

Avista Corp.

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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION
April 20, 2012



Via Overnight Mail

Jean Jewell
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 93702

NEW CASE

**Re: Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
15 kW Solar Generating Resource
IPUC Case No. AVU-E-12-04**

Dear Ms. Jewell:

Please find enclosed for filing an original and seven copies of Avista Corporation's application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for 15 kW solar resource. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Andrea", written in a cursive style.

Michael G. Andrea
Senior Counsel

Enclosures

Michael G. Andrea (ISB No. 8308)
Senior Counsel
Avista Corporation
1411 East Mission, MSC-23
Spokane, WA 99202
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Attorney for Avista Corporation

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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

NEW CASE

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF AVISTA CORPORATION FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE) **NO. AVU-E-12-04**
AND NECESSITY FOR 15 kW SOLAR)
GENERATING RESOURCE) APPLICATION
_____)

Pursuant to Idaho Code sections 61-526, 61-527, 61-528 and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") Rules of Procedure 52 and 112, Avista Corporation ("Avista") respectfully requests that, to the extent necessary, the Commission issue an order granting Avista a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("Certificate") for a 15 kW solar generating resource that is located at Avista's generation testing facility in Kootenai County near Rathdrum, Idaho.

I. Corporate Status

Avista is a corporation created and organized under the laws of the State of Washington with its principal office in Spokane, Washington. Avista is an investor-owned utility engaged in the business of generating, transmitting, and distributing electric

power to wholesale and retail customers and transmitting electric power on behalf of third parties.

II. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Section 61-526 of the Idaho Code requires, among other things, that electrical corporations obtain from the Commission a Certificate for an extension of its plant or system. A Certificate is not required for an extension of plant or system within any city or county within which it is already lawfully operating. Idaho Code § 61-526.

Avista is extending its current generation test facility located in Kootenai County near Rathdrum, Idaho, by adding a 15 kW solar generating facility to such test facility. Although the 15 kW solar generating facility is a new generating facility, Avista's test facility is a pre-existing facility. Avista is already lawfully operating in Kootenai County. To the extent that the 15 kW solar generating facility is merely expanding Avista's existing plant (that is, Avista is expanding its existing generation testing facility), a Certificate is not required for the 15 kW solar generating facility. Nevertheless, Avista respectfully requests a Certificate for its 15 kW solar generating facility out of an abundance of caution. Accordingly, pursuant to IPUC Rule of Procedure 112, Avista provides the following information.

A. The 15 kW Solar Generating Facility is in the Public Convenience and Necessity.

Avista's 15 kW solar generating facility was developed as an additional resource for Avista's Buck-a-Block program. *See* Schedule 95 of Avista's Idaho Tariff. The facility will provide renewable energy from a solar resource. The addition of a solar resource for Avista's Buck-a-Block program will provide program participants and customers a comparison of costs associated with different renewable energy generation

technologies. The 15 kW solar generating facility is in the public convenience and necessity. *See* IPUC Rule of Procedure 112.01.

B. Description of the 15 kW Solar Generating Facility.

The solar installation consists of sixty 250 watt poly crystalline solar panels, mounted in fixed arrays. Each array utilizes an inverter to connect the solar panels to the utility grid through a standard distribution panel and transformer. *See* IPUC Rule of Procedure 112.02.

C. Map of Location of the 15 kW Solar Generating Facility.

Attached as Attachment A is Avista drawing E36634 which describes the location of the facility. The solar array is located on test site "C" on the drawing. *See* IPUC Rule of Procedure 112.03.

D. Financial Statement and Construction Timelines.

The 15 kW solar generating facility is installed at Avista's existing generation testing facility in Kootenai County near Rathdrum, Idaho. The total cost of the facility, including installation, is less than \$80,000. All costs of the 15 kW solar facility above the market value of energy will be funded through voluntary contributions in Avista's Buck-a-Block program in accordance with Avista's Schedule 95. The 15 kW solar facility is installed at Avista's testing facility and no further construction is necessary. *See* IPUC Rule of Procedure 112.04.

E. Cost Estimates and Revenue Requirements.

As indicated in Section II.D above, the total cost of the 15 kW solar generating facility is less than \$80,000. The primary purpose of the facility is meet demand for solar resources by Buck-a-Block customers. The facility will also provide useful information

regarding the cost and benefits of solar technology. Avista anticipates that it will include the investment in this facility in rate base in future rate proceedings and any costs beyond the market value of the energy will be credited back to customers by Buck-a-Block customers. The effect of the facility on Avista's revenue requirements will be zero.

