

DONALD L. HOWELL, II
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0074
(208) 334-0312
IDAHO BAR NO. 3366

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Street Address for Express Mail:
472 W. WASHINGTON
BOISE, IDAHO 83702-5918

Attorney for the Commission Staff

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
AVISTA CORPORATION TO INITIATE) CASE NO. AVU-E-14-05
DISCUSSIONS WITH INTERESTED PARTIES) AVU-G-14-01
ON AN EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING RATE)
PLAN AND AVOID A GENERAL RATE CASE.) COMMENTS OF THE
) COMMISSION STAFF
)
_____)**

The Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, by and through its Attorney of Record, Donald L. Howell II, Deputy Attorney General, submits the following comments in the above referenced case.

BACKGROUND

On May 30, 2014, Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities filed an Application requesting that the Commission open a case to allow interested parties to participate in settlement discussions regarding alternatives to the utility filing a general rate case this year. In its Application, Avista expressed an interest in extending its existing settlement rate plan adopted in Order No. 32769 for another year as an alternative to filing a general rate case. The Company indicated it had informal discussions with several customers and interest groups (the parties¹).

¹ The parties include: Clearwater Paper; Idaho Forest Group; Community Action Partnership of Idaho (CAPAI); Idaho Conservation League (ICL); Snake River Alliance (SRA); and Commission Staff.