UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

(Mark One)

x **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED December 31, 2015 OR

☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM TO

Commission file number 1-3701

AVISTA CORPORATION
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington	**91-0462470**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	**(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)**
1411 East Mission Avenue, Spokane, Washington	**99202-2600**
(Address of principal executive offices)	**(Zip Code)**

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 509-489-0500
Web site: http://www.avistacorp.com

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, no par value	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Title of Class
Preferred Stock, Cumulative, Without Par Value

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes x No ☐

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Act. Yes ☐ No x

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days: Yes x No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes x No ☐

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer	x	Accelerated filer	☐
Non-accelerated filer	☐ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	☐

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act): Yes ☐ No x

The aggregate market value of the Registrant's outstanding Common Stock, no par value (the only class of voting stock), held by non-affiliates is $1,909,309,138 based on the last reported sale price thereof on the consolidated tape on June 30, 2015.

As of January 31, 2016, 62,494,881 shares of Registrant's Common Stock, no par value (the only class of common stock), were outstanding.

Documents Incorporated By Reference

Document	**Part of Form 10-K into Which Document is Incorporated**
Proxy Statement to be filed in connection with the annual meeting of shareholders to be held on May 12, 2016. Prior to such filing, the Proxy Statement filed in connection with the annual meeting of shareholders held on May 7, 2015.	**Part III, Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14**

AVISTA CORPORATION

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* = not an applicable item in the 2015 calendar year for Avista Corp.

ACRONYMS AND TERMS
(The following acronyms and terms are found in multiple locations within the document)

Acronym/Term		Meaning
aMW	-	Average Megawatt - a measure of the average rate at which a particular generating source produces energy over a period of time
AEL&P	-	Alaska Electric Light and Power Company, the primary operating subsidiary of AERC, which provides electric services in Juneau, Alaska
AERC	-	Alaska Energy and Resources Company, the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary based in Juneau, Alaska
AFUDC	-	Allowance for Funds Used During Construction; represents the cost of both the debt and equity funds used to finance utility plant additions during the construction period
AM&D	-	Advanced Manufacturing and Development, does business as METALfx
ASC	-	Accounting Standards Codification
ASU	-	Accounting Standards Update
Avista Capital	-	Parent company to the Company’s non-utility businesses
Avista Corp.	-	Avista Corporation, the Company
Avista Energy	-	Avista Energy, Inc., an inactive electricity and natural gas marketing, trading and resource management business, subsidiary of Avista Capital
Avista Utilities	-	Operating division of Avista Corp. (not a subsidiary) comprising the regulated utility operations in the Pacific Northwest
BPA	-	Bonneville Power Administration
Capacity	-	The rate at which a particular generating source is capable of producing energy, measured in KW or MW
Cabinet Gorge	-	The Cabinet Gorge Hydroelectric Generating Project, located on the Clark Fork River in Idaho
Colstrip	-	The coal-fired Colstrip Generating Plant in southeastern Montana
Coyote Springs 2	-	The natural gas-fired combined-cycle Coyote Springs 2 Generating Plant located near Boardman, Oregon
CT	-	Combustion turbine
Deadband or ERM deadband	-	The first $4.0 million in annual power supply costs above or below the amount included in base retail rates in Washington under the ERM in the state of Washington
Dekatherm	-	Unit of measurement for natural gas; a dekatherm is equal to approximately one thousand cubic feet (volume) or 1,000,000 BTUs (energy)
Ecology	-	The state of Washington’s Department of Ecology
Ecova	-	Ecova, Inc., a provider of facility information and cost management services for multi-site customers and energy efficiency program management for commercial enterprises and utilities throughout North America, subsidiary of Avista Capital. Ecova was sold on June 30, 2014.
EIM	-	Energy Imbalance Market
Energy	-	The amount of electricity produced or consumed over a period of time, measured in KWh or MWh. Also, refers to natural gas consumed and is measured in dekatherms.
EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
ERM	-	The Energy Recovery Mechanism, a mechanism for accounting and rate recovery of certain power supply costs accepted by the utility commission in the state of Washington
FASB	-	Financial Accounting Standards Board
FERC	-	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GAAP	-	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
GHG	-	Greenhouse gas
GS	-	Generating station
IPUC	-	Idaho Public Utilities Commission
IRP	-	Integrated Resource Plan

Jackson Prairie	-	Jackson Prairie Natural Gas Storage Project, an underground natural gas storage field located near Chehalis, Washington
Juneau	-	The City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska
kV	-	Kilovolt (1000 volts): a measure of capacity on transmission lines
KW, KWh	-	Kilowatt (1000 watts): a measure of generating output or capability. Kilowatt-hour (1000 watt hours): a measure of energy produced
Lancaster Plant	-	A natural gas-fired combined cycle combustion turbine plant located in Idaho
MPSC	-	Public Service Commission of the State of Montana
MW, MWh	-	Megawatt: 1000 KW. Megawatt-hour: 1000 KWh
NERC	-	North American Electricity Reliability Corporation
Noxon Rapids	-	The Noxon Rapids Hydroelectric Generating Project, located on the Clark Fork River in Montana
OPUC	-	The Public Utility Commission of Oregon
PCA	-	The Power Cost Adjustment mechanism, a procedure for accounting and rate recovery of certain power supply costs accepted by the utility commission in the state of Idaho
PGA	-	Purchased Gas Adjustment
PLP	-	Potentially liable party
PUD	-	Public Utility District
PURPA	-	The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended
RCA	-	The Regulatory Commission of Alaska
REC	-	Renewable energy credit
RTO	-	Regional Transmission Organization
Salix	-	Salix, Inc., a subsidiary of Avista Capital, launched in 2014 to explore markets that could be served with liquefied natural gas (LNG), primarily in western North America.
Spokane Energy	-	Spokane Energy, LLC (dissolved in the third quarter of 2015), a special purpose limited liability company and all of its membership capital was owned by Avista Corp.
Therm	-	Unit of measurement for natural gas; a therm is equal to approximately one hundred cubic feet (volume) or 100,000 BTUs (energy)
UTC	-	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Watt	-	Unit of measurement for electricity; a watt is equal to the rate of work represented by a current of one ampere under a pressure of one volt

Forward-Looking Statements

From time to time, we make forward-looking statements such as statements regarding projected or future:

- financial performance;
- cash flows;
- capital expenditures;
- dividends;
- capital structure;
- other financial items;
- strategic goals and objectives;
- business environment; and
- plans for operations.

These statements are based upon underlying assumptions (many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions). Such statements are made both in our reports filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (including this Annual Report on Form 10-K), and elsewhere. Forward-looking statements are all statements except those of historical fact including, without limitation, those that are identified by the use of words that include "will," "may," "could," "should," "intends," "plans," "seeks," "anticipates," "estimates," "expects," "forecasts," "projects," "predicts," and similar expressions.

Forward-looking statements (including those made in this Annual Report on Form 10-K) are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and other factors. Most of these factors are beyond our control and may have a significant effect on our operations, results of operations, financial condition or cash flows, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in our statements. Such risks, uncertainties and other factors include, among others:

Financial Risk

- weather conditions (temperatures, precipitation levels and wind patterns) which affect both energy demand and electric generating capability, including the effect of precipitation and temperature on hydroelectric resources, the effect of wind patterns on wind-generated power, weather-sensitive customer demand, and similar effects on supply and demand in the wholesale energy markets;
- our ability to obtain financing through the issuance of debt and/or equity securities, which can be affected by various factors including our credit ratings, interest rates and other capital market conditions and the global economy;
- changes in interest rates that affect borrowing costs, our ability to effectively hedge interest rates for anticipated debt issuances, variable interest rate borrowing and the extent we recover interest costs through utility operations;
- changes in actuarial assumptions, interest rates and the actual return on plan assets for our pension and other postretirement benefit plans, which can affect future funding obligations, pension and other postretirement benefit expense and the related liabilities;
- external pressure to meet financial goals that can lead to short-term or expedient decisions that reduce the likelihood of long-term objectives being met;
- deterioration in the creditworthiness of our customers;
- the outcome of pending legal proceedings arising out of the "western energy crisis" of 2000 and 2001, specifically related to the Pacific Northwest refund proceedings;
- the outcome of legal proceedings and other contingencies;
- economic conditions in our service areas, including the economy's effects on customer demand for utility services;
- declining energy demand related to customer energy efficiency and/or conservation measures;
- changes in the long-term global and our utilities' service area climates, which can affect, among other things, customer demand patterns and the volume and timing of streamflows to our hydroelectric resources;
- changes in industrial, commercial and residential growth and demographic patterns in our service territory or changes in demand by significant customers;

Utility Regulatory Risk

- state and federal regulatory decisions that affect our ability to recover costs and earn a reasonable return including, but not limited to, disallowance or delay in the recovery of capital investments, operating costs and commodity costs and discretion over allowed return on investment;
- possibility that our integrated resource plans for electric and natural gas will not be acknowledged by the state commissions;

Energy Commodity Risk

- volatility and illiquidity in wholesale energy markets, including the availability of willing buyers and sellers, changes in wholesale energy prices that can affect operating income, cash requirements to purchase electricity and natural gas, value received for wholesale sales, collateral required of us by counterparties in wholesale energy transactions and credit risk to us from such transactions, and the market value of derivative assets and liabilities;
- default or nonperformance on the part of any parties from whom we purchase and/or sell capacity or energy;
- potential obsolescence of our power supply resources;

Operational Risk

- severe weather or natural disasters, including, but not limited to, avalanches, wind storms, wildfires, snow and ice storms, that can disrupt energy generation, transmission and distribution, as well as the availability and costs of materials, equipment, supplies and support services;
- explosions, fires, accidents, mechanical breakdowns or other incidents that may impair assets and may disrupt operations of any of our generation facilities, transmission and distribution systems or other operations and may require us to purchase replacement power;
- public injuries or damage arising from or allegedly arising from our operations;
- blackouts or disruptions of interconnected transmission systems (the regional power grid);
- terrorist attacks, cyber attacks or other malicious acts that may disrupt or cause damage to our utility assets or to the national economy in general, including any effects of terrorism, cyber attacks or vandalism that damage or disrupt information technology systems;
- work force issues, including changes in collective bargaining unit agreements, strikes, work stoppages, the loss of key executives, availability of workers in a variety of skill areas, and our ability to recruit and retain employees;
- increasing costs of insurance, more restrictive coverage terms and our ability to obtain insurance;
- delays or changes in construction costs, and/or our ability to obtain required permits and materials for present or prospective facilities;
- third party construction of buildings, billboard signs or towers within our rights of way, or placement of fuel receptacles within close proximity to our transformers or other equipment, including overbuild atop natural gas distribution lines;
- the loss of key suppliers for materials or services or disruptions to the supply chain;
- increasing health care costs and the resulting effect on employee injury costs and health insurance provided to our employees and retirees;
- adverse impacts to our Alaska operations that could result from an extended outage of its hydroelectric generating resources or its inability to deliver energy, due to its lack of interconnectivity to any other electrical grids and the extensive cost of replacement power (diesel);

Compliance Risk

- compliance with extensive federal, state and local legislation and regulation, including numerous environmental, health, safety, infrastructure protection, reliability and other laws and regulations that affect our operations and costs;
- the ability to comply with the terms of the licenses and permits for our hydroelectric or thermal generating facilities at cost-effective levels;

Technology Risk

- cyber attacks on us or our vendors or other potential lapses that result in unauthorized disclosure of private information, which could result in liabilities against us, costs to investigate, remediate and defend, and damage to our reputation;
- disruption to or breakdowns of information systems, automated controls and other technologies that we rely on for our operations, communications and customer service;
- changes in the costs to operate and maintain current production technology or to implement new information technology systems that impede our ability to complete such projects timely and effectively;
- changes in technologies, possibly making some of the current technology we utilize obsolete or the introduction of new technology that may create new cyber security related risk;
- insufficient technology skills, which could lead to the inability to develop, modify or maintain our information systems;

Strategic Risk

- growth or decline of our customer base and the extent to which new uses for our services may materialize or existing uses may decline, including, but not limited to, the effect of the trend toward distributed generation at customer sites;
- potential difficulties in integrating acquired operations and in realizing expected opportunities, diversions of management resources and losses of key employees, challenges with respect to operating new businesses and other unanticipated risks and liabilities;
- the potential effects of negative publicity regarding business practices, whether true or not, which could result in litigation or a decline in our common stock price;
- changes in our strategic business plans, which may be affected by any or all of the foregoing, including the entry into new businesses and/or the exit from existing businesses and the extent of our business development efforts where potential future business is uncertain;

External Mandates Risk

- changes in environmental laws, regulations, decisions and policies, including present and potential environmental remediation costs and our compliance with these matters;
- the potential effects of legislation or administrative rulemaking at the federal, state or local levels, including possible effects on our generating resources of restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate concerns over global climate changes;
- political pressures or regulatory practices that could constrain or place additional cost burdens on our energy supply sources, such as campaigns to halt coal-fired power generation and opposition to other thermal generation, wind turbines or hydroelectric facilities;
- wholesale and retail competition including alternative energy sources, growth in customer-owned power resource technologies that displace utility-supplied energy or that may be sold back to the utility, and alternative energy suppliers and delivery arrangements;
- failure by us to identify changes in legislation, taxation and regulatory issues which are detrimental or beneficial to our overall business; and
- the risk of municipalization in any of our service territories.

Our expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith. We believe they are reasonably based on, without limitation, an examination of historical operating trends, our records and other information available from third parties. However, there can be no assurance that our expectations, beliefs or projections will be achieved or accomplished. Furthermore, any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which such statement is made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date on which such statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New risks, uncertainties and other factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all such factors, nor can we assess the effect of each such factor on our business or the extent that any such factor or combination of factors may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement.

Available Information

Our Web site address is www.avistacorp.com. We make annual, quarterly and current reports available on our Web site as soon as practicable after electronically filing these reports with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Information contained on our Web site is not part of this report.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Avista Corporation, incorporated in the territory of Washington in 1889, is primarily an electric and natural gas utility with certain other business ventures. As of December 31, 2015, we employed 1,711 people in our Pacific Northwest utility operations (Avista Utilities) and 227 people in our subsidiary businesses (including our Juneau, Alaska utility operations). Our corporate headquarters are in Spokane, Washington, the second-largest city in Washington. Spokane serves as the business, transportation, medical, industrial and cultural hub of the Inland Northwest region (eastern Washington and northern Idaho). Regional services include government and higher education, medical services, retail trade and finance. Through our subsidiary AEL&P, we also provide electric utility services in the City and Borough of Juneau (Juneau), Alaska.

As of December 31, 2015, we have two reportable business segments as follows:

- **Avista Utilities** – an operating division of Avista Corp. (not a subsidiary) that comprises our regulated utility operations in the Pacific Northwest. Avista Utilities generates, transmits and distributes electricity and distributes natural gas, serving electric and natural gas customers in eastern Washington and northern Idaho and natural gas customers in parts of Oregon. We also supply electricity to a small number of customers in Montana, most of whom are our employees who operate our Noxon Rapids generating facility. Avista Utilities also engages in wholesale purchases and sales of electricity and natural gas as an integral part of energy resource management and our load-serving obligation.
- **AEL&P** - a utility providing electric services in Juneau, Alaska and the primary operating subsidiary of AERC. We acquired AERC on July 1, 2014, and as of that date, AERC became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avista Corp. See "Note 4 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further discussion regarding this acquisition.

We have other businesses, including sheet metal fabrication, venture fund investments, real estate investments, a company that explores markets that could be served with LNG, as well as certain other investments of Avista Capital, which is a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of Avista Corp. These activities do not represent a reportable business segment and are conducted by various direct and indirect subsidiaries of Avista Corp., including AM&D, doing business as METALfx.

Total Avista Corp. shareholders' equity was $1,528.6 million as of December 31, 2015, of which $57.4 million represented our investment in Avista Capital and $95.4 million represented our investment in AERC.

See "Item 6. Selected Financial Data" and "Note 21 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for information with respect to the operating performance of each business segment (and other subsidiaries).

AVISTA UTILITIES

General

At the end of 2015, we supplied retail electric service to 375,000 customers and retail natural gas service to 335,000 customers across Avista Utilities' service territory. Avista Utilities' service territory covers 30,000 square miles with a population of 1.6 million. See "Item 2. Properties" for further information on our utility assets. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Economic Conditions and Utility Load Growth" for information on economic conditions in our service territory.

Electric Operations

General Avista Utilities generates, transmits and distributes electricity, serving electric customers in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and a small number of customers in Montana.

Avista Utilities generates electricity from facilities that we own and purchases capacity, energy and fuel for generation under long-term and short-term contracts to meet customer load obligations. We also sell electric capacity and energy, as well as surplus fuel in the wholesale market in connection with our resource optimization activities as described below.

As part of Avista Utilities' resource procurement and management operations in the electric business, we engage in an ongoing process of resource optimization, which involves the economic selection from available energy resources to serve our load obligations and then capture additional economic value through market transactions. We engage in transactions in the wholesale markets by selling and purchasing electric capacity and energy, fuel for electric generation, and derivative instruments related to capacity, energy, transport and fuel. Such transactions are part of the process of matching available resources with load obligations and hedging the related financial risks. These transactions range from terms of intra-hour up to multiple years. We make continuing projections of:

- electric loads at various points in time (ranging from intra-hour to multiple years) based on, among other things, estimates of customer usage and weather, historical data and contract terms, and
- resource availability at these points in time based on, among other things, fuel choices and fuel markets, estimates of streamflows, availability of generating units, historic and forward market information, contract terms, and experience.

On the basis of these projections, we make purchases and sales of electric capacity and energy, fuel for electric generation, and related derivative instruments to match expected resources to expected electric load requirements and reduce our exposure to electricity (or fuel) market price changes. Resource optimization involves scheduling and dispatching available resources as well as the following:

- purchasing fuel for generation,
- when economical, selling fuel and substituting wholesale electric purchases, and
- other wholesale transactions to capture the value of generating resources, transmission contract rights and fuel delivery (transport) capacity contracts.

This optimization process includes entering into hedging transactions to manage risks. Transactions include both physical energy contracts and related derivative instruments.

Avista Utilities' generation assets are interconnected through the regional transmission system and are operated on a coordinated basis to enhance load-serving capability and reliability. Avista acquires both long term and short term transmission capacity to facilitate all of our energy and capacity transactions. We provide transmission and ancillary services in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana.

Electric Requirements

Avista Utilities' peak electric native load requirement for 2015 occurred on August 12, 2015, at which time our peak electric native load was 1,638 MW. In 2014 and 2013, our peak electric native load requirements were 1,715 and 1,669 MW, respectively, both of which occurred during the winter.

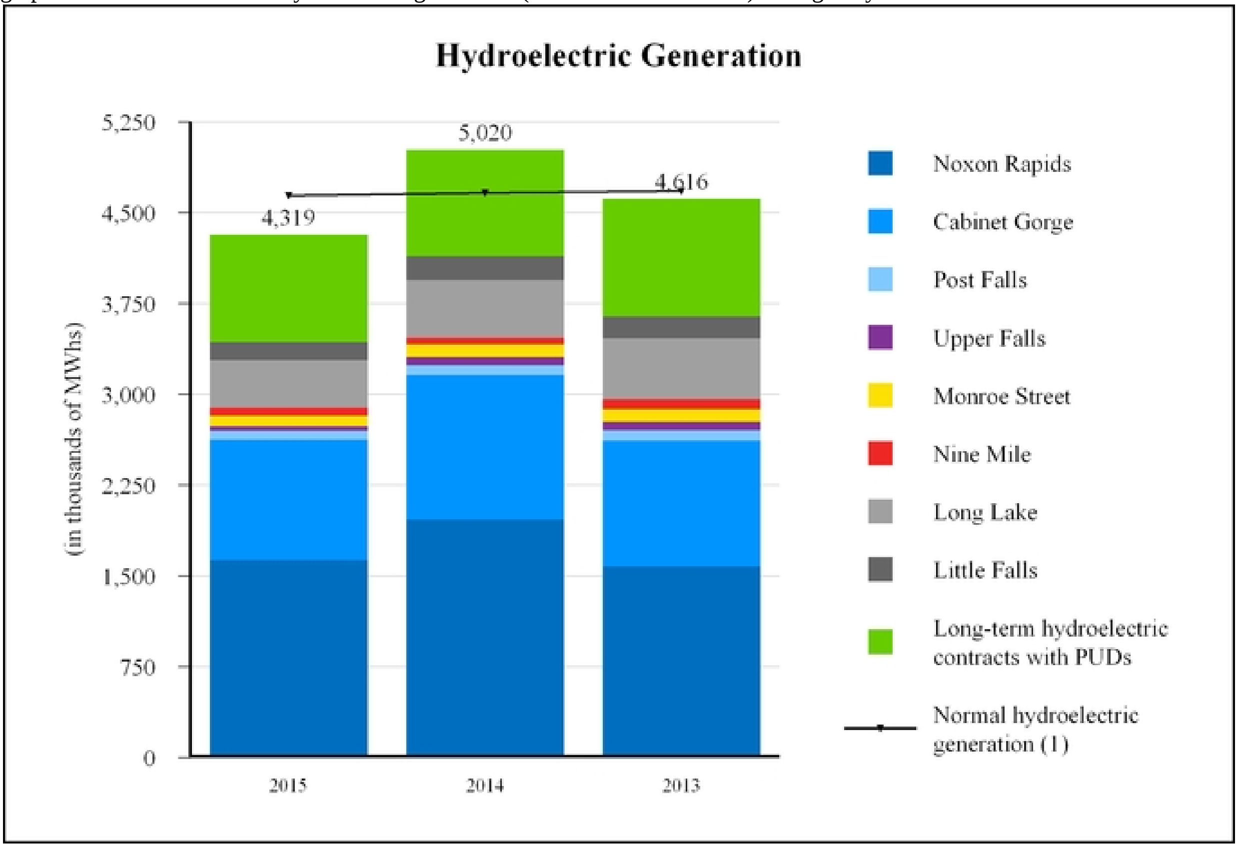
Electric Resources

Avista Utilities has a diverse electric resource mix of Company-owned and contracted hydroelectric projects, thermal generating facilities, wind generation facilities, and power purchases and exchanges.

