FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPE             | ROVAL     |
|----------------------|-----------|
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|   | Check this box if no longer subject to |
|---|--|
| ١ | Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5           |
|   | obligations may continue. See          |
|   | Instruction 1(h)                       |

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  ELY GARY G            |   |        |          |          |  | 2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol AVISTA CORP [ AVA ] |        |                   |   |                       |   |         |              |  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)                           |   |  |            |  |
|---|---|--------|----------|----------|--|--|--------|-------------------|---|-----------------------|---|---------|--------------|--|---|---|--|------------|--|
| ELY GARY G  |   |        |          |          |  | [ ]  |        |                   |   |                       |   |         |              | X  | Oirect  | ctor  | 10% C  | Owner      |  |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 1411 E MISSION AVE                      |   |        |          |          |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/28/2006            |        |                   |   |                       |   |         |              | X  | belov   | ,   | Other below)   |            |  |
| 1411 E MISSION AVE  |   |        |          |          |  |  |        |                   |   |                       |   |         |              |  |   |   |  |            |  |
| (Street) SPOKANE WA 99202                                       |   |        |          |          | 4. If  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)               |        |                   |   |                       |   |         |              | Line)  | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)     X Form filed by One Reporting Person |   |  |            |  |
| or ordin  | <b>11</b>                                     |        | 75202    |          |  |  |        |                   |   |                       |   |         |              | ^  | , , ,   |   |  |            |  |
| (City)  | (St   | ate) ( | Zip)     |          |  |  |        |                   |   |                       |   |         |              |  |   | Form filed by More than One Reporting<br>Person                   |  |            |  |
|   |   | Tabl   | e I - N  | on-Deriv | ative  | Sec  | uritie | s Ac              | quired  | l, Di                 | sposed o  | f, or E | Bene         | ficially                                     | y Owne  | ed  |  |            |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transactic Date (Month/Day/ |   |        |          |          |  | Execution Date,  |        |                   | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)  4. Securities Acquired (A) of Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 1) |                       |   |         | or<br>and 5) | Secur<br>Benef<br>Owne                       | ficially<br>d Following   | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership                |            |  |
|   |   |        |          |          |  |  |        |                   |   | v                     | Amount (A) or (D)   |         | r Pr         | ice  |   | action(s)<br>3 and 4)   |  | (Instr. 4) |  |
| Common Stock-Performance Shares 02/28/20                        |   |        |          |          |  | 006  |        | S                 |   | 19,160 <sup>(1)</sup> | D   | \$      | 19.574       | 4 (  | 55,218  | D   |  |            |  |
|   |   | Та     | ble II - |          |  |  |        |                   |   |                       | osed of,<br>convertib   |         |              |  | Owned   |   |  |            |  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)             | rative Conversion Date Execution Date, if any |        |          |          | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |  |        | Expirat<br>(Month | ion Da  | (ear)                 | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr.<br>and 4) |         | De Se (Ir    | Price of<br>erivative<br>ecurity<br>nstr. 5) |   | Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |            |  |
|   |   |        |          |          | Code   | v  | (A)    | (D)               | Date<br>Exercis   | sable                 | Expiration<br>Date  | Title   | of<br>Shar   | es   |   |   |  |            |  |

## Explanation of Responses:

1. Shares sold to pay income tax on Performance Shares acquired on 2/9/2006.

<u>/s/ Gary G. Ely</u> <u>03/01/2006</u>

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Dat

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- $^{\star}$  If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.