



## FERC Clears Avista - Finds No Evidence of Market Manipulation

04/14/04

Approval of agreement resolves all remaining issues in case

SPOKANE, Wash., April 14 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved an agreement that resolves all issues in the investigation of the energy trading practices of Avista Corp. (NYSE: AVA) and its subsidiary Avista Energy during 2000 and 2001.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20040128/SFW031LOGO> )

FERC Administrative Law Judge Curtis L. Wagner Jr. certified the agreement to the FERC in July of 2003 after reviewing FERC Trial Staff findings. Judge Wagner concluded that "there are no unresolved issues of material fact and that the record is sufficient for the commission to make a determination on the merits of the settlement..."

After an extensive investigation, the FERC Trial Staff concluded the following:

- FERC Trial Staff's investigation found no evidence that any executives or employees of Avista Utilities or Avista Energy knowingly engaged in or facilitated any improper trading strategy;
- FERC Trial Staff's investigation found no evidence that Avista Utilities or Avista Energy engaged in any efforts to manipulate the western energy markets during 2000 and 2001; and
- The responses of Avista Utilities and Avista Energy to the FERC Trial Staff investigation indicated an overall cooperative attitude and response. FERC Trial Staff found that Avista Utilities and Avista Energy did not withhold relevant information from the FERC's inquiry into the western energy markets for 2000 and 2001.

"Through its order today, FERC has affirmed the findings of the FERC Trial Staff, and we are pleased to have this matter concluded," said Gary G. Ely, chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of Avista Corp.

Avista Corp. is an energy company involved in the production, transmission and distribution of energy as well as other energy-related businesses. Avista Utilities is a company operating division that provides electric and natural gas service to customers in four western states. Avista's non-regulated subsidiaries include Avista Advantage and Avista Energy. Avista Corp.'s stock is traded under the ticker symbol "AVA" and its Internet address is [www.avistacorp.com](http://www.avistacorp.com).

Avista Corp. and the Avista Corp. logo are trademarks of Avista Corporation. All other trademarks mentioned in this document are the property of their respective owners.

SOURCE Avista Corp.

-0- 04/14/2004

/CONTACT: Media, Patrick Lynch, +1-509-495-4264 or [pat.lynch@avistacorp.com](mailto:pat.lynch@avistacorp.com), or, Investors, Angela Teed, +1-509-495-2930 or [angela.teed@avistacorp.com](mailto:angela.teed@avistacorp.com), both of Avista Corp./

/Photo: NewsCom: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20040128/SFW031LOGO>

AP Archive: <http://photoarchive.ap.org>

PRN Photo Desk, [photodesk@prnewswire.com](mailto:photodesk@prnewswire.com)/

/Web site: <http://www.avistacorp.com> /

(AVA)

CO: Avista Corp.; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Avista Energy; Avista Utilities

ST: Washington

IN: OIL UTI

SU: LAW

JO

-- SFW079 --

5927 04/14/2004 13:02 EDT <http://www.prnewswire.com>