At the end of 2015, our Company-owned facilities had a total net capability of 1,841 MW, of which 55 percent was hydroelectric and 45 percent was thermal. See “Item 2. Properties” for detailed information on generating facilities.

Hydroelectric Resources Avista Utilities owns and operates six hydroelectric projects on the Spokane River and two hydroelectric projects on the Clark Fork River. Hydroelectric generation is typically our lowest cost source per MWh of electricity and the availability of hydroelectric generation has a significant effect on total power supply costs. Under normal streamflow and operating conditions, we estimate that we would be able to meet approximately one-half of our total average electric requirements (both retail and long-term wholesale) with the combination of our hydroelectric generation and long-term hydroelectric purchase contracts with certain PUDs in the state of Washington. Our estimate of normal annual hydroelectric generation for 2016 (including resources purchased under long-term hydroelectric contracts with certain PUDs) is 533 aMW (or 4.6 million MWhs).

The following graph shows Avista Utilities' hydroelectric generation (in thousands of MWhs) during the year ended December 31:



(1) Normal hydroelectric generation is determined by applying an upstream regulation calculation to median natural water flow information. Natural water flow is the flow of the rivers without the influence of dams, whereas regulated water flow takes into account any water flow changes from upstream dams due to releasing or holding back water. The calculation of normal varies annually due to the timing of upstream dam regulation throughout the year.

Thermal Resources Avista Utilities owns the following thermal resources:

- the combined cycle CT natural gas-fired Coyote Springs 2 located near Boardman, Oregon,
- a 15 percent interest in a twin-unit, coal-fired boiler generating facility, Colstrip 3 & 4, located in southeastern Montana,
- a wood waste-fired boiler generating facility known as the Kettle Falls Generating Station (Kettle Falls GS) in northeastern Washington,
- a two-unit natural gas-fired CT generating facility, located in northeastern Spokane (Northeast CT),
- a two-unit natural gas-fired CT generating facility in northern Idaho (Rathdrum CT), and
- two small natural gas-fired generating facilities (Boulder Park and Kettle Falls CT).

Coyote Springs 2, which is operated by Portland General Electric Company, is supplied with natural gas under both term contracts and spot market purchases, including transportation agreements with bilateral renewal rights.

Colstrip, which is operated by Talen Energy LLC, is supplied with fuel from adjacent coal reserves under coal supply and transportation agreements in effect through 2019.

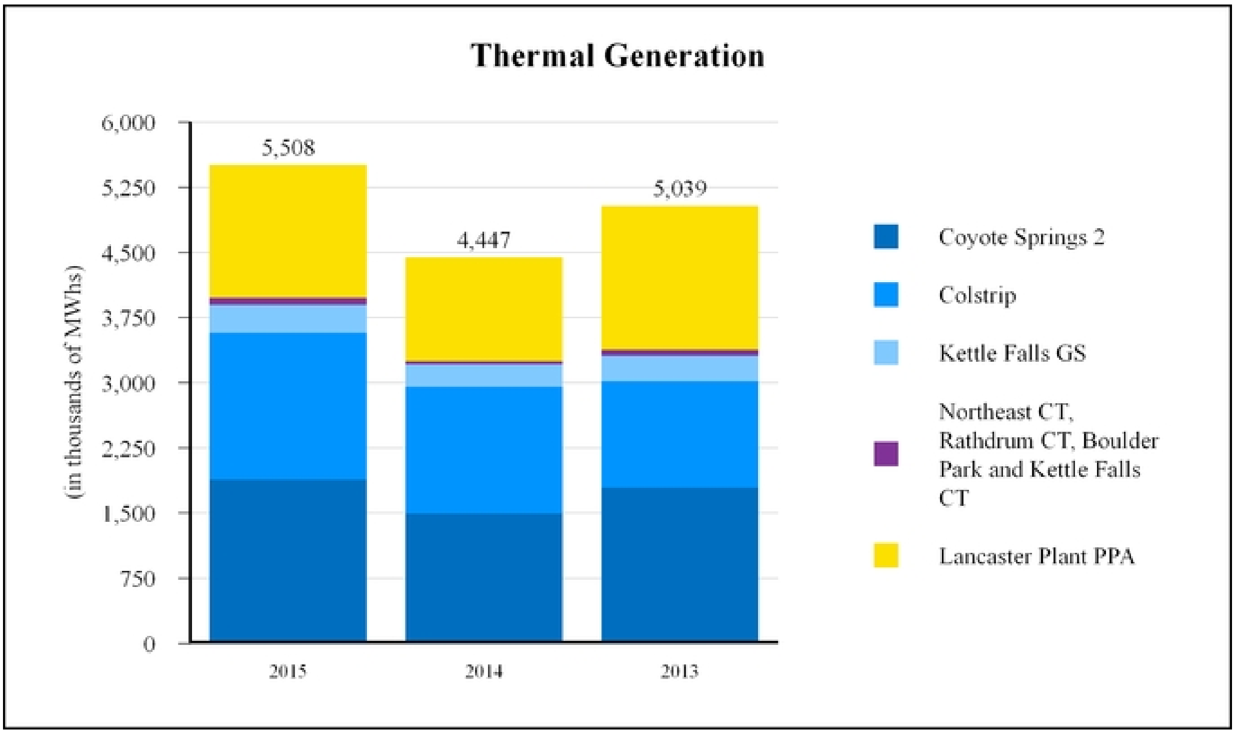
The primary fuel for the Kettle Falls GS is wood waste generated as a by-product and delivered by trucks from forest industry operations within 100 miles of the plant. A combination of long-term contracts and spot purchases has provided, and is expected to meet, fuel requirements for the Kettle Falls GS.

The Northeast CT, Rathdrum CT, Boulder Park and Kettle Falls CT generating units are primarily used to meet peaking electric requirements. We also operate these facilities when marginal costs are below prevailing wholesale electric prices. These generating facilities have access to natural gas supplies that are adequate to meet their respective operating needs.

See "Item 2. Properties - Avista Utilities - Generation Properties" for the nameplate rating and present generating capabilities of the above thermal resources.

Lancaster Plant We have the exclusive rights to capacity of the Lancaster Plant, a 270 MW natural gas-fired combined cycle combustion turbine plant located in northern Idaho, owned by an unrelated third-party. All of the output from the Lancaster Plant is contracted to us through 2026 under a power purchase agreement (PPA). Under the terms of the PPA, we make the dispatch decisions, provide all natural gas fuel and receive all of the electric energy output from the Lancaster Plant; therefore, we consider this plant in our baseload resources. See "Note 3 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further discussion of this PPA.

The following graph shows Avista Utilities' thermal generation (in thousands of MWhs) during the year ended December 31:



Wind Resources Palouse Wind is a wind generation project developed by Palouse Wind, LLC, and located in Whitman County, Washington. We have a 30-year PPA (expires in 2042) to acquire all of the power and renewable attributes produced by the project at a fixed price per MWh with a fixed escalation of the price over the term of the agreement. The project has a nameplate capacity of approximately 105 MW. Generation from Palouse Wind was 293,563 MWhs in 2015, 335,291 MWhs in 2014 and 297,027 MWhs in 2013. We have an annual option to purchase the wind project following the 10th anniversary of its December 2012 commercial operation date. The purchase price per the PPA is a fixed price per KW of in-service capacity with a fixed decline in the price per KW over the remaining 20 year term of the agreement.

Other Purchases, Exchanges and Sales In addition to the resources described above, we purchase and sell power under various long-term contracts and we also enter into short-term purchases and sales. Further, pursuant to the PURPA, as amended, we are required to purchase generation from qualifying facilities. This includes, among other resources, hydroelectric projects, cogeneration projects and wind generation projects at rates approved by the UTC and the IPUC.

See “Avista Utilities Operating Statistics – Electric Operations – Electric Energy Resources” for annual quantities of purchased power, wholesale power sales and power from exchanges in 2015, 2014 and 2013. See “Electric Operations” for additional information with respect to the use of wholesale purchases and sales as part of our resource optimization process and also see "Future Resource Needs" for the magnitude of these power purchase and sales contracts in future periods.

Hydroelectric Licenses

Avista Corp. is a licensee under the Federal Power Act (FPA) as administered by the FERC, which includes regulation of hydroelectric generation resources. Excluding the Little Falls Hydroelectric Generating Project, our other seven hydroelectric plants are regulated by the FERC through two project licenses. The licensed projects are subject to the provisions of Part I of the FPA. These provisions include payment for headwater benefits, condemnation of licensed projects upon payment of just compensation, and take-over of such projects after the expiration of the license upon payment of the lesser of "net investment" or "fair value" of the project, in either case, plus severance damages.

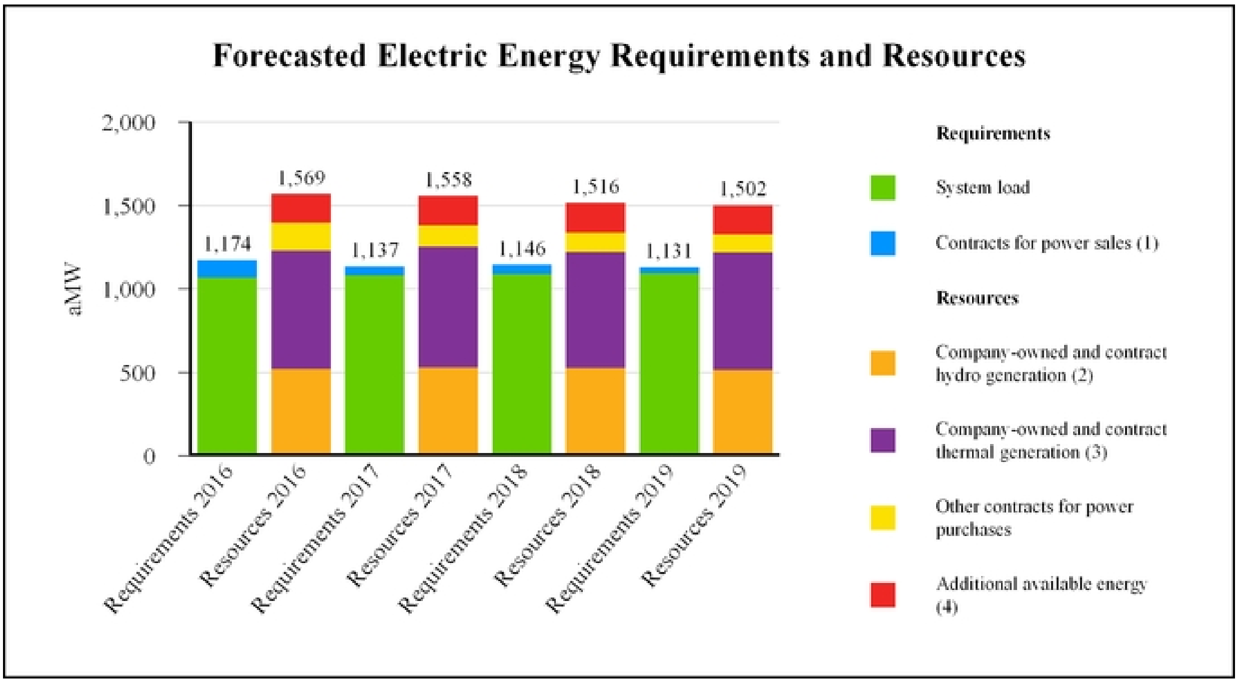
Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids are under one 45-year FERC license issued in March 2001. See "Cabinet Gorge Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan" in "Note 19 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for discussion of dissolved atmospheric gas levels that exceed state of Idaho and federal numeric water quality standards downstream of Cabinet Gorge during periods when we must divert excess river flows over the spillway as well as of our mitigation plans and efforts.

Five of our six hydroelectric projects on the Spokane River (Long Lake, Nine Mile, Upper Falls, Monroe Street and Post Falls) are under one 50-year FERC license issued in June 2009 and are referred to collectively as the Spokane River Project. The sixth, Little Falls, is operated under separate Congressional authority and is not licensed by the FERC.

Future Resource Needs

Avista Utilities has operational strategies to provide sufficient resources to meet our energy requirements under a range of operating conditions. These operational strategies consider the amount of energy needed, which varies widely because of the factors that influence demand over intra-hour, hourly, daily, monthly and annual durations. Our average hourly load was 1,047 aMW in 2015, 1,062 aMW in 2014 and 1,086 aMW in 2013.

The following is a forecast of our average annual energy requirements and resources for 2016 through 2019:



(1) The contracts for power sales decrease due to certain contracts expiring in each of these years. We are evaluating the future plan for the additional resources made available due to the expiration of these contracts.
(2) The forecast assumes near normal hydroelectric generation.
(3) Includes the Lancaster Plant PPA. Excludes Boulder Park GS, Kettle Falls CT, Northeast CT and Rathdrum CT, as these are considered peaking facilities and are generally not used to meet our base load requirements.
(4) The combined maximum capacity of Boulder Park GS, Kettle Falls CT, Northeast CT and Rathdrum CT is 278 MW, with estimated available energy production as indicated for each year.

In August 2015, we filed our 2015 Electric IRP with the UTC and the IPUC. The UTC and IPUC review the IRPs and give the public the opportunity to comment. The UTC and IPUC do not approve or disapprove of the content in the IRPs; rather they only acknowledge that the IRPs were prepared in accordance with applicable standards if that is the case. The IRP details projected growth in demand for energy and the new resources needed to serve customers over the next 20 years. We regard the IRP as a tool for resource evaluation, rather than an acquisition plan for a particular project.

Highlights of the 2015 IRP include:

- We have adequate resources between our owned and contractually controlled generation, combined with conservation and market purchases, to meet customer needs through 2020.
- 565 MW of additional generation capacity is required for the period 2020 through 2034.
- We expect to meet or exceed the renewable energy requirements of the Washington state Energy Independence Act through the 20-year IRP time frame with a combination of qualifying hydroelectric upgrades, the 30-year PPA with Palouse Wind, the Kettle Falls GS and selective REC purchases.
- Load growth is expected to be approximately 0.6 percent, a decline from the growth of 1.0 percent forecasted in 2013. This delays the need for a new natural gas-fired resource by one year. The decrease in expected load growth is primarily due to energy efficiency programs (using less energy to perform activities) over the next 20 years and the load impacts of increased prices. See "Item 7. Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Forecasted Customer and Load Growth and Economic Conditions and Utility Load Growth" for further discussion regarding utility customer growth, load growth, and the general economic conditions in our service territory. The estimates of future load growth in the IRP and at "Item 7. Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Forecasted Customer and Load Growth and Economic Conditions and Utility Load Growth" differ slightly due to the timing of when the two estimates were prepared and due to the time period that each estimate is focused on.
- Colstrip remains a cost effective and reliable source of power to meet future customer needs.
- Energy efficiency offsets more than half of projected load growth through the 20-year IRP time frame.
- Demand response (temporarily reducing the demand for energy) was eliminated from the Preferred Resource Strategy due to higher estimated costs.

We are required to file an IRP every two years, with the next IRP expected to be filed during the third quarter of 2017. Our resource strategy may change from the 2015 IRP based on market, legislative and regulatory developments.

We are subject to the Washington state Energy Independence Act, which requires us to obtain a portion of our electricity from qualifying renewable resources or through purchase of RECs and acquiring all cost effective conservation measures. Future generation resource decisions will be impacted by legislation for restrictions on GHG emissions and renewable energy requirements.

See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Environmental Issues and Contingencies” for information related to existing laws, as well as potential legislation that could influence our future electric resource mix.

Natural Gas Operations

General Avista Utilities provides natural gas distribution services to retail customers in parts of eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and northeastern and southwestern Oregon.

Market prices for natural gas, like other commodities, can be volatile. Our natural gas procurement strategy is to provide reliable supply to our customers with some level of price certainty. We procure natural gas from various supply basins and over varying time periods. The resulting portfolio is a diversified mix of spot market purchases and forward fixed price purchases, utilizing physical and financial derivative instruments. We also use natural gas storage to support high demand periods and to procure natural gas when prices may be lower. Securing prices throughout the year and even into subsequent years provides a level of price certainty and can mitigate price volatility to customers between years.

Weather is a key component of our natural gas customer load. This load is highly variable and daily natural gas loads can differ significantly from the monthly forecasted load projections. We make continuing projections of our natural gas loads and assess available natural gas resources. On the basis of these projections, we plan and execute a series of transactions to hedge a portion of our customers' projected natural gas requirements through forward market transactions and derivative instruments. These transactions may extend for multiple years into the future with the highest volumes hedged for the current and most immediate upcoming natural gas operating year (November through October). We also leave a portion of our natural gas supply requirements unhedged for purchase in the short-term spot markets.

Our purchase of natural gas supply is governed by our procurement plan, which is reviewed and approved annually by the Risk Management Committee (RMC), which is comprised of certain officers and other management personnel. Once approval is received, the plan is implemented and monitored by our gas supply and risk management groups.

The plan's progress is also presented to the UTC and IPUC staff in semi-annual meetings, and updates are given to the OPUC staff quarterly. Other stakeholders (Public Counsel Unit of the Office of the Attorney General, Citizen Utility Board) are invited to participate. The RMC is provided with an update on plan results and changes in their monthly meetings. These activities provide transparency for the natural gas supply procurement plan. Any material changes to the plan are documented and communicated to RMC members.

As part of the process of balancing natural gas retail load requirements with resources, we engage in the wholesale purchase and sale of natural gas. We plan for sufficient natural gas delivery capacity to serve our retail customers for a theoretical peak day event. As such, we generally have more pipeline and storage capacity than what is needed during periods other than a peak day. We optimize our natural gas resources by using market opportunities to generate economic value that helps mitigate fixed costs. Wholesale sales are delivered through wholesale market facilities outside of our natural gas distribution system. Natural gas resource optimization activities include, but are not limited to:

- wholesale market sales of surplus natural gas supplies,
- purchases and sales of natural gas to optimize use of pipeline and storage capacity, and
- participation in the transportation capacity release market.

We also provide distribution transportation service to qualified, large commercial and industrial natural gas customers who purchase natural gas through third-party marketers. For these customers, we receive their purchased natural gas from such third-party marketers into our distribution system and redeliver it to the customers' premise.

Optimization transactions that we engage in throughout the year are included in our annual purchased gas cost adjustment filings with the various commissions and they are subject to review for prudency during this process.

Natural Gas Supply Avista Utilities purchases all of its natural gas in wholesale markets. We are connected to multiple supply basins in the western United States and Canada through firm capacity transportation rights on six different pipeline networks. Access to this diverse portfolio of natural gas resources allows us to make natural gas procurement decisions that benefit our natural gas customers. These interstate pipeline transportation rights provide the capacity to serve approximately 25 percent of peak natural gas customer demands from domestic sources and 75 percent from Canadian sourced supply. Natural gas prices in the Pacific Northwest are affected by global energy markets, as well as supply and demand factors in other regions of the United States and Canada. Future prices and delivery constraints may cause our resource mix to vary.

Natural Gas Storage Avista Utilities owns a one-third interest in Jackson Prairie, an underground aquifer natural gas storage field located near Chehalis, Washington. Jackson Prairie has a total peak day deliverability of 12 million therms, with a total working natural gas capacity of 256 million therms. As an owner, our share is one-third of the peak day deliverability and total working capacity. We also contract for additional storage capacity and delivery at Jackson Prairie from Northwest Pipeline for a portion of their one-third share of the storage project.

We optimize our natural gas storage capacity by purchasing and storing natural gas when prices are traditionally lower, typically in the summer, and withdraw during higher priced months, typically during the winter. However, if market conditions and prices indicate that we should buy or sell natural gas during other times in the year, we engage in optimization transactions to capture value in the marketplace. Jackson Prairie is also used as a variable peaking resource and to protect from extreme daily price volatility during cold weather or other events affecting the market.