III. Communications

The following persons should be included on the official service list in this proceeding, and should be served with all communications concerning this Application:

Robert J. Lafferty
Director, Power Supply
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IV. Request

Unless the Commission expressly finds that Avista is not required to obtain a Certificate for its 15 kW solar generating facility under Section 61-526 of the Idaho Code, Avista respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order granting Avista a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a 15 kW solar generating resource that is located at Avista's generation testing facility in Kootenai County near Rathdrum, Idaho.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of April 2012.

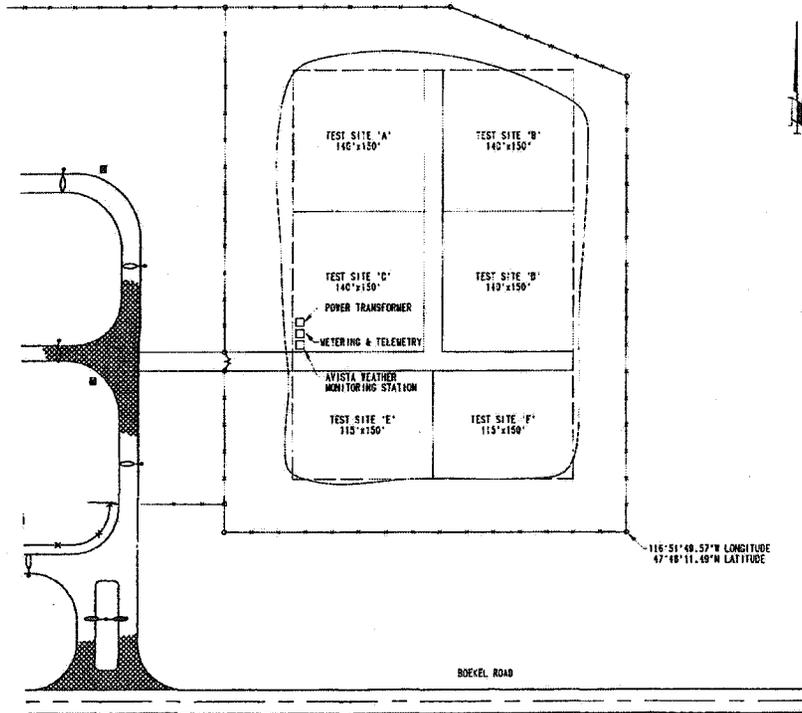
AVISTA CORPORATION



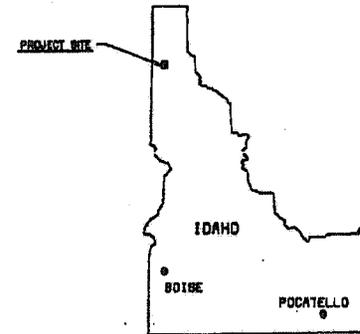
Michael G. Andrea
Senior Counsel

ATTACHMENT A

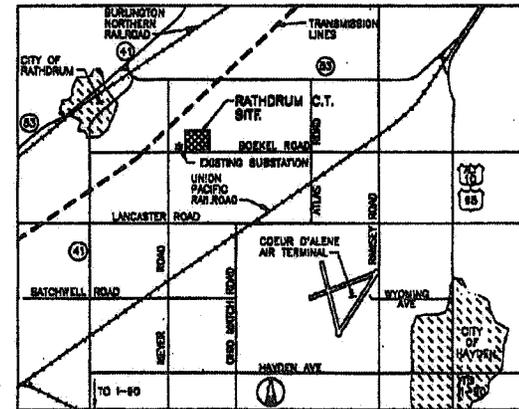
PC99C-2



PLAN VIEW
SCALE: 1"=60'



VICINITY MAP
SCALE: NONE



22 MILES TO COEUR D'ALENE
53 MILES TO SPOKANE
93,000,000 MILES TO THE SUN

LOCATION MAP
SCALE: NONE

RATHDRUM COMBUSTION TURBINE

E-36634, 0.01, 01, C, RPT, GEN, 1

RATHDRUM COMBUSTION TURBINE AVISTA CLEAN ENERGY TEST SITE			
AVISTA CORP SPOKANE, WASHINGTON			
NO. 07	5-2-07	DATE	
DESIGNER	COLMES	CHECKED	
DRAWN	S. LANS	NOTED	
CHECKED		DATE	5-4-07
BY	1 of	DATE	5-3-07