



Avista Employees Support Hurricane Relief Efforts

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Avista Matches Employee Gifts to American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Efforts - Combined Contribution Is Nearly \$80,000

SPOKANE, Wash., Sept 21, 2005 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- Recognizing the needs of those devastated by Hurricane Katrina, Avista employees from throughout the company have contributed \$39,612 to the American Red Cross for hurricane relief efforts. Gary Ely, Avista board chairman, president and chief executive officer, said Avista is matching employee donations for a total contribution to the American Red Cross of \$79,224.

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

Employee contributions for the American Red Cross made to the Avista Corp Credit Union by Sept. 16 were eligible for the corporate match.

"The devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina has touched so many people, physically and emotionally. Our employees have always been extremely generous and they once again demonstrated their generosity in responding to the needs of those whose lives were so deeply affected by Hurricane Katrina," Ely said. "As utility company employees, we also understand the overwhelming challenges facing our sister utilities in the Gulf and their employees, and we want to show our support for them as well."

Avista Utilities has offered to join with other utilities across the country to send employees and equipment to Louisiana to assist in restoring the natural gas system in New Orleans. Avista is not scheduled to go at this time but remains in communication with the affected utilities.

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 service to 330,000 electric and 305,000 natural gas 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." For more information about Avista, please visit www.avistautilities.com

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Debbie Simock of Avista, 24

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