Brad M. Purdy Attorney at Law Bar No. 3472 2019 N. 17th St. Boise, ID. 83702 (208) 384-1299 (Land) (208) 384-8511 (Fax) <u>bmpurdy@hotmail.com</u> Attorney for Petitioner Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho

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2009 MAR 30 AM 9: 24 IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF AVISTA CORPORATION FOR THE AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS IN THE STATE OF IDAHO.) CASE NO. AVU-E-09-01) AVU-G-09-01

LATE FILED PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE THE COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATION OF IDAHO

COMES NOW, Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho (hereinafter

"CAPAI" or "Intervenor") and, pursuant to Rules 071-075 of the Commission's Rules of

Practice and Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.071-075, hereby petitions the Commission for leave to

intervene in this proceeding and to appear and participate with full party's rights. In support of

this Petition, CAPAI states as follows:

1. The address and name of the Petitioner is:

Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho 5400 W. Franklin Rd., Suite G Boise, ID. 83705

2. This Intervenor will be represented in this proceeding by, and pleadings and other

correspondence need only be sent to:

Brad M. Purdy

CAPAI Petition for Intervention

Attorney at Law 2019 N. 17th St. Boise, ID. 83702 208-384-1299 FAX: 208-384-8511 Email: <u>bmpurdy@hotmail.com</u>

3. CAPAI is a non-profit corporation consisting of six community action agencies serving every county in Idaho and also includes, among others, the statewide Community Council of Idaho (formerly the Idaho Migrant Council) and fights the causes and conditions of poverty through building the capacity and effectiveness of its members who have a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding. These causes and conditions of poverty include high utility costs for Idaho Power's low income rate payers. Low income families pay a higher percentage of their income for utility expenses than those in other economic categories. These conditions are often caused by living in sub-standard or older housing that is not energy efficient. CAPAI is the only party who typically intervenes in proceedings before the Commission; specifically representing public utilities' low-income customers. Consequently, it is fair to say that CAPAI has filled an important role that long stood vacant. CAPAI believes that it fulfills an important role in this, and similar proceedings, and without the opportunity to participate as a party in this proceeding, would be unable to fulfill that role.

4. CAPAI respectfully requests the right to participate in this proceeding as a party and introduce testimony and exhibits, cross-examine other witnesses, engage in oral argument, file comments, and otherwise fully participate as a party.

5. Pursuant to Commission Notice, issued February 11, 2009, the intervention deadline for this case was scheduled for February 25, 2009. CAPAI offers the following reasons for the untimely filing of this Petition.

Specifically, when AVISTA filed this general rate case, CAPAI was under severe budgetary limitations that made intervention in this case impracticable if not impossible in terms of available resources, or lack thereof. As this Commission is aware, CAPAI has been substantially and continuously involved in numerous other proceedings before this Commission for at least the past year and has played a leading or key role in certain proceedings, particularly those affecting low-income customers such as the Commission's docket initiated to address energy affordability (Case No. GNR-U-08-01), took a leading role in lobbying vigorously for legislative changes affecting low-income customers of public utilities, and has participated in general rate cases for Idaho Power, Rocky Mountain Power and AVISTA, all of which had exhausted CAPAI's available resources.

It is CAPAI's policy to only participate in cases where it believes that its involvement will aid the Commission in reaching evenly balanced decisions and where CAPAI's participation adds to the substantive analysis of the case without unduly expanding the scope of the proceeding. CAPAI submits that its participation in this proceeding would meet these criteria. As CAPAI has often pointed out to the Commission, its ability to participate in proceedings before the Commission is limited by available money and other resources. Thus, CAPAI often must forego involvement in cases it would otherwise prefer to participate in. Since the expiration of the intervention deadline in this case, however, particularly in the past week, CAPAI has marshaled what it believes to be sufficient funds to intervene in a manner that will materially contribute to the Commission's decision in this matter.

CAPAI notes that it rarely, if ever, has sought late intervention before the Commission, and respectfully submits that its involvement in this case will not, at this juncture, constitute unfair prejudice or disadvantage to the other parties to the proceeding. For example, the prefile deadline for Staff and intervenors is still roughly two months away. Should there be any Production Requests submitted to CAPAI in this case, the latter will diligently respond to same with promptness.

WHEREFORE, the Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho hereby requests that this Commission grant its Petition to Intervene in this proceeding and to fully appear and participate as a party with all the attendant rights and responsibilities.

DATED, this 30th day of March, 2009.

Kong Brad M. Purdy

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned represents that on the 30th day of March, 2009, it has served the

foregoing Petition to Intervene on the following parties via hand-delivery or overnight mail and

by electronic mail (where available).

AVISTA Corporation Kelly Norwood PO Box 3727 Spokane, WA 99220-3727 Email: Kelly.norwood@avistacorp.com

David Meyer PO Box 3727 Spokane, WA 99220-3727 Email: <u>david.meyer@avistacorp.com</u>

Commission Staff: Don Howell Deputy Attorney General 472 W. Washington St. Boise, Id 83702 Don.howell@puc.idaho.gov

Idaho Forest Group, LLC: Dean J. Miller 420 W. Bannock St. Boise, ID 83702 joe@mcdevitt-miller.com

Scott Atkison 171 Highway 95 N. Grangeville, IDD 83530 scotta@idahoforestgroup.com

Clearwater Paper Corporation: Conley E. Ward 601 W. Bannock St. Boise, ID 83702 cew@givenspursley.com

Dennis E. Peseau, Ph.D. 1500 Liberty Street SE Suite 250

CAPAI Petition for Intervention

Salem, OR 97302 dpeseau@excite.com

Idaho Conservation League: Betsy Bridge 710 N. Sixth Streeet Boise, ID 83702 bbridge@wildidaho.org

Idaho Community Action Network: Roweena Pineda 3450 Hill Road Boise, ID 83703-4715

Carrie Tracy 1265 S. Main St., #305 Seattle, WA 98144

Brad M. Purdy