Future Resource Needs In August 2014, we filed our 2014 Natural Gas IRP with the UTC, IPUC and the OPUC. The natural gas IRPs are similar in nature to the electric IRPs and the process for preparation and review by the state commissions of both the electric and natural gas IRPs is similar. The IRP details projected growth in demand for energy and the new resources needed to serve customers over the next 20 years. We regard the IRP as a tool for resource evaluation, rather than an acquisition plan for a particular project.

Highlights of the 2014 IRP include:

- We have sufficient natural gas transportation resources well into the future with resource needs not occurring during the 20 year planning horizon in Washington, Idaho, or Oregon.
- Natural gas commodity prices continue to be relatively stable due to robust North American supplies led by shale gas development; and
- As forecasted demand is relatively flat, we will monitor actual demand for signs of increased growth which could accelerate resource needs.

We are required to file an IRP every two years, with the next IRP expected to be filed during the third quarter of 2016. Our resource strategy may change from the 2014 IRP based on market, legislative and regulatory developments.

Regulatory Issues

General As a public utility, Avista Corp. is subject to regulation by state utility commissions for prices, accounting, the issuance of securities and other matters. The retail electric and natural gas operations are subject to the jurisdiction of the UTC, the IPUC, the OPUC and the MPSC. Approval of the issuance of securities is not required from the MPSC. We are also subject to the jurisdiction of the FERC for licensing of hydroelectric generation resources, and for electric transmission services and wholesale sales.

Since Avista Corp. is a “holding company,” we are also subject to the jurisdiction of the FERC under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005, which imposes certain reporting and other requirements. We, and all of our subsidiaries (whether or not engaged in any energy related business), are required to maintain books, accounts and other records in accordance with the FERC regulations and to make them available to the FERC and the state utility commissions. In addition, upon the request of any state utility commission, or of Avista Corp., the FERC would have the authority to review assignment of costs of non-power goods and administrative services among us and our subsidiaries. The FERC has the authority generally to require that rates subject to its jurisdiction be just and reasonable and in this context would continue to be able to, among other things, review transactions of any affiliated company.

Our rates for retail electric and natural gas services (other than specially negotiated retail rates for industrial or large commercial customers, which are subject to regulatory review and approval) are generally determined on a “cost of service” basis.

Rates are designed to provide an opportunity for us to recover allowable operating expenses and earn a return of and a reasonable return on “rate base.” Rate base is generally determined by reference to the original cost (net of accumulated depreciation) of utility plant in service, subject to various adjustments for deferred income taxes and other items. Over time, rate base is increased by additions to utility plant in service and reduced by depreciation and retirement of utility plant and write-offs as authorized by the utility commissions. Our operating expenses and rate base are allocated or directly assigned among five regulatory jurisdictions: electric in Washington and Idaho, and natural gas in Washington, Idaho and Oregon. In general, requests for new retail rates are made on the basis of net investment, operating expenses and revenues for a test year that ended prior to the date of the request, plus certain adjustments, which differ among the various jurisdictions, designed to reflect the expected revenues, expenses and net investment during the period new retail rates will be in effect. The retail rates approved by the state commissions in a rate proceeding may not provide sufficient revenues to provide recovery of costs and a reasonable return on investment for a number of reasons, including but not limited to, unexpected changes in revenues, expenses and investment following the time new retail rates are requested in the rate proceeding, and exclusion of certain costs and investment by the commission from the rate making process.

Our rates for wholesale electric and natural gas transmission services are based on either “cost of service” principles or market-based rates as set forth by the FERC. See “Notes 1 and 20 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for additional information about regulation, depreciation and deferred income taxes.

General Rate Cases Avista Utilities regularly reviews the need for electric and natural gas rate changes in each state in which we provide service. See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Regulatory Matters – General Rate Cases” for information on general rate case activity.

Power Cost Deferrals Avista Utilities defers the recognition in the income statement of certain power supply costs that vary from the level currently recovered from our retail customers as authorized by the UTC and the IPUC. See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Regulatory Matters – Power Cost Deferrals and Recovery Mechanisms” and “Note 20 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for information on power cost deferrals and recovery mechanisms in Washington and Idaho.

Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Under established regulatory practices in each state, Avista Utilities defers the recognition in the income statement of the natural gas costs that vary from the level currently recovered from our retail customers as authorized by each of our jurisdictions. See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Regulatory Matters – Purchased Gas Adjustments” and “Note 20 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for information on natural gas cost deferrals and recovery mechanisms in Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Federal Laws Related to Wholesale Competition

Federal law promotes practices that open the electric wholesale energy market to competition. The FERC requires electric utilities to transmit power and energy to or for wholesale purchasers and sellers, and requires electric utilities to enhance or construct transmission facilities to create additional transmission capacity for the purpose of providing these services. Public utilities (through subsidiaries or affiliates) and other entities may participate in the development of independent electric generating plants for sales to wholesale customers.

Public utilities operating under the FPA are required to provide open and non-discriminatory access to their transmission systems to third parties and establish an Open Access Same-Time Information System to provide an electronic means by which transmission customers can obtain information about available transmission capacity and purchase transmission access. The FERC also requires each public utility subject to the rules to operate its transmission and wholesale power merchant operating functions separately and to comply with standards of conduct designed to ensure that all wholesale users, including the public utility’s power merchant operations, have equal access to the public utility’s transmission system. Our compliance with these standards has not had any substantive impact on the operation, maintenance and marketing of our transmission system or our ability to provide service to customers.

See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Competition” for further information.

Regional Transmission Organizations

Beginning with FERC Order No. 888 and continuing with subsequent rulemakings and policies, the FERC has encouraged better coordination and operational consistency aimed to capture efficiencies that might otherwise be gained through the formation of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) or an independent system operator (ISO).

Regional Transmission Planning

Avista Utilities meets its FERC requirements to coordinate transmission planning activities with other regional entities through ColumbiaGrid. ColumbiaGrid is a Washington nonprofit membership corporation with an independent board formed to improve the operational efficiency, reliability, and planned expansion of the transmission grid in the Pacific Northwest. We became a member of ColumbiaGrid in 2006 during its formation. ColumbiaGrid is not an ISO, but performs those functions that its members request, as set forth in specific agreements. Currently, ColumbiaGrid fills the role of facilitating our regional transmission planning as required in FERC Order No. 1000 and other clarifying FERC Orders. ColumbiaGrid and its members also work with other western organizations to address transmission planning, including WestConnect and the Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG). In 2011, we became a registered Planning Participant of the NTTG. We will continue to assess the benefits of entering into other functional agreements with ColumbiaGrid and/or participating in other forums to attain operational efficiencies and to meet FERC policy objectives.

Regional Energy Markets

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) recently implemented an EIM in the western United States. Several Pacific Norhwest utilities are either participants in the CAISO EIM or plan to integrate into the market in the next few years, which could reduce bilateral market liquidity and transaction opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. Avista Utilities is monitoring the CAISO EIM implementation but currently does not plan to join as a participating member. We will continue to monitor the CAISO EIM expansion and the associated impacts. As market fundamentals and our business needs evolve, we will weigh the advantages and disadvantages of joining the CAISO EIM or other organized energy markets in the future.

Reliability Standards

Among its other provisions, the U.S. Energy Policy Act provides for the implementation of mandatory reliability standards and authorizes the FERC to assess penalties for non-compliance with these standards and other FERC regulations.

The FERC certified the NERC as the single Electric Reliability Organization authorized to establish and enforce reliability standards and delegate authority to regional entities for the purpose of establishing and enforcing reliability standards. The

FERC approved the NERC Reliability Standards, including western region standards, making up the set of legally enforceable standards for the United States bulk electric system. The first of these reliability standards became effective in June 2007. We are required to self-certify our compliance with these standards on an annual basis and undergo regularly scheduled periodic reviews by the NERC and its regional entity, the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). Our failure to comply with these standards could result in financial penalties of up to $1 million per day per violation. Annual self-certification and audit processes to date have demonstrated our substantial compliance with these standards. Requirements relating to cyber security are continually evolving. Our compliance with version 5 of the NERC's Critical Infrastructure Protection standard is driving several physical and electronic security initiatives in our control centers, generating stations and substations. We do not expect the costs of the physical and electronic securities initiatives to have a material impact to our financial results.

AVISTA UTILITIES ELECTRIC OPERATING STATISTICS

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
ELECTRIC OPERATIONS			
OPERATING REVENUES (Dollars in Thousands):			
Residential	$ 335,552	$ 338,697	$ 331,867
Commercial	308,210	300,109	289,604
Industrial	111,770	110,775	113,632
Public street and highway lighting	7,277	7,549	7,267
Total retail	762,809	757,130	742,370
Wholesale	127,253	138,162	127,556
Sales of fuel	82,853	83,732	126,657
Other	25,839	27,467	36,071
Decoupling	4,740	—	—
Provision for earnings sharing	(5,621)	(7,503)	(2,048)
Total electric operating revenues	$ 997,873	$ 998,988	$ 1,030,606
ENERGY SALES (Thousands of MWhs):			
Residential	3,571	3,694	3,745
Commercial	3,197	3,189	3,147
Industrial	1,812	1,868	1,979
Public street and highway lighting	23	25	26
Total retail	8,603	8,776	8,897
Wholesale	3,145	3,686	3,874
Total electric energy sales	11,748	12,462	12,771
ENERGY RESOURCES (Thousands of MWhs):			
Hydro generation (from Company facilities)	3,434	4,143	3,646
Thermal generation (from Company facilities)	3,983	3,252	3,383
Purchased power	4,899	5,615	6,375
Power exchanges	(2)	(25)	(20)
Total power resources	12,314	12,985	13,384
Energy losses and Company use	(566)	(523)	(613)
Total energy resources (net of losses)	11,748	12,462	12,771
NUMBER OF RETAIL CUSTOMERS (Average for Period):			
Residential	327,057	324,188	321,098
Commercial	41,296	40,988	40,202
Industrial	1,353	1,385	1,386
Public street and highway lighting	529	531	527
Total electric retail customers	370,235	367,092	363,213
RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AVERAGES:			
Annual use per customer (KWh)	10,827	11,394	11,664
Revenue per KWh (in cents)	9.40	9.17	8.86
Annual revenue per customer	$ 1,017.21	$ 1,044.76	$ 1,033.54
AVERAGE HOURLY LOAD (aMW)	1,047	1,062	1,086

AVISTA UTILITIES ELECTRIC OPERATING STATISTICS

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
RETAIL NATIVE LOAD at time of system peak (MW):			
Winter	1,529	1,715	1,669
Summer	1,638	1,606	1,577
COOLING DEGREE DAYS: (1)			
Spokane, WA			
Actual	805	631	709
Historical average	334	394	394
% of average	241%	160%	180%
HEATING DEGREE DAYS: (2)			
Spokane, WA			
Actual	5,614	6,215	6,683
Historical average	6,491	6,820	6,780
% of average	86%	91%	99%

(1) Cooling degree days are the measure of the warmness of weather experienced, based on the extent to which the average of high and low temperatures for a day exceeds 65 degrees Fahrenheit (annual degree days above historic indicate warmer than average temperatures). In 2015, we switched to a rolling 20-year average for calculating cooling degree days, whereas in prior years we used a 30-year rolling average.

(2) Heating degree days are the measure of the coldness of weather experienced, based on the extent to which the average of high and low temperatures for a day falls below 65 degrees Fahrenheit (annual degree days below historic indicate warmer than average temperatures). In 2015, we switched to a rolling 20-year average for calculating heating degree days, whereas in prior years we used a 30-year rolling average.

AVISTA UTILITIES NATURAL GAS OPERATING STATISTICS

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
NATURAL GAS OPERATIONS			
OPERATING REVENUES (Dollars in Thousands):			
Residential	$ 193,825	$ 203,373	$ 206,330
Commercial	96,751	103,179	102,225
Interruptible	2,782	2,792	2,681
Industrial	3,792	4,158	3,599
Total retail	297,150	313,502	314,835
Wholesale	204,289	228,187	194,717
Transportation	7,988	7,735	7,576
Other	5,578	7,461	8,573
Decoupling	6,004	—	—
Provision for earnings sharing	—	(221)	(442)
Total natural gas operating revenues	$ 521,009	$ 556,664	$ 525,259
THERMS DELIVERED (Thousands of Therms):			
Residential	176,613	190,171	204,711
Commercial	107,894	116,748	122,245
Interruptible	4,708	5,033	5,694
Industrial	5,070	5,648	5,181
Total retail	294,285	317,600	337,831
Wholesale	809,132	545,620	524,818
Transportation	164,679	162,311	159,976
Interdepartmental and Company use	335	411	418
Total therms delivered	1,268,431	1,025,942	1,023,043
NUMBER OF RETAIL CUSTOMERS (Average for Period):			
Residential	296,005	291,928	288,708
Commercial	34,229	34,047	33,932
Interruptible	35	37	38
Industrial	261	264	259
Total natural gas retail customers	330,530	326,276	322,937
RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AVERAGES:			
Annual use per customer (therms)	593	651	709
Revenue per therm (in dollars)	$ 1.10	$ 1.07	$ 1.01
Annual revenue per customer	$ 650.83	$ 696.66	$ 714.67
HEATING DEGREE DAYS: (1)			
Spokane, WA			
Actual	5,614	6,215	6,683
Historical average (2)	6,491	6,820	6,780
% of average	86%	91%	99%
Medford, OR			
Actual	3,534	3,382	4,576
Historical average (2)	4,150	4,539	4,539
% of average	85%	75%	101%

(1) Heating degree days are the measure of the coldness of weather experienced, based on the extent to which the average of high and low temperatures for a day falls below 65 degrees Fahrenheit (annual degree days below historic indicate warmer than average temperatures).

(2) In 2015, we switched to a rolling 20-year average for calculating heating degree days, whereas in prior years we used a 30-year rolling average.

ALASKA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY

AEL&P is the primary operating subsidiary of AERC. AEL&P is the sole utility providing electrical energy in Juneau, Alaska. Juneau is a geographically isolated community with no electric interconnections with the transmission facilities of other utilities and no pipeline access to natural gas or other fuels. Juneau’s economy is primarily driven by government activities, tourism, commercial fishing, and mining, as well as activities as the commercial hub of southeast Alaska.

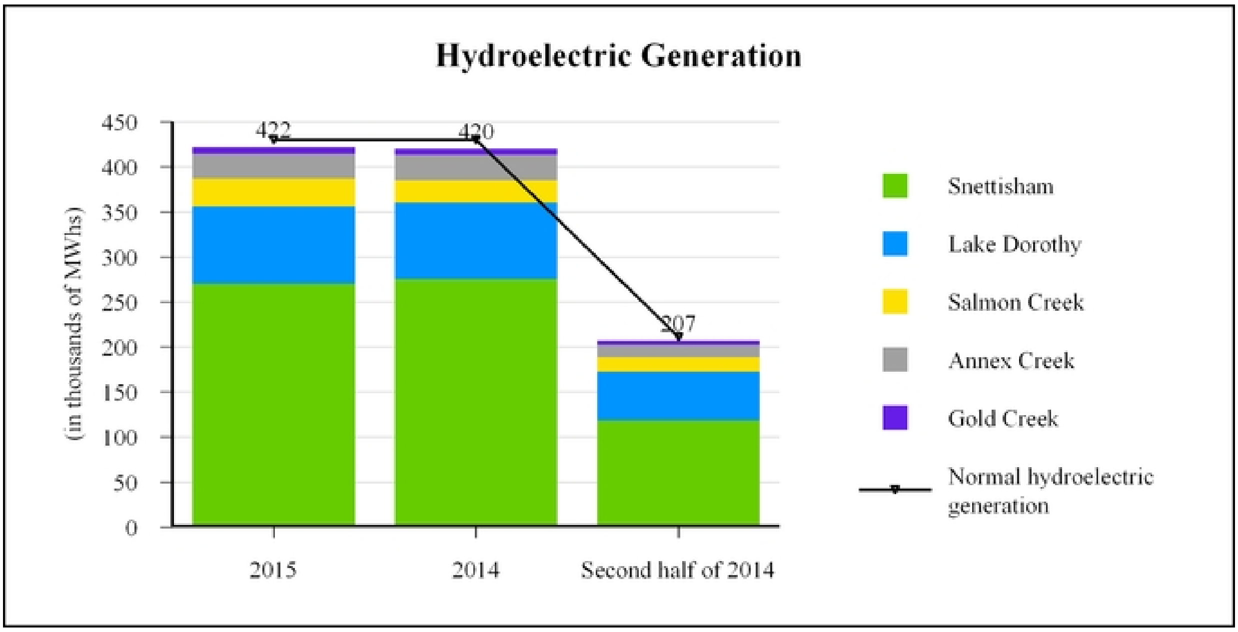
AEL&P owns and operates electric generation, transmission and distribution facilities located in Juneau. AEL&P operates five hydroelectric generation facilities with 102.7 MW of hydroelectric generation capacity as of December 31, 2015. AEL&P owns four of these generation facilities (totaling 24.7 MW of capacity) and has a PPA for the output of the Snettisham hydroelectric project (totaling 78 MW of capacity).

The Snettisham hydroelectric project is owned by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), a public corporation of the State of Alaska. AEL&P has a PPA and operating and maintenance agreement with the AIDEA to operate and maintain the facility. This PPA is a take-or-pay obligation expiring in December 2038, to purchase all of the output of the project.

For accounting purposes, this PPA is treated as a capital lease and as of December 31, 2015, the capital lease obligation was $64.5 million. Snettisham Electric Company, a non-operating subsidiary of AERC, has the option to purchase the Snettisham project at any time for the principal amount of the bonds outstanding at that time. See "Note 14 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further discussion of the Snettisham capital lease obligation.

As of December 31, 2015, AEL&P also had 93.9 MW of diesel generating capacity from three facilities to provide back-up service to firm customers when necessary.

The following graph shows AEL&P's hydroelectric generation (in thousands of MWhs) during the time periods indicated below:



Only the hydroelectric generation for the second half of 2014 in the graph above was included in Avista Corp.'s overall results for 2014. The full 12 months of 2014 in the graph above is presented for information purposes only.

As of December 31, 2015, AEL&P served approximately 17,000 customers. Its primary customers include city, state and federal governmental entities located in Juneau, as well as a mine located in the Juneau area. Most of AEL&P’s customers are served on a firm basis while certain of its customers, including its largest customer, are served on an interruptible sales basis. AEL&P maintains separate rate tariffs for each of its customer classes, as well as seasonal rates.

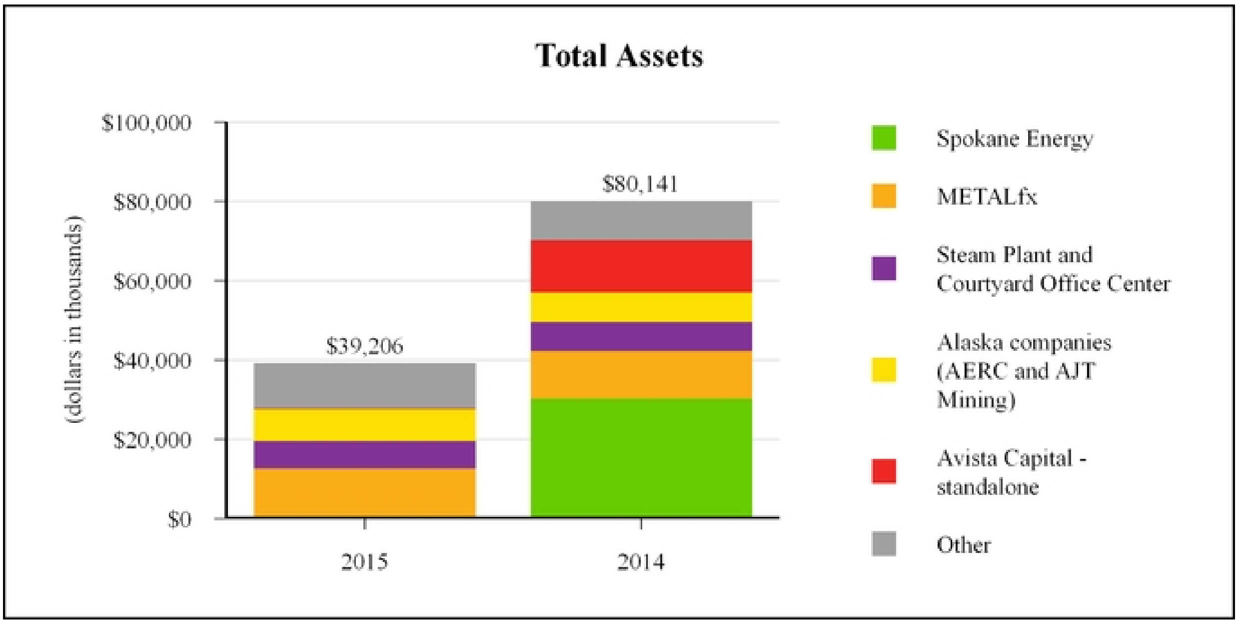
AEL&P's operations are subject to regulation by the RCA with respect to rates, standard of service, facilities, accounting and certain other matters, but not with respect to the issuance of securities. Rate adjustments for AEL&P's customers require approval by the RCA pursuant to RCA regulations. AEL&P's last general rate case was filed in 2010 and approved by the RCA in 2011. The RCA approved a capital structure including 53.8 percent equity and an authorized return on equity of 12.875 percent. We expect that AEL&P will maintain a similar capital structure going forward.

