

H.F. MAGNUSON COMPANY

SCOTT BUILDING
P.O. BOX 469
WALLACE, IDAHO 83873

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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

208 752-1131

May 7, 2004

Mr. Paul Kjellander, President
Mrs. Marsha Smith, Commissioner
Mr. Dennis Hansen, Commissioner
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Re: Avista Corporation

Dear Commissioners:

We have received the enclosed announcement of the filing of an application to increase electric and natural gas sales by 24.1% and 9.2% respectively.

The economy in Shoshone County and the Silver Valley continues to be very depressed. The unemployment rate in our area has continued to be one of the highest in the State of Idaho.

We are endeavoring to broaden the economic base in Shoshone County. However, this is a long and difficult process.

We respectfully ask that you and your staff review the application filed by Avista Utilities very thoroughly and keep the increase, if any, to a minimum.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


H. F. Magnuson

HFM:sla
Enclosure

Thank you.