6 really good concrete information that will help us as we  
7 sort through this. The record will be open until --  
8 through September 23rd. Feel free to comment online or  
9 over the phone and see Mr. Kouchi afterwards if you need  
10 that contact information.

11 Again, we will have a hearing in Olympia on  
12 September 23rd, and we will after that decide if further  
13 process is needed or what decision we'll make.

14 So thank you again and have a great rest of your day.

15 Thank you.

16 (Proceedings concluded at 1:17 p.m.)

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