AEL&P is also subject to the jurisdiction of the FERC concerning the permits and licenses necessary to operate certain of its hydroelectric facilities. One of these licenses (for the Salmon Creek and Annex Creek hydroelectric projects) expires in 2018. Since AEL&P has no electric interconnection with other utilities and makes no wholesale sales, it is not subject to general FERC jurisdiction.

The Snettisham hydroelectric project is subject to regulation by the State of Alaska with respect to dam safety and certain aspects of its operations. In addition, AEL&P is subject to regulation with respect to air and water quality, land use and other environmental matters under both federal and state laws.

OTHER BUSINESSES

The following graph shows our assets related to our other businesses as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):



Spokane Energy was a special purpose limited liability company and all of its membership capital was owned by Avista Corp. Spokane Energy was formed in December 1998, to assume ownership of a fixed rate electric capacity contract between Avista Corp. and Portland General Electric Company. The fixed rate electric capacity contract, which expires in December 2016, was transferred from Spokane Energy to Avista Corp. during the second quarter of 2015. Spokane Energy was then dissolved during the third quarter of 2015. The fixed rate electric capacity contract has a value of $14.7 million as of December 31, 2015, compared to $28.2 million as of December 31, 2014.

AM&D doing business as METALfx performs custom sheet metal fabrication of electronic enclosures, parts and systems for the computer, construction, telecom, renewable energy and medical industries.

Steam Plant and Courtyard Office Center consist of real estate investments (primarily mixed use commercial and retail office space).

AJT Mining is a wholly-owned subsidiary of AERC and is an inactive mining company holding certain properties.

The assets at Avista Capital - standalone as of December 31, 2014 primarily consisted of the escrow receivables related to the sale of Ecova on June 30, 2014. The escrow receivables were settled and we received the proceeds during the fourth quarter of 2015. See "Note 5 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further detail regarding this transaction.

Our other investments and operations include emerging technology venture capital funds.

Over time as opportunities arise, we dispose of investments and phase out operations that do not fit with our overall corporate strategy. However, we may invest incremental funds to protect our existing investments and invest in new businesses that we believe fit with our overall corporate strategy.

We continue to evaluate the opportunity to bring natural gas to Juneau, Alaska. If we pursue this project, we estimate that the total investment for our local distribution company (LDC) project would be about $130 million over 10 years, with about half being invested during the first five years.

Lower oil prices have made it more difficult for customers to justify converting to natural gas. In addition, we have yet to secure a mechanism to provide funds that are needed to help customers with the conversion costs, thus challenging the economics of the project. In addition, the state of Alaska has not yet adopted legislation that would enable the state to provide customer assistance for conversions. We will continue our due diligence and we will be ready to proceed if and when the economics prove favorable for customers and our Company.

Salix was notified by AIDEA in December 2015 that its proposal to build an LNG liquefaction plant to serve the Interior Energy Project, specifically to serve the Fairbanks, Alaska area, was selected as one of the two finalists. A decision by the AIDEA board is expected in early 2016.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

RISK FACTORS

The following factors could have a significant impact on our operations, results of operations, financial condition or cash flows. These factors could cause future results or outcomes to differ materially from those discussed in our reports filed with the SEC (including this Annual Report on Form 10-K), and elsewhere. Please also see “Forward-Looking Statements” for additional factors which could have a significant impact on our operations, results of operations, financial condition or cash flows and could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in such statements.

Financial Risk Factors

Weather (temperatures, precipitation levels, wind patterns and storms) has a significant effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Weather impacts are described in the following subtopics:

- certain retail electricity and natural gas sales,
- the cost of natural gas supply, and
- the cost of power supply.

Certain retail electricity and natural gas sales volumes vary directly with changes in temperatures. We normally have our highest retail (electric and natural gas) energy sales during the winter heating season in the first and fourth quarters of the year. We also have high electricity demand for air conditioning during the summer (third quarter) in the Pacific Northwest. In general, warmer weather in the heating season and cooler weather in the cooling season will reduce our customers’ energy demand and retail operating revenues.

The cost of natural gas supply tends to increase with higher demand during periods of cold weather. Increased costs adversely affect cash flows when we purchase natural gas for retail supply at prices above the amount then allowed for recovery in retail rates. We defer differences between actual natural gas supply costs and the amount currently recovered in retail rates and we are generally allowed to recover substantially all of these differences after regulatory review. However, these deferred costs require cash outflows from the time of natural gas purchases until the costs are later recovered through retail sales. Inter-regional natural gas pipelines and competition for supply can allow demand-driven price volatility in other regions of North America to affect prices in our region, even though there may be less extreme weather conditions in our area.

The cost of power supply can be significantly affected by weather. Precipitation (consisting of snowpack, its water content and melting pattern plus rainfall) and other streamflow conditions (such as regional water storage operations) significantly affect hydroelectric generation capability. Variations in hydroelectric generation inversely affect our reliance on market purchases and thermal generation. To the extent that hydroelectric generation is less than normal, significantly more costly power supply resources must be acquired and the ability to realize net benefits from surplus hydroelectric wholesale sales is reduced. Wholesale prices also vary based on wind patterns as wind generation capacity is material in our region but its contribution to supply is inconsistent.

The price of power in the wholesale energy markets tends to be higher during periods of high regional demand, such as occurs with temperature extremes. We may need to purchase power in the wholesale market during peak price periods. The price of natural gas as fuel for natural gas-fired electric generation also tends to increase during periods of high demand which are often related to temperature extremes. We may need to purchase natural gas fuel in these periods of high prices to meet electric demands. The cost of power supply during peak usage periods may be higher than the retail sales price or the amount allowed in retail rates by our regulators. To the extent that power supply costs are above the amount allowed currently in retail rates, the difference is partially absorbed by the Company in current expense and it is partially deferred or shared with customers through regulatory mechanisms.

The price of power tends to be lower during periods with excess supply, such as the spring when hydroelectric conditions are usually at their maximum and various facilities are required to operate to meet environmental mandates. Oversupply can be exacerbated when intermittent resources such as wind generation are producing output that may be supported by price subsidies. In extreme situations, we may be required to sell excess energy at negative prices.

As a result of these combined factors, our net cost of power supply – the difference between our costs of generation and market purchases, reduced by our revenue from wholesale sales – varies significantly because of weather.

We rely on regular access to financial markets but we cannot assure favorable or reasonable financing terms will be available when we need them.

Access to capital markets is critical to our operations and our capital structure. We have significant capital requirements that we expect to fund, in part, by accessing capital markets. As such, the state of financial markets and credit availability in the global, United States and regional economies impacts our financial condition. We could experience increased borrowing costs or limited access to capital on reasonable terms.

We access long-term capital markets to finance capital expenditures, repay maturing long-term debt and obtain additional working capital from time to time. Our ability to access capital on reasonable terms is subject to numerous factors and market conditions, many of which are beyond our control. If we are unable to obtain capital on reasonable terms, it may limit or prohibit our ability to finance capital expenditures and repay maturing long-term debt. Our liquidity needs could exceed our short-term credit availability and lead to defaults on various financing arrangements. We would also likely be prohibited from paying dividends on our common stock.

Performance of the financial markets could also result in significant declines in the market values of assets held by our pension plan and/or a significant increase in the pension liability (which impacts the funded status of the plan) and could increase future funding obligations and pension expense.

We rely on credit from financial institutions for short-term borrowings. We need adequate levels of credit with financial institutions for short-term liquidity. We have a $400.0 million committed line of credit that expires in April 2019. Our subsidiary AEL&P has a committed line of credit in the amount of $25.0 million that expires in November 2019. There is no assurance that we will have access to credit beyond these expiration dates. The committed line of credit agreements contain customary covenants and default provisions. In the event of default, it would be difficult for us to obtain financing on reasonable terms to pay creditors or fund operations. We would also likely be prohibited from paying dividends on our common stock.

We hedge a portion of our interest rate risk with financial derivative instruments, which may include interest rate swaps and U.S. Treasury lock agreements. If market interest rates decrease below the interest rates we have locked in, this will result in a liability related to our interest rate swap agreements, which can be significant. As of December 31, 2015, we had a net interest rate derivative liability of $84.0 million, reflecting a decline in interest rates since the time we entered the agreements. We did not have any U.S. Treasury lock agreements outstanding as of December 31, 2015. We may be required to post cash or letters of credit as collateral depending on fluctuations in the fair value of the derivative instruments. Settlement of interest rate derivative instruments in a liability position could require a significant amount of cash, which could negatively impact our liquidity and short-term credit availability and increase interest expense over the term of the associated debt.

Downgrades in our credit ratings could impede our ability to obtain financing, adversely affect the terms of financing and impact our ability to transact for or hedge energy resources. If we do not maintain our investment grade credit rating with the major credit rating agencies, we could expect increased debt service costs, limitations on our ability to access capital markets or obtain other financing on reasonable terms, and requirements to provide collateral (in the form of cash or letters of credit) to lenders and counterparties. In addition, credit rating downgrades could reduce the number of counterparties willing to do business with us or result in the termination of outstanding regulatory authorizations for certain financing activities.

Credit risk may be affected by industry concentration and geographic concentration.

We have concentrations of suppliers and customers in the electric and natural gas industries including:

- electric and natural gas utilities,
- electric generators and transmission providers,
- oil and natural gas producers and pipelines,
- financial institutions including commodity clearing exchanges and related parties, and
- energy marketing and trading companies.

We have concentrations of credit risk related to our geographic location in the western United States and western Canada energy markets. These concentrations of counterparties and concentrations of geographic location may affect our overall exposure to credit risk because the counterparties may be similarly affected by changes in conditions.

Utility Regulatory Risk Factors

Regulators may not grant rates that provide timely or sufficient recovery of our costs or allow a reasonable rate of return for our shareholders.

We have experienced higher expenses and capital costs for utility operations in the last several years. We have also made significant capital investments into utility plant assets. Our ability to recover these expenses and capital costs depends on the amount and timeliness of retail rate changes allowed by regulatory agencies. We expect to periodically file for rate increases with regulatory agencies to recover our expenses and capital costs and provide an opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return for shareholders. If regulators grant substantially lower rate increases than our requests in the future or if recovery of deferred expenses is disallowed, it could have a negative effect on our operating revenues, net income and cash flows.

In the future, we may no longer meet the criteria for continued application of regulatory accounting practices for all or a portion of our regulated operations.

If we could no longer apply regulatory accounting, we could be:

- required to write off our regulatory assets, and
- precluded from the future deferral of costs or decoupled revenues not recovered through rates at the time such amounts are incurred, even if we are expected to recover these amounts from customers in the future.

See further discussion at "Note 1 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements – Regulatory Deferred Charges and Credits."

Energy Commodity Risk Factors

Energy commodity price changes affect our cash flows and results of operations.

Energy commodity prices can be volatile. A combination of factors exposes our operations to commodity price risks. We rely on energy markets and other counterparties for energy supply, surplus and optimization transactions and commodity price hedging. These factors include:

- our obligation to serve our retail customers at rates set through the regulatory process - we cannot change retail rates to reflect current energy prices unless and until we receive regulatory approval,
- customer demand, which is beyond our control because of weather, customer choices, prevailing economic conditions and other factors,
- some of our energy supply cost is fixed by the nature of the energy-producing assets or through contractual arrangements - however, a significant portion of our energy resource costs are not fixed, and
- the potential non-performance by commodity counterparties, which could lead to replacement of the scheduled energy or natural gas at higher prices.

Because we must supply the amount of energy demanded by our customers and we must sell it at fixed rates and only a portion of our energy supply costs are fixed, we are subject to the risk of buying energy at higher prices in wholesale energy markets (and the risk of selling energy at lower prices if we are in a surplus position). Electricity and natural gas in wholesale markets are commodities with historically high price volatility. Changes in wholesale energy prices affect, among other things, the cash requirements to purchase electricity and natural gas for retail customers or wholesale obligations and the market value of derivative assets and liabilities.

When we enter into fixed price energy commodity transactions for future delivery, we are subject to credit terms that may require us to provide collateral to wholesale counterparties related to the difference between current prices and the agreed upon fixed prices. These collateral requirements can place significant demands on our cash flows or borrowing arrangements. Price volatility can cause collateral requirements to change quickly and significantly.

Cash flow deferrals related to energy commodities can be significant. We are permitted to collect from customers only amounts approved by regulatory commissions. However, our costs to provide energy service can be much higher or lower than the amounts currently billed to customers. We are permitted to defer most of this difference for review by the regulatory commissions who have discretion as to the extent and timing of future recovery or refund to customers.

Power and natural gas costs higher than those recovered in retail rates reduce cash flows. Amounts that are not allowed for deferral or which are not approved to become part of customer rates affect our results of operations.

We defer income statement recognition and recovery from customers of certain power and natural gas costs that are higher or lower than what are currently authorized in retail rates by regulators. These power and natural gas costs are recorded as deferred charges with the opportunity for future recovery through retail rates. These deferred costs are subject to review for prudence and potential disallowance by regulators.

Despite the opportunity to recover deferred power and natural gas costs, our operating cash flows can be negatively affected until these costs are recovered from customers.

Our energy resource risk management processes can cause volatility in our cash flows and results of operations. We engage in active hedging and resource optimization practices to reduce energy cost volatility and economic exposure related to commodity price fluctuations. We routinely enter into contracts to hedge a portion of our purchase and sale commitments for electricity and natural gas, as well as forecasted excess or deficit energy positions and inventories of natural gas. We use physical energy contracts and derivative instruments, such as forwards, futures, swaps and options traded in the over-the-counter markets or on exchanges. We cannot and do not attempt to fully hedge our energy resource assets or our forecasted net positions for various time horizons. To the extent we have positions that are not hedged, or if hedging positions do not fully match the corresponding purchase or sale, fluctuating commodity prices could have a material effect on our operating revenues, resource costs, derivative assets and liabilities, and operating cash flows. In addition, actual loads and resources typically vary from forecasts, sometimes to a significant degree, which require additional transactions or dispatch decisions that impact cash flows.

The hedges we enter into are reviewed for prudence by the various regulators and any deferred costs (including those as a result of our hedging transactions) are subject to review for prudence and potential disallowance by regulators.

Generation plants may become obsolete. We rely on a variety of generation and energy commodity market sources to fulfill our obligation to serve customers and meet the demands of our counterparty agreements. There is the potential that some of our generation sources, such as coal, may become obsolete. This could result in higher commodity costs to customers to replace the lost generation, as well as higher costs to retire the generation source before the end of its expected life.

Operational Risk Factors

We are subject to various operational and event risks.

Our operations are subject to operational and event risks that include:

- severe weather or natural disasters, including, but not limited to, avalanches, wind storms, wildfires, snow and ice storms, that can disrupt energy generation, transmission and distribution, as well as the availability and costs of materials, equipment, supplies and support services;
- blackouts or disruptions of interconnected transmission systems (the regional power grid);
- unplanned outages at generating plants,

- fuel cost and availability, including delivery constraints,
- explosions, fires, accidents, or mechanical breakdowns that may occur while operating and maintaining our generation, transmission and distribution systems,
- damage or injuries to third parties caused by our generation, transmission and distribution systems,
- natural disasters that can disrupt energy generation, transmission and distribution and general business operations, and
- terrorist attacks or other malicious acts that may disrupt or cause damage to our utility assets or the vendors we utilize.

Disasters may affect the general economy, financial and capital markets, specific industries, or our ability to conduct business. As protection against operational and event risks, we maintain business continuity and disaster recovery plans, maintain insurance coverage against some, but not all, potential losses and we seek to negotiate indemnification arrangements with contractors for certain event risks. However, insurance or indemnification agreements may not be adequate to protect us against liability, extra expenses and operating disruptions from all of the operational and event risks described above. In addition, we are subject to the risk that insurers and/or other parties will dispute or be unable to perform on their obligations to us.

Damage to facilities may be caused by severe weather, such as snow, ice, wind storms or avalanches. The cost to implement rapid or any repair to such facilities can be significant. Overhead electric lines are most susceptible to damage caused by severe weather.

Adverse impacts may occur at our Alaska operations that could result from an extended outage of their hydroelectric generating resources or its inability to deliver energy, due to their lack of interconnectivity to any other electrical grids and the extensive cost of replacement power (diesel);

AEL&P operates several hydroelectric power generation facilities and has diesel generating capacity from multiple facilities to provide backup service to firm customers when necessary; however, a single hydroelectric power generation facility, the Snettisham hydroelectric project, provides approximately two-thirds of AEL&P's hydroelectric power generation. Any issues that negatively affect AEL&P's ability to generate or transmit power or any decrease in the demand for the power generated by AEL&P could negatively affect our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Compliance Risk Factors

There have been numerous changes in legislation, related administrative rulemakings, and Executive Orders, including periodic audits of compliance with such rules, which may adversely affect our operational and financial performance.

We expect to continue to be affected by legislation at the national, state and local level, as well as by administrative rules and requirements published by government agencies, including but not limited to the FERC, the EPA and state regulators. We are also subject to NERC and WECC reliability standards. The FERC, the NERC and the WECC perform periodic audits of the Company. Failure to comply with the FERC, the NERC, or the WECC requirements can result in financial penalties of up to $1 million per day per violation.

Future legislation or administrative rules could have a material adverse effect on our operations, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Actions or limitations to address concerns over the long-term global and our utilities' service area climate changes may affect our operations and financial performance.

Legislative developments and advocacy at the state, national and international levels concerning climate change and other environmental issues could have significant impacts on our operations. The electric utility industry is one of the largest and most immediate industries to be more heavily regulated in some proposals. For example, various legislative proposals have been made to limit or place further restrictions on byproducts of combustion, including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide, and other greenhouse gases and mercury emissions. Such proposals, if adopted, could restrict the operation and raise the cost of our power generation resources.

We expect continuing activity in the future and we are evaluating the extent to which potential changes to environmental laws and regulations may:

- increase the operating costs of generating plants,
- increase the lead time and capital costs for the construction of new generating plants,
- require modification of our existing generating plants,

- require existing generating plant operations to be curtailed or shut down,
- reduce the amount of energy available from our generating plants,
- restrict the types of generating plants that can be built or contracted with, and
- require construction of specific types of generation plants at higher cost.

We have contingent liabilities, including certain matters related to potential environmental liabilities, and cannot predict the outcome of these matters.

In the normal course of our business, we have matters that are the subject of ongoing litigation, mediation, investigation and/or negotiation. We cannot predict the ultimate outcome or potential impact of any particular issue, including the extent, if any, of insurance coverage or that amounts payable by us may be recoverable through the ratemaking process. We are subject to environmental regulation by federal, state and local authorities related to our past, present and future operations. See “Note 19 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for further details of these matters.

Technology Risk Factors

Cyber attacks, terrorism or other malicious acts could disrupt our businesses and have a negative impact on our results of operations and cash flows.

In the course of our operations, we rely on interconnected technology systems for operation of our generating plants, electric transmission and distribution systems, natural gas distribution systems, customer billing and customer service, accounting and other administrative processes and compliance with various regulations.

There are various risks associated with technology systems such as hardware or software failure, communications failure, data distortion or destruction, unauthorized access to data, misuse of proprietary or confidential data, unauthorized control through electronic means, programming mistakes and other deliberate or inadvertent human errors. In particular, cyber attacks, terrorism or other malicious acts could damage, destroy or disrupt these systems. Additionally, the facilities and systems of clients, suppliers and third party service providers could be vulnerable to these same risks and, to the extent of interconnection to our technology, may impact us. Any failure, unexpected, or unauthorized unavailability of technology systems could result in a loss of operating revenues, an increase in operating expenses and costs to repair or replace damaged assets. Any of the above could also result in the loss or release of confidential customer information or other proprietary data that could adversely affect our reputation, competitiveness, and result in costly litigation and impact on our results of operations. As these potential cyber attacks become more common and sophisticated, we could be required to incur costs to strengthen our systems and respond to emerging concerns.

Terrorist attacks could also be directed at physical electric and natural gas facilities, as well as technology systems.

We may be adversely affected by our inability to successfully implement certain technology projects.

We are currently investigating whether to replace all of our electric meter infrastructure in Washington State with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). If we were to proceed with this AMI project, there is the potential that the costs associated with retiring our current meters could be disallowed by regulators. There is also the risk that regulators will not allow the full recovery of new AMI if we proceed with the project. In addition, there are inherent risks associated with replacing and changing these types of systems, such as incorrect or nonfunctioning metering and/or delayed or inaccurate customer bills or unplanned outages, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Strategic Risk Factors

Changes in our strategic business plans, which may be affected by any or all of the foregoing, including the entry into new businesses and/or the exit from existing businesses and the extent of our business development efforts where potential future business is uncertain.

