

Avista Corp.  
1411 East Mission PO Box 3727  
Spokane, Washington 99220-3727  
Telephone 509-489-0500  
Toll Free 800-727-9170



October 28, 2002

Jean D. Jewell, Secretary  
Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
Statehouse Mail  
W. 472 Washington Street  
Boise, Idaho 83720

**Re: Case No. GNR-U-02-1, Pilot Winter Protection Program**

Dear Ms. Jewell:

We have received the Staff Decision Memorandum and appreciate Staff's general support of the proposed two-year pilot Winter Protection Program.

Avista Utilities would like to reiterate its desire to proceed with this pilot effective December 1, 2002 to coincide with the established moratorium dates. The Company believes that it is in the participating customer's best interest to have an arranged monthly minimum payment to avoid a larger payment for all winter usage in the following Spring. The Company would not disconnect a customer who is eligible for assistance from a community action agency and makes minimal monthly payments. Thus, the Company does not believe that this pilot would create an undue customer hardship requiring a significant hearing schedule.

Should the Commission prefer to consider approval of this program effective January 1, 2003, the Company would be able implement this program at that time or in "mid-season."

Avista Utilities, upon request at the technical workshops, provided supporting customer data from past moratoriums and can expeditiously provide this or other documentation to the Commission.

Please call me at (509) 495-8706 regarding any related matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Folsom".

Bruce Folsom  
Manager, Regulatory Compliance