BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UG 389

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In the Matter of AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA UTILITIES Request for a General Rate Revision

REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF AVISTA ISSUE FUND GRANT OF ALLIANCE OF WESTERN ENERGY CONSUMERS

Pursuant to Section 7.3 of the Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement ("IFA") approved by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("Commission") in Order No. 18-017 (January 17, 2018), Alliance of Western Energy Consumers ("AWEC") hereby requests payment of a portion of AWEC's Issue Fund Grant in Docket No. UG 389 in the amount of \$24,667.04. In support of this request, AWEC states the following:

1. On May 11, 2020, AWEC, fka Northwest Industrial Gas Users ("NWIGU"), filed an <u>amended</u> Proposed Issue Fund Budget in this docket in the amount of \$65,375 less in-house resources of 20 percent, for a total grant request of \$52,300. However, due to the amount available in the Avista Issue Fund, AWEC requested a total Issue Fund Grant request of \$41,005. The Commission approved the Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$41,005 on May 12, 2020. *In the Matter of Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities, Request for a General Rate Revision*, OPUC Docket No. UG 389, Order No. 20-160 (May 12, 2020).

2. This case involved Avista's request to increase Oregon revenues by \$6.7 million and involved revenue requirement, cost of capital, and rate spread and rate design issues. After filing testimony and participating in multiple settlement conferences, the

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parties were able to settle all of the issues in this docket, and the Commission issued an order approving the comprehensive settlement on December 10, 2020. AWEC hereby requests that the Commission authorize payment of a portion of the approved Issue Fund Grant in this docket in the amount of \$24,667.04. AWEC's Eligible Expenses for this proceeding through December 2020 are shown in Confidential Attachment A.

3. AWEC respectfully submits that this request for payment satisfies the requirement of IFA Section 7.3 as follows:

<u>Section 7.3(a)</u> - The itemized expenses, payees and hourly rates are attached as Confidential Attachment A.

<u>Section 7.3(b)</u> - AWEC was a full and active participant in this docket. AWEC issued and reviewed discovery, filed testimony and reviewed the testimony of other parties, participated in multiple settlement conferences, negotiated several stipulations and filed testimony in support of the stipulations. The expenses included in Confidential Attachment A are Eligible Expenses as defined in IFA Section 7.4 and are reasonable and directly attributable to AWEC's participation in UG 389 on behalf of all customers.

<u>Section 7.3(c)</u> – The only condition of the Issue Fund Grant is that AWEC must contribute 20% of Eligible Expenses using in-house resources. AWEC used its own funds to pay for at least 20% (\$6,166.76) of the Eligible Expenses as required by Section 6.5 of the IFA.

<u>Section 7.3 (d)</u> – This request is a request for final payment of a portion of the approved issue fund in this docket.

4. <u>Section 7.4</u> – All of the expenses included in Confidential Attachment A are Eligible Expenses as defined in Section 7.4 of the IFA and are consistent with AWEC's proposed budget in this proceeding.

5. Upon approval of this request for payment by the Commission, Avista should send payment to AWEC as follows:

Alliance of Western Energy Consumers 818 SW Third Avenue #266 Portland, OR 97204

6. AWEC has satisfied the terms of the IFA and respectfully requests that the Commission approve payment of a portion of AWEC's Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$24,667.04 (\$30,833.80 minus 20 percent or \$6,166.76) from the Avista Issue Fund within 30 days of receiving this Request for Payment as provided in Section 7.6 of the IFA.

7. With this payment, AWEC requests that the remainder of the approved Issue Fund Grant be released back into the Avista Issue Fund account.

Dated this 8th day of January, 2021.

CABLE HUSTON LLP

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