Our strategic business plans could be affected by or result in any of the following:

- disruptive innovations in the marketplace may outpace our ability to compete or manage our risk,
- potential difficulties in integrating acquired operations and in realizing expected opportunities, diversions of management resources and losses of key employees, challenges with respect to operating new businesses and other unanticipated risks and liabilities, and

- potential reputational risk arising from repeated general rate case filings, degradation in the quality of service, or from failed strategic investments and opportunities, which could erode shareholder, customer and community satisfaction with our Company.

Our acquisition of AERC may not achieve its intended results.

On July 1, 2014, we acquired AERC, and its subsidiary, AEL&P, the sole provider of electric services in Juneau, Alaska. Achieving the anticipated earnings contribution from AERC is subject to numerous uncertainties, including market conditions and risks related to AERC's business. This transaction could result in increased costs, decreases in the expected revenues from AERC, the impairment of goodwill or other assets, and diversion of management time and resources, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

External Mandates Risk Factors

External mandate risk involves forces outside the Company, which may include significant changes in customer expectations, disruptive technologies that result in obsolescence of our business model and government action that could impact our Company. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Environmental Issues and Contingencies" and "Forward-Looking Statements" for discussion of or reference to external mandates which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

As of the filing date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, we have no unresolved comments from the staff of the SEC.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

AVISTA UTILITIES

Substantially all of Avista Utilities' properties are subject to the lien of Avista Corp.'s mortgage indenture.

Our utility electric properties, located in the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon, include the following:

Generation Properties

	No. of Units	Nameplate Rating (MW) (1)	Present Capability (MW) (2)
Hydroelectric Generating Stations (River)			
Washington:			
Long Lake (Spokane)	4	70.0	88.0
Little Falls (Spokane)	4	32.0	35.6
Nine Mile (Spokane) (3)	4	26.4	19.5
Upper Falls (Spokane)	1	10.0	10.2
Monroe Street (Spokane)	1	14.8	15.0
Idaho:			
Cabinet Gorge (Clark Fork) (4)	4	265.0	273.0
Post Falls (Spokane)	6	14.8	15.4
Montana:			
Noxon Rapids (Clark Fork)	5	487.8	562.4
Total Hydroelectric		920.8	1,019.1
Thermal Generating Stations (cycle, fuel source)			
Washington:			
Kettle Falls GS (combined-cycle, wood waste) (5)	1	50.7	53.5
Kettle Falls CT (combined-cycle, natural gas) (5)	1	7.2	6.9
Northeast CT (simple-cycle, natural gas)	2	61.8	64.8
Boulder Park GS (simple-cycle, natural gas)	6	24.6	24.0
Idaho:			
Rathdrum CT (simple-cycle, natural gas)	2	166.5	166.5
Montana:			
Colstrip Units 3 and 4 (simple-cycle, coal) (6)	2	233.4	222.0
Oregon:			
Coyote Springs 2 (combined-cycle, natural gas)	1	287.0	284.4
Total Thermal		831.2	822.1
Total Generation Properties		1,752.0	1,841.2

(1) Nameplate Rating, also referred to as "installed capacity," is the manufacturer's assigned power capability under specified conditions.

(2) Present capability is the maximum capacity of the plant under standard test conditions without exceeding specified limits of temperature, stress and environmental conditions. Information is provided as of December 31, 2015.

(3) There are four units at the Nine Mile plant; however, Units 1 and 2 are not operating due to a mechanical failure. A project is underway to replace these units and restore capability. The present capability disclosed above represents the capability of the two operating units, which have a nameplate rating of 18 MW combined.

(4) For Cabinet Gorge, we have water rights permitting generation up to 265 MW. However, if natural stream flows will allow for generation above our water rights, we are able to generate above our water rights. If natural stream flows only allow for generation at or below 265 MW, we are limited to generation of 265 MW. The present capability disclosed above represents the capability based on maximum stream flow conditions when we are allowed to generate above our water rights.

(5) These generating stations can operate as separate single-cycle plants or combined-cycle with the natural gas plant providing exhaust heat to the wood boiler to increase efficiency.

(6) Jointly owned; data refers to our 15 percent interest.

Electric Distribution and Transmission Plant

Avista Utilities owns and operates approximately 19,000 miles of primary and secondary electric distribution lines providing service to retail customers. We have an electric transmission system of 685 miles of 230 kV line and 1,565 miles of 115 kV line. We also own an 11 percent interest in approximately 500 miles of a 500 kV line between Colstrip, Montana and Townsend, Montana. Our transmission and distribution systems also include numerous substations with transformers, switches, monitoring and metering devices, and other equipment.

The 230 kV lines are the backbone of our transmission grid and are used to transmit power from generation resources, including Noxon Rapids, Cabinet Gorge and the Mid-Columbia hydroelectric projects, to the major load centers in our service area, as well as to transfer power between points of interconnection with adjoining electric transmission systems. These lines interconnect at various locations with the BPA, Grant County PUD, PacifiCorp, NorthWestern Energy and Idaho Power Company and serve as points of delivery for power from generating facilities outside of our service area, including Colstrip, Coyote Springs 2 and the Lancaster Plant.

These lines also provide a means for us to optimize resources by entering into short-term purchases and sales of power with entities within and outside of the Pacific Northwest.

The 115 kV lines provide for transmission of energy and the integration of smaller generation facilities with our service-area load centers, including the Spokane River hydroelectric projects, the Kettle Falls projects, Rathdrum CT, Boulder Park and the Northeast CT. These lines interconnect with the BPA, Chelan County PUD, the Grand Coulee Project Hydroelectric Authority, Grant County PUD, NorthWestern Energy, PacifiCorp and Pend Oreille County PUD. Both the 115 kV and 230 kV interconnections with the BPA are used to transfer energy to facilitate service to each other’s customers that are connected through the other’s transmission system. We hold a long-term transmission agreement with the BPA that allows us to serve our native load customers that are connected through the BPA’s transmission system.

Natural Gas Plant

Avista Utilities has natural gas distribution mains of approximately 3,400 miles in Washington, 2,000 miles in Idaho and 2,300 miles in Oregon. We have natural gas transmission mains of approximately 75 miles in Washington and 50 miles in Oregon. Our natural gas system includes numerous regulator stations, service distribution lines, monitoring and metering devices, and other equipment.

We own a one-third interest in Jackson Prairie, an underground natural gas storage field located near Chehalis, Washington. See "Part 1 – Item 1. Business – Avista Utilities – Natural Gas Operations" for further discussion of Jackson Prairie.

ALASKA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY

Substantially all of AEL&P's utility properties are subject to the lien of the AEL&P mortgage indenture.

AEL&P's utility electric properties, located in Alaska include the following:

Generation Properties and Transmission and Distribution Lines

	No. of Units	Nameplate Rating (MW) (1)	Present Capability (MW) (2)
Hydroelectric Generating Stations			
Snettisham (3)	3	78.2	78.2
Lake Dorothy	1	14.3	14.3
Salmon Creek	1	8.4	5.0
Annex Creek	2	4.1	3.6
Gold Creek	3	1.6	1.6
Total Hydroelectric		106.6	102.7
Diesel Generating Stations			
Lemon Creek	11	61.4	57.5
Auke Bay	3	36.2	28.3
Gold Creek	5	8.2	8.1
Total Diesel		105.8	93.9
Total Generation Properties		212.4	196.6

(1) Nameplate Rating, also referred to as “installed capacity,” is the manufacturer’s assigned power capability under specified conditions.
(2) Present capability is the maximum capacity of the plant under standard test conditions without exceeding specified limits of temperature, stress and environmental conditions. Information is provided as of December 31, 2015.
(3) AEL&P does not own this generating facility but has a PPA under which it has the right to purchase, and the obligation to pay for (whether or not energy is received), all of the capacity and energy of this facility. See further information at "Part 1. Item 1. Business – Alaska Electric Light and Power Company."

In addition to the generation properties above, AEL&P owns approximately 61 miles of transmission lines, which is primarily comprised of 69 kV line, and approximately 184 miles of distribution lines.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

See “Note 19 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for information with respect to legal proceedings.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Avista Corp. Market Information and Dividend Policy

Avista Corp.'s common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol “AVA.” As of January 31, 2016, there were 8,753 registered shareholders of our common stock.

Avista Corp.'s Board of Directors considers the level of dividends on our common stock on a regular basis, taking into account numerous factors including, without limitation:

- our results of operations, cash flows and financial condition,
- the success of our business strategies, and
- general economic and competitive conditions.

Avista Corp.'s net income available for dividends is generally derived from our regulated utility operations (Avista Utilities and AEL&P).

The payment of dividends on common stock could be limited by:

- certain covenants applicable to the Company's outstanding long-term debt and committed line of credit agreements (see "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Executive Level Summary and Capital Resources" for compliance with these covenants),
- the hydroelectric licensing requirements of section 10(d) of the FPA (see “Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements”),
- certain requirements under the OPUC approval of the AERC acquisition. The OPUC does not permit one-time or special dividends from AERC to Avista Corp. and does not permit Avista Utilities' total equity to total capitalization to be less than 40 percent, without approval from the OPUC. However, the OPUC approval does allow for regular distributions of AERC earnings to Avista Corp. as long as AERC remains sufficiently capitalized and insured, and
- certain covenants applicable to preferred stock (when outstanding) contained in the Company’s Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended (currently there are no preferred shares outstanding).

On February 5, 2016, Avista Corp.’s Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of $0.3425 per share on the Company’s common stock. This was an increase of $0.0125 per share, or 3.8 percent from the previous quarterly dividend of $0.33 per share.

For additional information, see “Notes 1, 17 and 18 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.”

The following table presents quarterly high and low stock prices as reported on the consolidated reporting system, as well as dividend information:

	Three Months Ended			
	March 31	June 30	September 30	December 31
2015				
Dividends paid per common share	$ 0.33	$ 0.33	$ 0.33	$ 0.33
Trading price range per common share:				
High	$ 38.30	$ 34.25	$ 33.99	$ 36.06
Low	$ 32.22	$ 30.41	$ 29.93	$ 32.86
2014				
Dividends paid per common share	$ 0.3175	$ 0.3175	$ 0.3175	$ 0.3175
Trading price range per common share:				
High	$ 30.83	$ 33.58	$ 33.60	$ 37.37
Low	$ 27.71	$ 30.02	$ 30.35	$ 30.55

For information with respect to securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans, see “Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters.”

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

(in thousands, except per share data and ratios)	Years Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Operating Revenues:					
Avista Utilities	$ 1,411,863	$ 1,413,499	$ 1,403,995	$ 1,354,185	$ 1,443,322
AEL&P	44,778	21,644	—	—	—
Other	28,685	39,219	39,549	38,953	40,410
Intersegment eliminations	(550)	(1,800)	(1,800)	(1,800)	(1,800)
Total	$ 1,484,776	$ 1,472,562	$ 1,441,744	$ 1,391,338	$ 1,481,932
Income (Loss) from Operations (pre-tax):					
Avista Utilities	$ 241,228	$ 239,976	$ 232,572	$ 188,778	$ 202,373
AEL&P	14,072	6,221	—	—	—
Other	(2,086)	6,391	(1,483)	(1,680)	4,714
Total	$ 253,214	$ 252,588	$ 231,089	$ 187,098	$ 207,087
Net income from continuing operations	$ 118,170	$ 119,866	$ 104,333	$ 76,803	$ 90,658
Net income from discontinued operations	5,147	72,411	7,961	1,997	12,881
Net income	$ 123,317	$ 192,277	$ 112,294	$ 78,800	$ 103,539
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	$ (90)	$ (236)	$ (1,217)	$ (590)	$ (3,315)
Net Income (Loss) attributable to Avista Corporation shareholders:					
Avista Utilities	$ 113,360	$ 113,263	$ 108,598	$ 81,704	$ 90,902
AEL&P	6,641	3,152	—	—	—
Ecova - Discontinued operations	5,147	72,390	7,129	1,825	9,671
Other	(1,921)	3,236	(4,650)	(5,319)	(349)
Net income attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	$ 123,227	$ 192,041	$ 111,077	$ 78,210	$ 100,224
Average common shares outstanding, basic	62,301	61,632	59,960	59,028	57,872
Average common shares outstanding, diluted	62,708	61,887	59,997	59,201	58,092
Common shares outstanding at year-end	62,313	62,243	60,077	59,813	58,423
Earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, basic:					
Earnings per common share from continuing operations	$ 1.90	$ 1.94	$ 1.74	$ 1.30	$ 1.56
Earnings per common share from discontinued operations	0.08	1.18	0.11	0.02	0.17
Total earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, basic	$ 1.98	$ 3.12	$ 1.85	$ 1.32	$ 1.73
Earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted:					
Earnings per common share from continuing operations	$ 1.89	$ 1.93	$ 1.74	$ 1.30	$ 1.56
Earnings per common share from discontinued operations	0.08	1.17	0.11	0.02	0.16
Total earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted	$ 1.97	$ 3.10	$ 1.85	$ 1.32	$ 1.72

(in thousands, except per share data and ratios)	Years Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Dividends declared per common share	$ 1.32	$ 1.27	$ 1.22	$ 1.16	$ 1.10
Book value per common share	$ 24.53	$ 23.84	$ 21.61	$ 21.06	$ 20.30
Total Assets at Year-End:					
Avista Utilities	$ 4,601,708	$ 4,357,760	$ 3,930,251	$ 3,883,602	$ 3,797,160
AEL&P	265,735	263,070	—	—	—
Other	39,206	80,141	81,282	95,638	112,145
Total (1) (2)	$ 4,906,649	$ 4,700,971	$ 4,011,533	$ 3,979,240	$ 3,909,305
Long-Term Debt and Capital Leases (including current portion) (2)	$ 1,573,278	$ 1,487,126	$ 1,262,036	$ 1,217,520	$ 1,165,014
Nonrecourse Long-Term Debt of Spokane Energy (including current portion)	$ —	$ 1,431	$ 17,838	$ 32,803	$ 46,471
Long-Term Debt to Affiliated Trusts	$ 51,547	$ 51,547	$ 51,547	$ 51,547	$ 51,547
Total Avista Corp. Shareholders' Equity	$ 1,528,626	$ 1,483,671	$ 1,298,266	$ 1,259,477	$ 1,185,701
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges (3)	3.13	3.39	3.02	2.48	2.81

(1) The total assets at year-end for the years 2013 to 2011 exclude the total assets associated with Ecova of $339.6 million, $322.7 million and $292.9 million, respectively.

(2) The total assets and total long-term debt and capital leases for 2014 through 2011 were adjusted due to the adoption of ASU No. 2015-03, "Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs." See "Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further discussion of the adoption of this ASU.

(3) See Exhibit 12 for computations.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Business Segments

As of December 31, 2015, we have two reportable business segments, Avista Utilities and AEL&P. We also have other businesses which do not represent a reportable business segment and are conducted by various direct and indirect subsidiaries of Avista Corp. See "Part I, Item 1. Business – Company Overview" for further discussion of our business segments.

The following table presents net income (loss) attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders for each of our business segments (and the other businesses) for the year ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Avista Utilities	$ 113,360	$ 113,263	$ 108,598
AEL&P	6,641	3,152	—
Ecova - Discontinued operations (1)	5,147	72,390	7,129
Other	(1,921)	3,236	(4,650)
Net income attributable to Avista Corporation shareholders	$ 123,227	$ 192,041	$ 111,077

(1) The results for the year ended December 31, 2014 include the net gain on sale of Ecova of $69.7 million.

Executive Level Summary

Overall Results

Net income attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders was $123.2 million for 2015, a decrease from $192.0 million for 2014. The decrease was primarily due to the disposition of Ecova during 2014, which resulted in the recognition of a $74.8 million net gain, with $69.7 million being recognized in 2014 and the remainder being recognized in 2015. Avista Utilities' earnings increased slightly primarily due to the implementation of a general rate increase in Washington, lower net power supply costs, a decrease in the provision for earnings sharing in Idaho and increased cooling loads during the summer. This was mostly offset by weather that was significantly warmer than normal and warmer than the prior year in the first quarter, which reduced heating loads, which was partially offset by the new decoupling mechanism in Washington (implemented January 1, 2015). Also, we experienced expected increases in other operating expenses, depreciation and amortization, taxes other than income taxes, and interest expense.

Results for 2015 also include earnings at AEL&P for the full period, whereas 2014 results only include AEL&P for the third and fourth quarters.

Results for 2014 include a $9.8 million net gain at Avista Energy related to the settlement of the California power markets litigation. The net gain from the litigation settlement was partially offset by a pre-tax contribution of $6.4 million of the proceeds to the Avista Foundation, a charitable organization funded by Avista Corp. Both of these transactions are reflected in the results of the other businesses.

Avista Utilities

Avista Utilities is our most significant business segment. Our utility financial performance is dependent upon, among other things:

- weather conditions (temperatures, precipitation levels and wind patterns) which affect energy demand and electric generation, including the effect of precipitation and temperature on hydroelectric resources, the effect of wind patterns on wind-generated power, weather-sensitive customer demand, and similar impacts on supply and demand in the wholesale energy markets,
- regulatory decisions, allowing our utility to recover costs, including purchased power and fuel costs, on a timely basis, and to earn a reasonable return on investment,
- the price of natural gas in the wholesale market, including the effect on the price of fuel for generation, and
- the price of electricity in the wholesale market, including the effects of weather conditions, natural gas prices and other factors affecting supply and demand.

Forecasted Customer and Load Growth

Based on our forecast for 2016 through 2019 for Avista Utilities' service area, we expect annual electric customer growth to average 1.0 percent, within a forecast range of 0.6 percent to 1.4 percent. We expect annual natural gas customer growth to average 1.1 percent, within a forecast range of 0.6 percent to 1.6 percent. We anticipate retail electric load growth to average 0.7 percent, within a forecast range of 0.4 percent and 1.0 percent. We expect natural gas load growth to average 1.1 percent, within a forecast range of 0.6 percent and 1.6 percent. The forecast ranges reflect (1) the inherent uncertainty associated with the economic assumptions on which forecasts are based and (2) the historic variability of natural gas customer and load growth.

In AEL&P's service area, we expect annual residential customer growth to be in a narrow range around 0.4 percent for 2016 through 2019. We expect no significant growth in commercial and government customers over the same period. We anticipate that average annual total load growth will be in a narrow range around 0.6 percent, with residential load growth averaging 0.6 percent; commercial 0.8 percent; and government 0 percent (no load growth). For further discussion regarding utility customer growth, load growth, and the general economic conditions in our service territory, see "Economic Conditions and Utility Load Growth."

See also "Competition" for a discussion of competitive factors that could affect our results of operations in the future.

Capital Expenditures

We are making significant capital investments in generation, transmission and distribution systems to preserve and enhance service reliability for our customers and replace aging infrastructure. The following table summarizes our actual and expected capital expenditures as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015 (in thousands):

	Avista Utilities	AEL&P
2015 Actual capital expenditures		
Capital expenditures (per the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows)	381,174	12,251
Expected total annual capital expenditures (by year)		
2016	375,000	17,000
2017	405,000	13,000
2018	405,000	18,000

Avista Utilities' 2015 calendar year capital costs, including capital costs of approximately $35.2 million that was unpaid for and accrued in accounts payable as of December 31, 2015, were $415.9 million.

These estimates of capital expenditures are subject to continuing review and adjustment.

Alaska Energy and Resources Company Acquisition

On July 1, 2014, we acquired AERC, based in Juneau, Alaska. The completion of this transaction makes the financial results for 2015 and 2014 incomparable since the first half of 2014 does not contain any financial results from AERC. This transaction resulted in the recording of $52.4 million in goodwill. For additional information regarding the AERC transaction, including pro forma financial comparisons, see "Note 4 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements."

Ecova Disposition

On June 30, 2014, Avista Capital completed the sale of its interest in Ecova to Cofely USA Inc., an indirect subsidiary of GDF SUEZ, a French multinational utility company, for a sales price of $335.0 million in cash, less the payment of debt and other customary closing adjustments. The sale of Ecova provided total cash proceeds to Avista Corp., net of debt, payment to option and minority holders, income taxes and transaction expenses, of $143.7 million and resulted in a net gain of $74.8 million. Almost all of the net gain was recognized in 2014 with some minor true-ups during 2015.

The completion of this transaction makes the financial results for 2015 and 2014 incomparable since the first half of 2014 contains the financial results of Ecova (in discontinued operations) and 2015 does not have any material results from Ecova. For additional information regarding the Ecova disposition, see "Note 5 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements."

Stock Repurchase Programs

During 2014, Avista Corp. repurchased 2,529,615 shares of our outstanding common stock at a total cost of $79.9 million and an average cost of $31.57 per share through our 2014 stock repurchase program. We did not make any repurchases under this program subsequent to October 2014 and the program expired on December 31, 2014.

In the first quarter of 2015, Avista Corp. repurchased 89,400 shares of our outstanding common stock at a total cost of $2.9 million and an average cost of $32.66 per share under a second stock repurchase program that expired on March 31, 2015. All repurchased shares reverted to the status of authorized but unissued shares.

Wind Storm

On November 17, 2015, a historic wind storm occurred in our service territory. The storm had wind speeds exceeding 70 miles per hour which knocked down numerous trees and power poles and caused severe damage to our electrical system. Most of the damage occurred in Spokane County. The storm resulted in significant customer power outages and at the height of the storm approximately 180,000 customers (about 48 percent of our total retail electric customers) were without power, causing the most significant damage and the highest number of customer outages Avista Utilities has ever experienced. It took Avista Utilities crews from throughout the region, along with contract and mutual aid crews, approximately 10 days to fully restore power to all affected customers. Most of the storm-related costs incurred were capital costs (labor and materials) to repair the electrical system, but there were also operating and maintenance costs. The capital repair costs for power restoration were $22.9 million and $2.9 million for incremental utility operating and maintenance costs. In addition, there was approximately $0.4 million of incremental nonutility operating and maintenance costs. The damage and restoration costs were primarily incurred in Washington state and we plan to include the incremental operating and maintenance costs in the calculations for earnings sharing (see "Regulatory Matters – Decoupling and Earnings Sharing Mechanisms" for further discussion of the earnings sharing mechanisms).

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Avista Corp. has a $400.0 million committed line of credit with various financial institutions that expires in April 2019. We have an option to request an extension for an additional one or two years beyond April 2019, provided, 1) that no event of default has occurred and is continuing prior to the requested extension and 2) the remaining term of agreement, including the requested extension period, does not exceed five years. As of December 31, 2015, there were $105.0 million of cash borrowings and $44.6 million in letters of credit outstanding, leaving $250.4 million of available liquidity under this line of credit.

The Avista Corp. facility contains customary covenants and default provisions, including a covenant which does not permit our ratio of "consolidated total debt" to "consolidated total capitalization" to be greater than 65 percent at any time. As of December 31, 2015, we were in compliance with this covenant with a ratio of 53.1 percent.

AEL&P has a $25.0 million committed line of credit which expires in November 2019. As of December 31, 2015, there were no borrowings or letters of credit outstanding under this committed line of credit.

The AEL&P committed line of credit agreement contains customary covenants and default provisions including a covenant which does not permit the ratio of “consolidated total debt at AEL&P” to “consolidated total capitalization at AEL&P,” (including the impact of the Snettisham obligation) to be greater than 67.5 percent at any time. As of December 31, 2015, AEL&P was in compliance with this covenant with a ratio of 57.2 percent.

In December 2015, we issued $100.0 million of first mortgage bonds to five institutional investors in a private placement transaction. The first mortgage bonds bear an interest rate of 4.37 percent and mature in 2045. In connection with this pricing, we cash-settled five interest rate swap contracts (notional aggregate amount of $75.0 million) and paid a total of $9.3 million. Upon settlement of interest rate swaps, the regulatory asset or liability (included as part of long-term debt) is amortized as a component of interest expense over the term of the associated debt.

In 2015, we issued $1.6 million (net of issuance costs) of common stock under the employee plans.

For 2016, we expect to issue approximately $155.0 million of long-term debt and $55.0 million of common stock in order to maintain an appropriate capital structure and to fund planned capital expenditures.

After considering the expected issuances of long-term debt and common stock during 2016, we expect net cash flows from operating activities, together with cash available under our committed line of credit agreements, to provide adequate resources to fund capital expenditures, dividends, and other contractual commitments.

Regulatory Matters

General Rate Cases

We regularly review the need for electric and natural gas rate changes in each state in which we provide service. We will continue to file for rate adjustments to:

- seek recovery of operating costs and capital investments, and
- seek the opportunity to earn reasonable returns as allowed by regulators.

With regards to the timing and plans for future filings, the assessment of our need for rate relief and the development of rate case plans takes into consideration short-term and long-term needs, as well as specific factors that can affect the timing of rate filings. Such factors include, but are not limited to, in-service dates of major capital investments and the timing of changes in major revenue and expense items.

Washington General Rate Cases

2012 General Rate Cases

In December 2012, the UTC approved a settlement agreement in Avista Utilities' electric and natural gas general rate cases filed in April 2012. The settlement, effective January 1, 2013 provided that base rates for our Washington electric customers increase by an overall 3.0 percent (designed to increase annual revenues by $13.6 million), and base rates for our Washington natural gas customers increased by an overall 3.6 percent (designed to increase annual revenues by $5.3 million).

The approved settlement also provided that, effective January 1, 2014, base rates increase for our Washington electric customers by an overall 3.0 percent (designed to increase annual revenues by $14.0 million), and increase for our Washington natural gas customers by an overall 0.9 percent (designed to increase annual revenues by $1.4 million).

The settlement agreement provided for an authorized return on equity (ROE) of 9.8 percent and an equity ratio of 47 percent, resulting in an overall rate of return on rate base (ROR) of 7.64 percent.

2014 General Rate Cases

In November 2014, the UTC approved an all-party settlement agreement related to Avista Utilities' electric and natural gas general rate cases filed in February 2014 and new rates became effective on January 1, 2015. The settlement was designed to increase annual electric base revenues by $12.3 million, or 2.5 percent, inclusive of a $5.3 million power supply update as required in the settlement agreement (explained below). The settlement was designed to increase annual natural gas base revenues by $8.5 million, or 5.6 percent. The settlement agreement also included the implementation of decoupling mechanisms for electric and natural gas and a related after-the-fact earnings test. See "Decoupling and Earnings Sharing Mechanisms" below for further discussion of these mechanisms.

Specific capital structure ratios and the cost of capital components were not agreed to in the settlement agreement. The revenue increases in the settlement were not tied to the 7.32 percent ROR used in conjunction with the after-the fact earnings test discussed under "Decoupling and Earnings Sharing Mechanisms" below. The electric and natural gas revenue increases were negotiated numbers, with each party using its own set of assumptions underlying its agreement to the revenue increases. The parties agreed that the 7.32 percent ROR will be used to calculate the AFUDC and other purposes.

2015 General Rate Cases

In January 2016, we received an order that concluded our electric and natural gas general rate cases that were originally filed with the UTC in February 2015. New electric and natural gas rates were effective on January 11, 2016.

The UTC approved rates designed to provide a 1.6 percent, or $8.1 million decrease in electric base revenue, and a 7.4 percent, or $10.8 million increase in natural gas base revenue. The UTC also approved an ROR on rate base of 7.29 percent, with a common equity ratio of 48.5 percent and a 9.5 percent ROE.

Throughout the rate case process, certain circumstances and costs changed, causing us to revise our overall proposed rate requests downward, especially for our electric operations. Our need for electric rate relief was reduced primarily due to the following:

- a decrease in power supply costs of approximately $24.0 million caused by the continuing decline in the price of natural gas used to run our natural gas-fired generation and lower contract costs associated with a new PPA from Chelan PUD,
- updated information related to federal tax adjustments and state allocations,
- the delay in the expected completion date of the Nine Mile hydroelectric generation project upgrade from late 2015 to late 2016, and
- a delay of the start date to begin amortization of existing electric meters from 2016 to a future year, associated with our proposed AMI project.

The natural gas revenue increase approved by the UTC is related to our ownership and operating costs to run the natural gas business. Changes in the commodity costs of natural gas for natural gas customers are reflected in our annual PGA, which is generally effective November 1st each year. On November 1, 2015 natural gas customers' bills were reduced approximately 15 percent related to the decline in the market price of natural gas.

In responsive testimony filed by the UTC Staff in July 2015 in our electric and natural gas general rate cases, they recommended a disallowance of $12.7 million (Washington's share) of the costs associated with the replacement of our customer information and work management systems (Project Compass) primarily related to the delay in the completion of the project. In the January 6, 2016 UTC order, they approved the full recovery of Washington's portion of Project Compass costs.

UTC issues Order denying Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities / Public Counsel Joint Motion for Clarification, UTC Staff Motion to Reconsider and UTC Staff Motion to Reopen Record

On February 19, 2016, the UTC issued an order denying the Motions summarized below and affirmed their original January 2016 order of an $8.1 million decrease in electric base revenue, thus finalizing our 2015 electric and natural gas general rate cases.

On January 19, 2016, the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU) and the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Office of the Attorney General (PC) filed a Joint Motion for Clarification with the UTC. In its Motion for Clarification, ICNU and PC requested that the UTC clarify the calculation of the electric attrition adjustment and the end-result revenue decrease of $8.1 million. ICNU and PC provided their own calculations in their Motion, and suggested that the revenue decrease should have been $19.8 million based on their reading of the UTC's Order.

On January 19, 2016, the UTC Staff, which is a separate party in the general rate case proceedings from the UTC Advisory Staff that supports the Commissioners, filed a Motion to Reconsider with the UTC. In its Motion to Reconsider, the Staff provided calculations and explanations that suggested that the electric revenue decrease should have been a revenue decrease of $27.4 million instead of $8.1 million, based on its reading of the UTC's Order. Further, on February 4, 2016, the UTC Staff filed a Motion to Reopen Record for the Limited Purpose of Receiving into Evidence Instruction on Use and Application of Staff's Attrition Model, and sought to supplement the record "to incorporate all aspects of the Company' Power Cost Update." Within this Motion, UTC Staff updated its suggested electric revenue decrease to $19.6 million.

None of the parties in their Motions raised issues with the UTC's decision on the natural gas revenue increase of $10.8 million.

Petition for an Accounting Order to Defer Existing Washington Electric Meters

In January 2016, we filed a Petition with the UTC for an Accounting Order to defer and include in a regulatory asset the undepreciated value of our existing Washington electric meters for later recovery. This requested accounting treatment is related to our plans to replace approximately 253,000 of our existing electric meters with new two-way digital meters through our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project in Washington state.

The petition requests that the UTC allow the deferral, with prudence of the overall AMI project and ultimate recovery, to be addressed in a future regulatory proceeding. The undepreciated value estimated for this deferred accounting treatment is approximately $18.6 million. We have requested recovery of this regulatory asset, with a full rate of return, over fifteen years starting in January 2017, within our February 19, 2016 general rate case filing.

2016 General Rate Cases

On February 19, 2016, we filed electric and natural gas general rates cases with the UTC. Our proposal includes an 18-month rate plan, with new rates taking effect on January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018. Under this plan, we would not file a future rate case for new rates to be effective prior to July 1, 2018.

The 2017 increase, if approved, would increase overall base electric rates 7.8 percent (designed to increase annual electric revenues by $38.6 million) and overall base natural gas rates 5.0 percent (designed to increase annual natural gas revenues by $4.4 million).

In addition, we have requested a second step increase effective January 1, 2018, which would increase overall base electric rates by 3.9 percent (designed to increase annual electric revenues by $10.3 million) and overall base natural gas rates by 1.8 percent (designed to increase annual natural gas revenues by $0.9 million). We have proposed to offset the electric increase, for the period January through June 2018, with available ERM dollars. As a result, customers would not see an electric general rate case bill increase in 2018 prior to July 1, 2018.

Our requests are based on a proposed ROR on rate base of 7.64 percent with a common equity ratio of 48.5 percent and a 9.9 percent ROE.

The UTC has up to 11 months to review the filings and issue a decision.

Idaho General Rate Cases

2012 General Rate Cases

In March 2013, the IPUC approved a settlement agreement in Avista Utilities' electric and natural gas general rate cases filed in October 2012. As agreed to in the settlement, new rates were implemented in two phases: April 1, 2013 and October 1, 2013. Effective April 1, 2013, base rates increased for our Idaho natural gas customers by an overall 4.9 percent (designed to increase annual revenues by $3.1 million). There was no change in base electric rates on April 1, 2013.

The settlement also provided that, effective October 1, 2013, base rates increased for our Idaho natural gas customers by an overall 2.0 percent (designed to increase annual revenues by $1.3 million).

Further, the settlement provided that, effective October 1, 2013, base rates increased for our Idaho electric customers by an overall 3.1 percent (designed to increase annual revenues by $7.8 million).

The settlement agreement provided for an authorized ROE of 9.8 percent and an equity ratio of 50.0 percent.

2014 Rate Plan Extension

Avista Utilities did not file new general rate cases in Idaho in 2014; instead, we developed an extension to the 2013 and 2014 rate plan and reached a settlement agreement with all interested parties.

In September 2014, the IPUC approved the settlement, which reflected agreement among all interested parties, for a one-year extension to our current rate plan, which was set to expire on December 31, 2014. Under the approved extension, base retail rates remained unchanged through December 31, 2015.

The settlement provided an estimated $3.7 million increase in pre-tax income by reducing planned expenses in 2015 for our Idaho operations.

2015 General Rate Cases

In December 2015, the IPUC approved a settlement agreement between Avista Utilities and all interested parties related to our electric and natural gas general rate cases, which were originally filed with the IPUC on June 1, 2015. New rates were effective on January 1, 2016.

The settlement agreement is designed to increase annual electric base revenues by $1.7 million or 0.7 percent and annual natural gas base revenues by $2.5 million or 3.5 percent. The settlement is based on a ROR of 7.42 percent with a common equity ratio of 50 percent and a 9.5 percent ROE.

The settlement agreement also reflects the following:

- the discontinuation of the after-the-fact earnings test (provision for earnings sharing) that was originally agreed to as part of the settlement of our 2012 electric and natural gas general rate cases, and
- the implementation of electric and natural gas Fixed Cost Adjustment mechanisms, as discussed below.

2016 General Rate Cases

We expect to file electric and natural gas general rate cases in Idaho during the first half of 2016.

Oregon General Rate Cases

2013 General Rate Case

In January 2014, the OPUC approved a settlement agreement in Avista Utilities' natural gas general rate case (originally filed in August 2013). As agreed to in the settlement, new rates were implemented in two phases: February 1, 2014 and November 1, 2014. Effective February 1, 2014, rates increased for Oregon natural gas customers on a billed basis by an overall 4.4 percent (designed to increase annual revenues by $3.8 million). Effective November 1, 2014, rates for Oregon natural gas customers were to increase on a billed basis by an overall 1.6 percent (designed to increase annual revenues by $1.4 million).

The billed rate increase on November 1, 2014 was dependent upon the completion of Project Compass and the actual costs incurred through September 30, 2014, and the actual costs incurred through June 30, 2014 related to the Company's Aldyl A distribution pipeline replacement program. Project Compass was completed in February 2015. The November 1, 2014 rate increase was reduced from $1.4 million to $0.3 million due to the delay of Project Compass.

The approved settlement agreement provides for an overall authorized ROR of 7.47 percent, with a common equity ratio of 48 percent and a 9.65 percent ROE.

2014 General Rate Case

In January 2015, Avista Utilities filed an all-party settlement agreement with the OPUC related to our natural gas general rate case, which was originally filed in September 2014. On February 23, 2015, the OPUC issued an order rejecting the all-party settlement agreement. The OPUC expressed concerns related to, among other things, various rate design issues.

In March 2015, Avista Utilities filed an amended all-party settlement agreement with the OPUC which addressed the OPUC's concerns regarding the initial settlement agreement. The amended settlement agreement was designed to increase base natural gas revenues by $5.3 million. Included in this base rate increase is $0.3 million in base revenues that we are already receiving from customers through a separate rate adjustment. Therefore, the net increase in base revenues was $5.0 million, or 4.9 percent on a billed basis. The parties requested that new retail rates become effective on April 16, 2015. On April 9, 2015, the OPUC issued an Order approving the amended settlement agreement as filed.

This settlement agreement provided for an overall authorized ROR of 7.516 percent with a common equity ratio of 51 percent and a 9.5 percent ROE.

2015 General Rate Case

On May 1, 2015, we filed a natural gas general rate case with the OPUC. We have requested an overall increase in base natural gas rates of 8 percent (designed to increase annual natural gas revenues by $8.6 million). Our request is based on a proposed ROR on rate base of 7.72 percent with a common equity ratio of 50 percent and a 9.9 percent ROE.

Avista Corp. and all parties to our natural gas general rate case reached agreement on certain issues, and a partial settlement agreement was filed with the OPUC in November 2015. The partial settlement agreement reduced our requested natural gas revenue increase from $8.6 million to $6.7 million or 6.3 percent. The partial settlement, if approved by the OPUC, would resolve a number of issues including the calculation of state income taxes for rate-making purposes, wages and salaries, the revenue forecast for the rate period, and working capital. The agreement does not resolve other issues including the appropriate ROE and capital structure, the appropriate level of additions to rate base, and medical and pension expenses. In January 2016, we entered into an additional all-party partial settlement to further reduce our revenue increase request to $6.1 million, related to updated information related to deferred taxes and its effect on rate base.

The agreement includes a provision for the implementation of a decoupling mechanism, similar to the Washington and Idaho mechanisms described above.

In addition to the partial settlement agreements above, the OPUC staff filed testimony which included a recommendation to disallow $1.2 million (Oregon's share) of Project Compass costs primarily related to the delay in the full completion of the project. In January 2016, following the January 6, 2016 UTC order approving the full recovery of Washington's portion of Project Compass costs, the OPUC staff withdrew its proposal for a disallowance, with the exception of an inconsequential amount which is still open for discussion.

The procedural schedule includes an expected decision from the OPUC by February 29, 2016.

Alaska General Rate Case

AEL&P's last general rate case was filed in 2010 and approved by the RCA in 2011. We are evaluating the need to file an electric general rate case with the RCA in 2016.

Purchased Gas Adjustments

PGAs are designed to pass through changes in natural gas costs to Avista Utilities' customers with no change in gross margin (operating revenues less resource costs) or net income. In Oregon, we absorb (cost or benefit) 10 percent of the difference between actual and projected natural gas costs included in retail rates for supply that is not hedged. Total net deferred natural gas costs among all jurisdictions were a liability of $17.9 million as of December 31, 2015 and a liability of $3.9 million as of December 31, 2014.

The following PGAs went into effect in our various jurisdictions during 2013, 2014 and 2015:

Jurisdiction	PGA Effective Date	Percentage Increase / (Decrease) in Billed Rates
Washington	November 1, 2013	9.2%
	November 1, 2014	1.2%
	November 1, 2015	(15.0)%
Idaho	October 1, 2013	7.5%
	November 1, 2014	(2.1)%
	November 1, 2015	(14.5)%
Oregon	November 1, 2013	(7.9)%
	November 1, 2014	8.3%
	November 1, 2015	(14.1)%

Power Cost Deferrals and Recovery Mechanisms

The ERM is an accounting method used to track certain differences between Avista Utilities' actual power supply costs, net of wholesale sales and sales of fuel, and the amount included in base retail rates for our Washington customers. Total net deferred power costs under the ERM were a liability of $18.0 million as of December 31, 2015 compared to a liability $14.2 million as of December 31, 2014, and these deferred power cost balances represent amounts due to customers.

The difference in net power supply costs under the ERM primarily results from changes in:

- short-term wholesale market prices and sales and purchase volumes,
- the level and availability of hydroelectric generation,
- the level and availability of thermal generation (including changes in fuel prices), and
- retail loads.

Under the ERM, Avista Utilities absorbs the cost or receives the benefit from the initial amount of power supply costs in excess of or below the level in retail rates, which is referred to as the deadband. The annual (calendar year) deadband amount is $4.0 million.

The following is a summary of the ERM:

Annual Power Supply Cost Variability	Deferred for Future Surcharge or Rebate to Customers	Expense or Benefit to the Company
within +/- $0 to $4 million (deadband)	0%	100%
higher by $4 million to $10 million	50%	50%
lower by $4 million to $10 million	75%	25%
higher or lower by over $10 million	90%	10%

Under the ERM, Avista Utilities makes an annual filing on or before April 1 of each year to provide the opportunity for the UTC staff and other interested parties to review the prudence of and audit the ERM deferred power cost transactions for the prior calendar year. We made our annual filing on March 31, 2015. The ERM provides for a 90-day review period for the filing; however, the period may be extended by agreement of the parties or by UTC order. The 2014 ERM deferred power costs transactions were approved by an order from the UTC.

Avista Utilities has a PCA mechanism in Idaho that allows us to modify electric rates on October 1 of each year with IPUC approval. Under the PCA mechanism, we defer 90 percent of the difference between certain actual net power supply expenses and the amount included in base retail rates for our Idaho customers. The October 1 rate adjustments recover or rebate power supply costs deferred during the preceding July-June twelve-month period. Total net power supply costs deferred under the PCA mechanism were an asset of $0.2 million as of December 31, 2015 compared to an asset of $8.3 million as of December 31, 2014.

Decoupling and Earnings Sharing Mechanisms

Decoupling is a mechanism designed to sever the link between a utility's revenues and consumers' energy usage. Our actual revenue, based on kilowatt hour and therm sales will vary, up or down, from the level included in a general rate case, which could be caused by changes in weather, energy conservation or the economy. Generally, our electric and natural gas revenues will be adjusted each month to be based on the number of customers, rather than kilowatt hour and therm sales. The difference between revenues based on sales and revenues based on the number of customers will be deferred and either surcharged or rebated to customers beginning in the following year.

Washington Decoupling and Earnings Sharing

In Washington, the UTC approved our decoupling mechanisms for electric and natural gas for a five-year period that commenced January 1, 2015. Electric and natural gas decoupling surcharge rate adjustments to customers are limited to 3 percent on an annual basis, with any remaining surcharge balance carried forward for recovery in a future period. There is no limit on the level of rebate rate adjustments.

The decoupling mechanisms each include an after-the-fact earnings test. At the end of each calendar year, separate electric and natural gas earnings calculations will be made for the prior calendar year. These earnings tests will reflect actual decoupled revenues, normalized power supply costs and other normalizing adjustments.

- If we have a decoupling rebate balance for the prior year and earn in excess of a 7.32 percent ROR, the rebate to customers would be increased by 50 percent of the earnings in excess of the 7.32 percent ROR.
- If we have a decoupling rebate balance for the prior year and earn a 7.32 percent ROR or less, only the base amount of the rebate to customers would be made.
- If we have a decoupling surcharge balance for the prior year and earn in excess of a 7.32 percent ROR, the surcharge to customers would be reduced by 50 percent of the earnings in excess of the 7.32 percent ROR (or eliminated). If 50 percent of the earnings in excess of the 7.32 percent ROR exceeds the decoupling surcharge balance, the dollar amount that exceeds the surcharge balance would create a rebate balance for customers.
- If we have a decoupling surcharge balance for the prior year and earn a 7.32 percent ROR or less, the base amount of the surcharge to customers would be made.

As of December 31, 2015, we had a total net decoupling surcharge (asset) of $10.9 million for Washington electric and natural gas customers and a liability (rebate to customers) for earnings sharing of $3.4 million for Washington electric customers.

Idaho Fixed Cost Adjustment (FCA) and Earnings Sharing Mechanisms

In Idaho, the IPUC approved the implementation of FCAs for electric and natural gas (similar in operation and effect to the Washington decoupling mechanisms) for an initial term of three years, commencing on January 1, 2016.

For the period 2013 through 2015, we had an after-the-fact earnings test, such that if Avista Corp., on a consolidated basis for electric and natural gas operations in Idaho, earned more than a 9.8 percent ROE, we were required to share with customers 50 percent of any earnings above the 9.8 percent. There was no provision for a surcharge to customers if our ROE was less than 9.8 percent. This after-the-fact earnings test was discontinued as part of the settlement of our 2015 Idaho electric and natural gas general rates cases (discussed in further detail above). As of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, we had total cumulative earnings sharing liabilities (rebates to customers) of $8.8 million and $10.1 million, respectively for electric and natural gas customers. Of the total rebate balance as of December 31, 2015, approximately $5.8 million will be returned to customers during January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017 and the remainder of the balance will be addressed at a future date.

See "Results of Operations - Avista Utilities'" for further discussion of the amounts recorded to operating revenues in 2013 through 2015 related to the decoupling and earnings sharing mechanisms.

Results of Operations - Overall

The following provides an overview of changes in our Consolidated Statements of Income. More detailed explanations are provided, particularly for operating revenues and operating expenses, in the business segment discussions (Avista Utilities, AEL&P, Ecova - Discontinued Operations and the other businesses) that follow this section.

As discussed in "Executive Level Summary," Ecova was disposed of as of June 30, 2014. As a result, in accordance with GAAP, all of Ecova's operating results were removed from each line item on the Consolidated Statements of Income and reclassified into discontinued operations for all periods presented. The discussion of continuing operations below does not include any Ecova amounts. For our discussion of discontinued operations and Ecova, see "Ecova - Discontinued Operations."

The balances included below for utility operations reconcile to the Consolidated Statements of Income. Beginning on July 1, 2014, AEL&P is included in the overall utility results.

2015 compared to 2014

Utility revenues increased $22.7 million, after elimination of intracompany revenues (within Avista Utilities) of $107.0 million for 2015 and $142.2 million for 2014. Avista Utilities' portion of utility revenues increased $1.6 million and AEL&P's revenues increased $23.1 million due to a full year of AEL&P results in 2015 as compared to six months in 2014. Including intracompany revenues, Avista Utilities' electric revenues decreased $1.1 million and natural gas revenues decreased $35.7 million.

Other non-utility revenues decreased $10.5 million primarily due to the long-term fixed rate electric capacity contract that was previously held by Spokane Energy being transferred to Avista Corp. during the second quarter of 2015. The capacity revenue from this contract was included in non-utility revenues when it was held by Spokane Energy.

Utility resource costs decreased $21.3 million, after elimination of intracompany resource costs of $107.0 million for 2015 and $142.2 million for 2014. Avista Utilities' portion of resource costs decreased $27.4 million and AEL&P's resource costs increased $6.1 million due to a full year of AEL&P results in 2015 as compared to six months in 2014. Including intracompany resource costs, Avista Utilities' electric resource costs decreased $17.6 million and natural gas resource costs decreased $44.9 million.

Utility other operating expenses increased $16.4 million. Avista Utilities' portion of other operating expenses increased $11.1 million and AEL&P's other operating expenses increased $5.3 million due to a full year of AEL&P results in 2015 as compared to six months in 2014. Avista Utilities incurred increased generation, transmission and distribution operating expenses of $5.7 million, increased administrative and general wages of $9.8 million and increased pension and other post-retirement benefit expenses of $10.0 million. In addition, Avista Utilities incurred incremental storm restoration costs associated with the November 2015 wind storm of approximately $2.9 million. These increases were partially offset by decreases in outside services and generation maintenance of $7.8 million and decreases in other various accounts.

Utility depreciation and amortization increased $13.9 million driven by additions to utility plant and the inclusion of a full year of AEL&P depreciation as compared to only six months of AEL&P in 2014.

Income taxes decreased $4.8 million and our effective tax rate was 36.3 percent for 2015 compared to 37.6 percent for 2014. The decrease in expense was primarily due to a decrease in income before income taxes.

There were not material changes in any other account balances on the Consolidated Statement of Income for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2014.

2014 compared to 2013

Utility revenues increased $31.1 million, after elimination of intracompany revenues (within Avista Utilities) of $142.2 million for 2014 and $151.9 million for 2013. Avista Utilities' portion of utility revenues increased $9.5 million and AEL&P had electric revenues of $21.6 million, representing its revenues for the six months ended December 31, 2014. Including intracompany revenues, Avista Utilities' electric revenues decreased $31.6 million and natural gas revenues increased $31.4 million.

Utility resource costs decreased $11.3 million, after elimination of intracompany resource costs of $142.2 million for 2014 and $151.9 million for 2013. Avista Utilities' portion of resource costs decreased $17.2 million and this was offset by utility resource costs at AEL&P of $5.9 million, representing its resource costs for the six months ended December 31, 2014. Including intracompany resource costs, Avista Utilities' electric resource costs decreased $57.7 million and natural gas resource costs increased $30.7 million.

Utility other operating expenses increased $10.6 million and was partially the result of AEL&P being included for the six months ended December 31, 2014, which added $5.9 million to other operating expenses. Avista Utilities incurred increased generation, transmission and distribution operating and maintenance expenses and increased outside services. There were also transaction fees associated with the AERC acquisition of $1.3 million in 2014 compared to $1.6 million in 2013. These were partially offset by a decrease in pension and other post-retirement benefits expense. The remainder of the change resulted from various smaller changes in other accounts.

Utility depreciation and amortization increased $12.4 million driven by additions to utility plant and the inclusion of $2.6 million related to AEL&P for the second half of the year.

Other non-utility operating expenses decreased $8.2 million primarily due to the receipt of $15.0 million related to the settlement of the California power markets litigation (which was recorded as a reduction to operating expenses), partially offset by a $6.4 million contribution to the Avista Foundation.

Income taxes increased $14.2 million and our effective tax rate was 37.6 percent for 2014 compared to 35.7 percent for 2013. The increase in expense was primarily due to an increase in income before income taxes. The increase in the effective tax rate was primarily the result of the Section 199 Domestic Manufacturing Deduction not being available to the Company due to limitations on taxable qualified production activities income.

There were not material changes in any other account balances on the Consolidated Statement of Income for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2013.

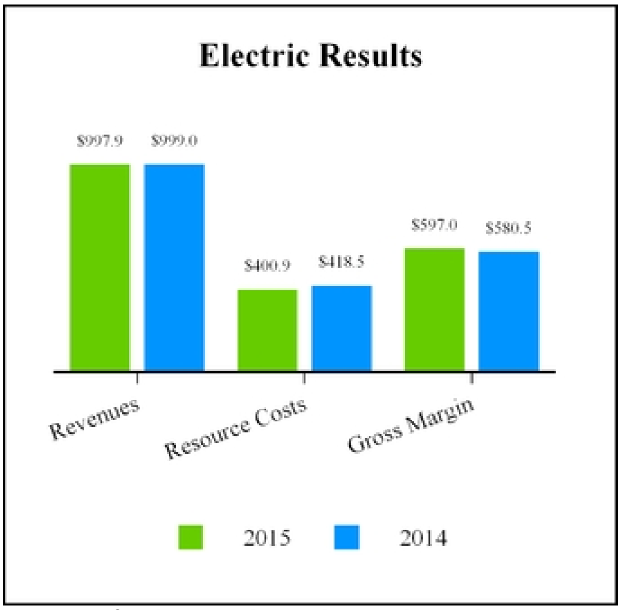
Results of Operations - Avista Utilities

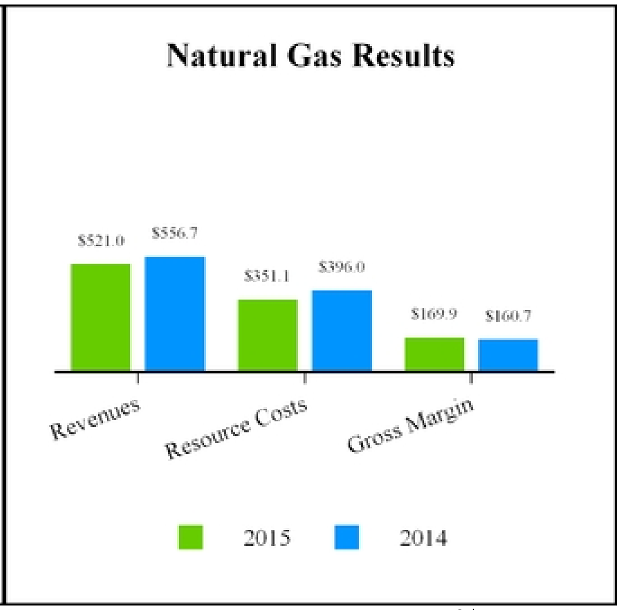
Non-GAAP Financial Measures

The following discussion for Avista Utilities includes two financial measures that are considered “non-GAAP financial measures,” electric gross margin and natural gas gross margin. In the AEL&P section, we include a discussion of electric gross margin. Generally, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of a company's financial performance, financial position or cash flows that excludes (or includes) amounts that are included (excluded) in the most directly comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP. The presentation of electric gross margin and natural gas gross margin for Avista Utilities and electric gross margin for AEL&P is intended to supplement an understanding of Avista Utilities' and AEL&P's operating performance. We use these measures to determine whether the appropriate amount of energy costs are being collected from our customers to allow for recovery of operating costs, as well as to analyze how changes in loads (due to weather, economic or other conditions), rates, supply costs and other factors impact our results of operations. These measures are not intended to replace income from operations as determined in accordance with GAAP as an indicator of operating performance. The calculations of electric and natural gas gross margins are presented below.

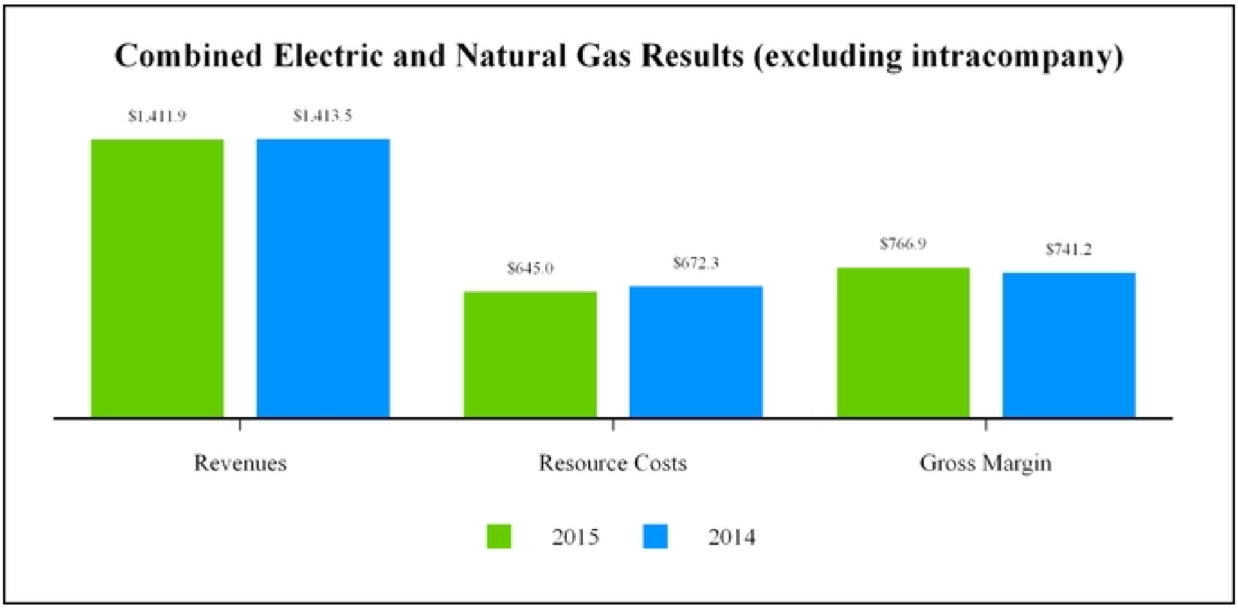
2015 compared to 2014

The following graphs presents Avista Utilities' operating revenues, resource costs and resulting gross margin for the year ended December 31 (dollars in millions):





Total results of operations for electric and natural gas in the graphs above include intracompany revenues and resource costs of $107.0 million and $142.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.



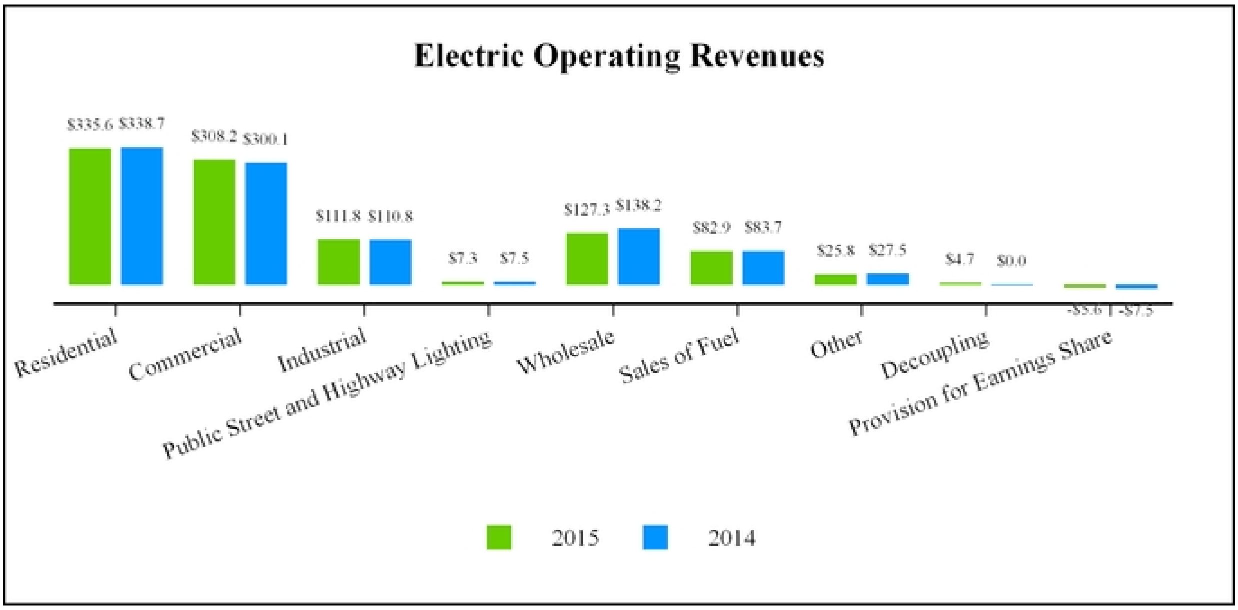
The gross margin on electric sales increased $16.5 million and the gross margin on natural gas sales increased $9.2 million. The increase in electric gross margin was primarily due to a general rate increase in Washington, lower net power supply costs and a $1.9 million decrease in the provision for earnings sharing (which is an offset to revenue). We experienced weather that was significantly warmer than normal and warmer than the prior year, which decreased heating loads in the first quarter and increased cooling loads in the second quarter. Loads in the third quarter were slightly higher than the prior year. Loads for the fourth quarter were lower than the prior year, particularly for residential and industrial customers. For 2015, the decoupling mechanism in Washington had a positive effect on each of electric revenues and gross margin as did the decrease in the overall provision for earnings sharing (see the details by jurisdiction in the table below). For 2015, we recognized a pre-tax benefit of

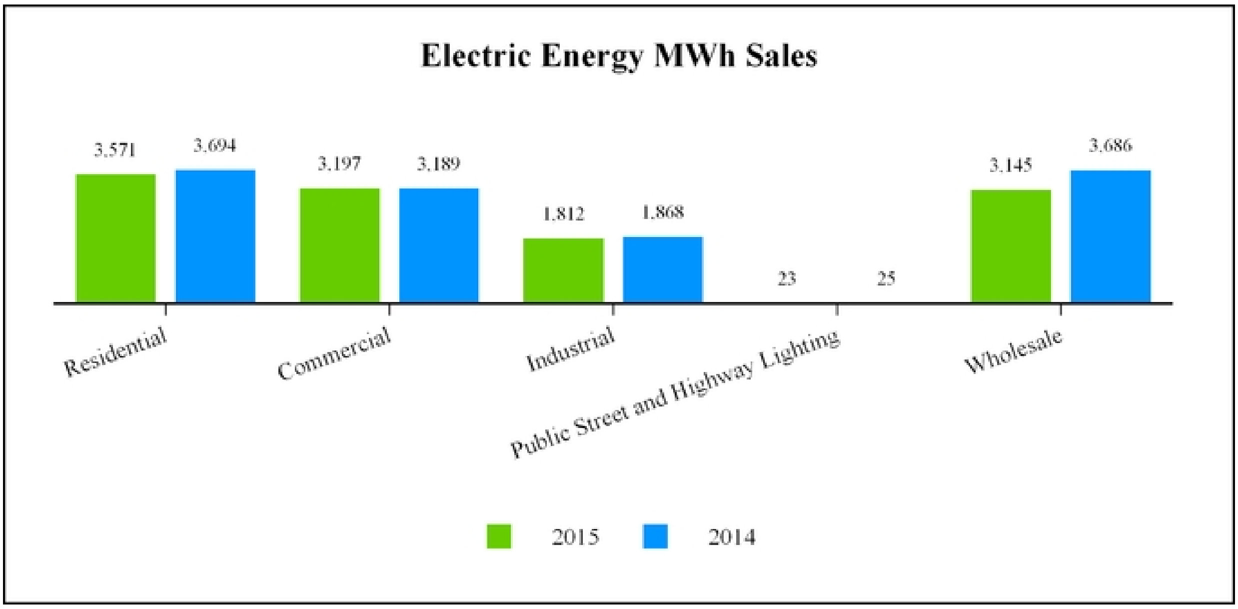
$6.3 million under the ERM in Washington compared to a benefit of $5.4 million for 2014. This change represents a decrease in net power supply costs primarily due to lower natural gas fuel and purchased power prices in 2015, partially offset by lower hydroelectric generation (due to warm and dry conditions in the second and third quarters).

The increase in natural gas gross margin was primarily due to a decrease in natural gas resources costs and a decrease in the provision for earnings sharing, partially offset by a decrease in natural gas revenues. The decrease in natural gas revenues resulted from lower heating loads from significantly warmer weather that was partially offset by general rate increases. The earnings impact of the decrease in heating loads was partially offset by the decoupling mechanism in Washington, which had a positive effect on natural gas revenues and gross margin (see the details by jurisdiction in the table below).

Intracompany revenues and resource costs represent purchases and sales of natural gas between our natural gas distribution operations and our electric generation operations (as fuel for our generation plants). These transactions are eliminated in the presentation of total results for Avista Utilities and in the consolidated financial statements but are reflected in the presentation of the separate results for electric and natural gas below.

The following graphs present Avista Utilities' electric operating revenues and megawatt-hour (MWh) sales for the year ended December 31 (dollars in millions and MWhs in thousands):





The following table presents Avista Utilities' decoupling and customer earnings sharing mechanisms by jurisdiction that are included in utility electric operating revenues for the year ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

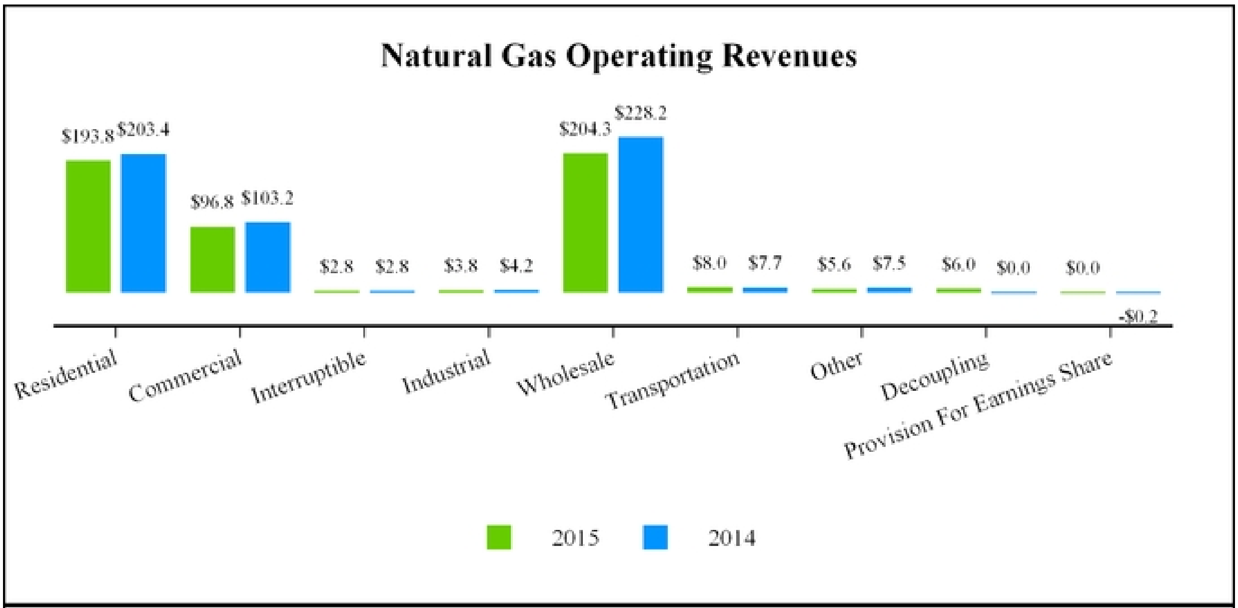
	Electric Operating Revenues	
	2015	2014
Washington		
Decoupling	$ 4,740	$ —
Provision for earnings sharing	(3,423)	—
Total	1,317	—
Idaho		
Decoupling	—	—
Provision for earnings sharing	(2,198)	(7,503)
Total	$ (2,198)	$ (7,503)

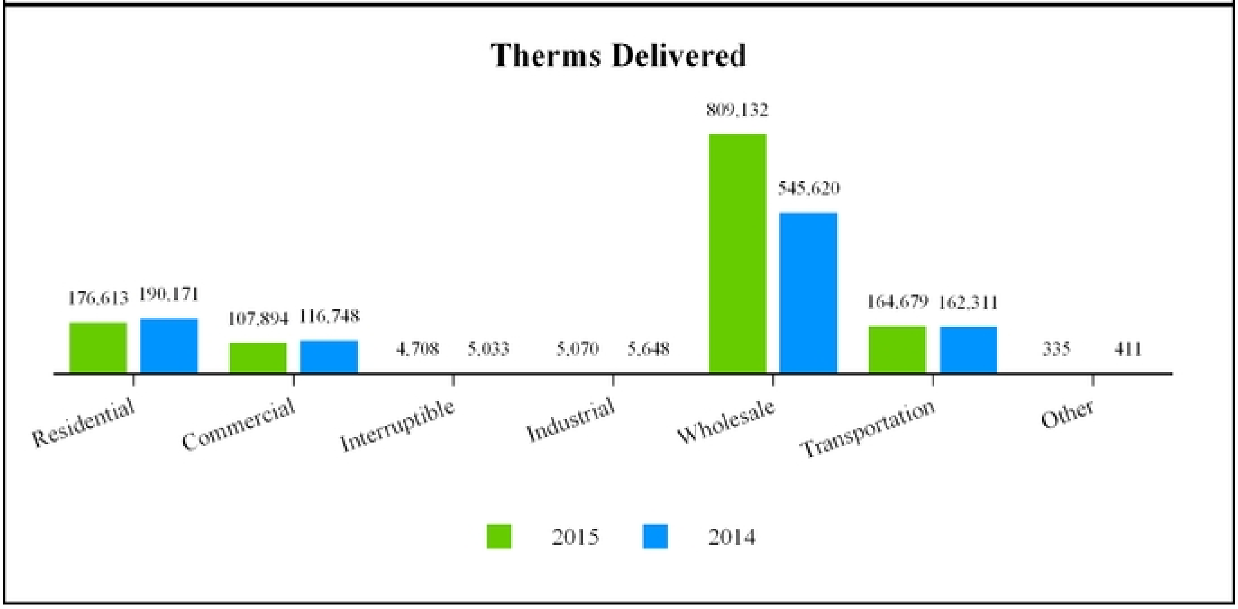
Total electric revenues decreased $1.1 million for 2015 as compared to 2014 due to the following:

- a $5.7 million increase in retail electric revenues due to an increase in revenue per MWh (increased revenues $21.0 million), partially offset by a decrease in total MWhs sold (decreased revenues $15.3 million). The increase in revenue per MWh was primarily due to a general rate increase in Washington. The decrease in total MWhs sold was primarily the result of weather that was significantly warmer than normal and warmer than the prior year, which decreased the electric heating load in the first quarter. Compared to 2014, residential electric use per customer decreased 5 percent and commercial use per customer decreased 2 percent. Heating degree days in Spokane were 14 percent below normal and 10 percent below 2014. The impact from reduced heating loads was partially offset by increased cooling loads in the summer. Year-to-date cooling degree days were 141 percent above normal and 28 percent above the prior year.
- a $10.9 million decrease in wholesale electric revenues due to a decrease in sales volumes (decreased revenues $21.9 million), partially offset by an increase in sales prices (increased revenues $11.0 million). The fluctuation in volumes and prices was primarily the result of our optimization activities.
- a $0.9 million decrease in sales of fuel due to a decrease in sales of natural gas fuel as part of thermal generation resource optimization activities. For 2015, $50.0 million of these sales were made to our natural gas operations and are included as intracompany revenues and resource costs. For 2014, $67.4 million of these sales were made to our natural gas operations.
- a $4.7 million increase in electric revenue due to decoupling, which reflected decreased heating loads in the first and fourth quarters, partially offset by increased cooling loads in the second and third quarters.

- a $1.9 million decrease in the provision for earnings sharing, primarily due to a decrease of $5.3 million for our Idaho electric operations, partially offset by an increase of $3.4 million for our Washington electric operations. In 2014, we recorded a provision for earnings sharing of $7.5 million for Idaho electric customers with $5.6 million representing our estimate for 2014 and $1.9 million representing an adjustment of our 2013 estimate.

The following graphs present Avista Utilities' natural gas operating revenues and therms delivered for the year ended December 31 (dollars in millions and therms in thousands):





The following table presents Avista Utilities' decoupling and customer earnings sharing mechanisms by jurisdiction that are included in utility natural gas operating revenues for the year ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	Natural Gas Operating Revenues	
	2015	2014
Washington		
Decoupling	$ 6,004	$ —
Provision for earnings sharing	—	—
Total	6,004	—
Idaho		
Decoupling	—	—
Provision for earnings sharing	—	(221)
Total	$ —	$ (221)

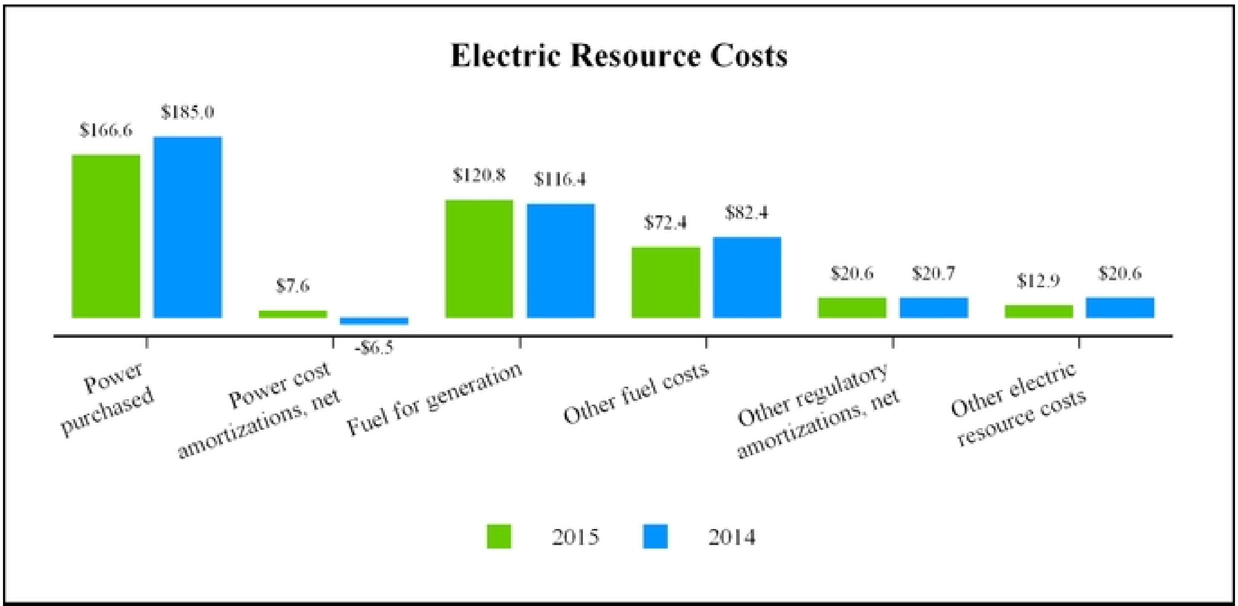
Total natural gas revenues decreased $35.7 million for 2015 as compared to 2014 due to the following:

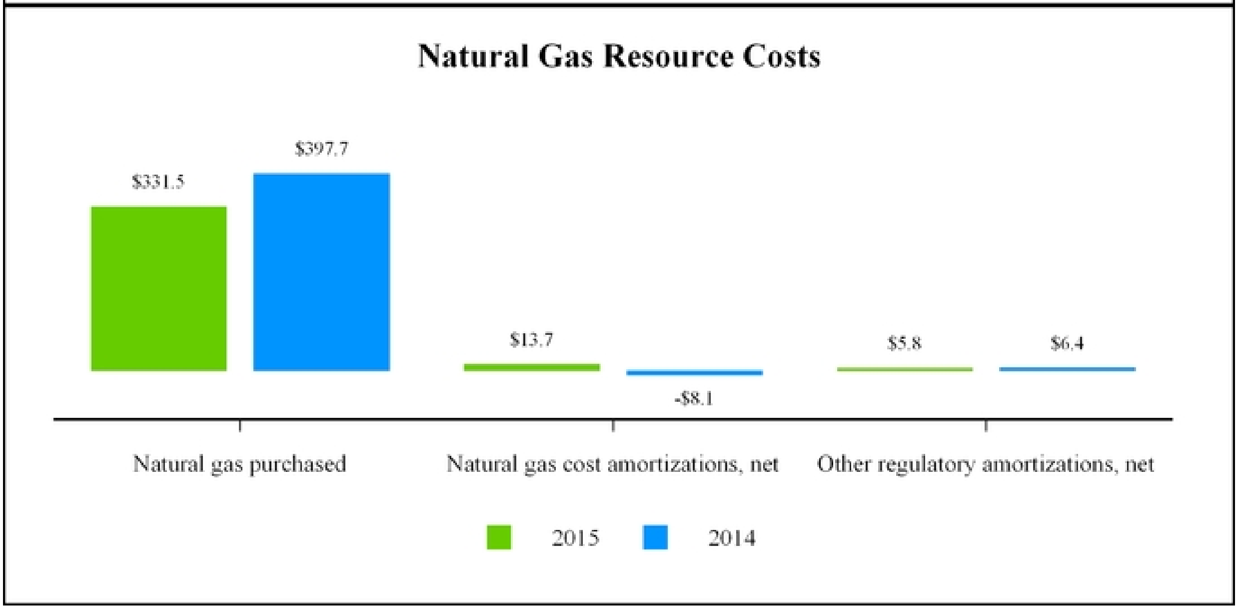
- a $16.4 million decrease in retail natural gas revenues due to a decrease in volumes (decreased revenues $23.6 million), partially offset by higher retail rates (increased revenues $7.2 million). Higher retail rates were due to PGAs implemented in November 2014, which passed through higher costs of natural gas, and general rate cases. This was partially offset by PGA rate decreases implemented in November 2015, which passed through lower costs. We sold less retail natural gas in 2015 as compared to 2014 primarily due to weather that was warmer than normal and warmer than the prior year. Compared to 2014, residential use per customer decreased 9 percent and commercial use per customer decreased 9 percent. Heating degree days in Spokane were 14 percent below historical average for 2015, and 10 percent below 2014. Heating degree days in Medford were 15 percent below historical average for 2015, and 4 percent above 2014.
- a $23.9 million decrease in wholesale natural gas revenues due to a decrease in prices (decreased revenues $90.4 million), partially offset by an increase in volumes (increased revenues $66.5 million). In 2015, $57.0 million of these sales were made to our electric generation operations and are included as intracompany revenues and resource costs. In 2014, $74.7 million of these sales were made to our electric generation operations. Differences between revenues and costs from sales of resources in excess of retail load requirements and from resource optimization are accounted for through the PGA mechanisms.
- a $6.0 million increase for natural gas decoupling revenues due primarily to significantly warmer than normal weather and the impact on heating loads.

The following table presents Avista Utilities' average number of electric and natural gas retail customers for the year ended December 31:

	Electric Customers		Natural Gas Customers	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Residential	327,057	324,188	296,005	291,928
Commercial	41,296	40,988	34,229	34,047
Interruptible	—	—	35	37
Industrial	1,353	1,385	261	264
Public street and highway lighting	529	531	—	—
Total retail customers	370,235	367,092	330,530	326,276

The following graphs present Avista Utilities' resource costs for the year ended December 31 (dollars in millions):





Total resource costs in the graphs above include intracompany resource costs of $107.0 million and $142.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

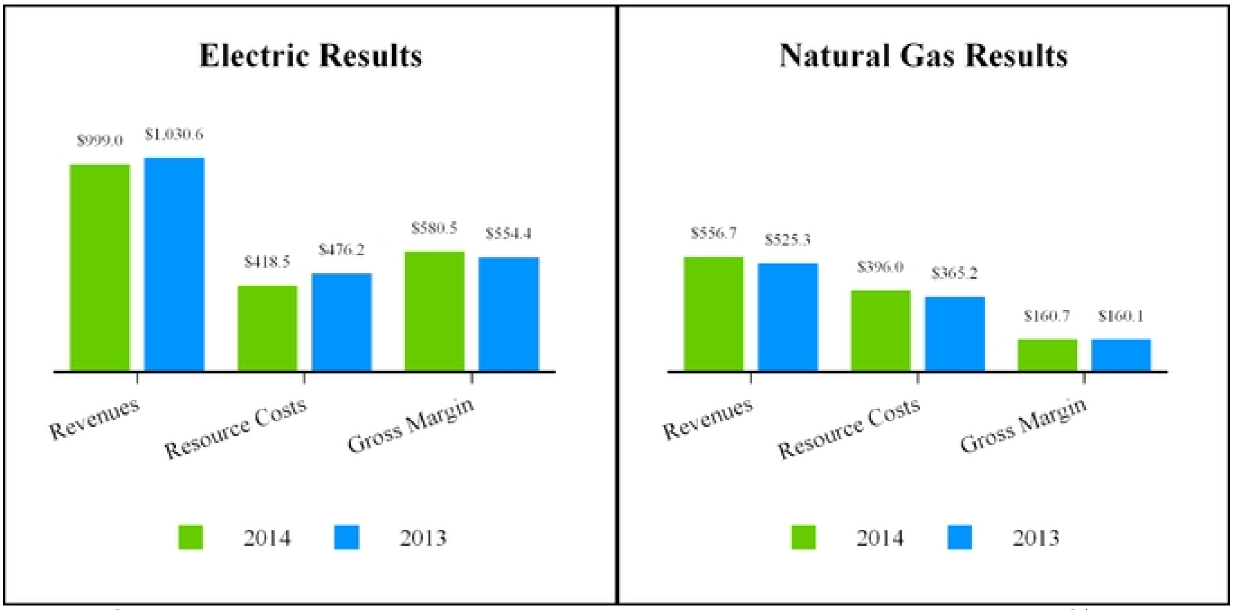
Total resource costs decreased $27.4 million for 2015 as compared to 2014 primarily due to the following:

- a $18.3 million decrease in power purchased due to a decrease in the volume of power purchases (decreased costs $23.6 million), partially offset by an increase in wholesale prices (increased costs $5.3 million). The fluctuation in volumes and prices was primarily the result of our overall optimization activities.
- a $14.2 million increase from amortizations and deferrals of power costs due to the following.
    - increases to expense in 2015:
        - a $5.8 million surcharge to customers of previously deferred power costs in Idaho through the PCA.
        - an $11.3 million deferral in Washington and a $2.0 million deferral in Idaho for probable future benefit to customers due to actual power supply costs being below the amount included in base retail rates.

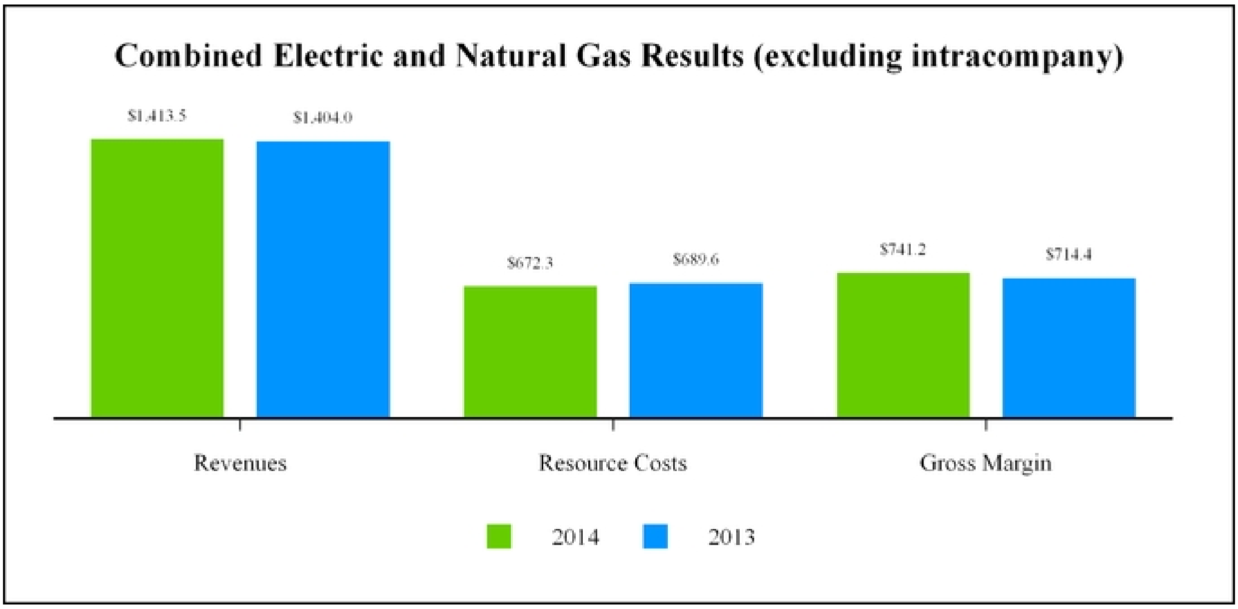
    - a $2.0 million deferral in Washington of RECs for probable future benefit to customers.
  - decreases to expense in 2015:
    - an $8.0 million refund to Washington customers through an ERM rebate.
    - a $5.4 million refund to Washington customers through a REC rebate.
- a $4.4 million increase in fuel for generation primarily due to an increase in thermal generation (due in part to decreased hydroelectric generation), partially offset by a decrease in natural gas fuel prices.
- a $10.0 million decrease in other fuel costs. This represents fuel and the related derivative instruments that were purchased for generation but were later sold when conditions indicated that it was more economical to sell the fuel as part of the resource optimization process. When the fuel or related derivative instruments are sold, that revenue is included in sales of fuel.
- a $7.7 million decrease in other electric resource costs primarily due to the benefit from a capacity contract of Spokane Energy, which was mostly deferred for probable future benefit to customers through the ERM and PCA.
- a $66.1 million decrease in natural gas purchased due to a decrease in the price of natural gas (decreased costs $138.3 million), partially offset by an increase in total therms purchased (increased costs $72.2 million). Total therms purchased increased due to an increase in wholesale sales, partially offset by a decrease in retail sales.
- a $21.8 million increase from amortizations and deferrals of natural gas costs. This reflects lower natural gas prices and the deferral of lower costs for future rebate to customers.
- a $35.1 million decrease in intracompany resource costs (which has the effect of increasing overall net resource costs).

2014 compared to 2013

The following graphs present Avista Utilities' operating revenues, resource costs and resulting gross margin for the year ended December 31 (dollars in millions):

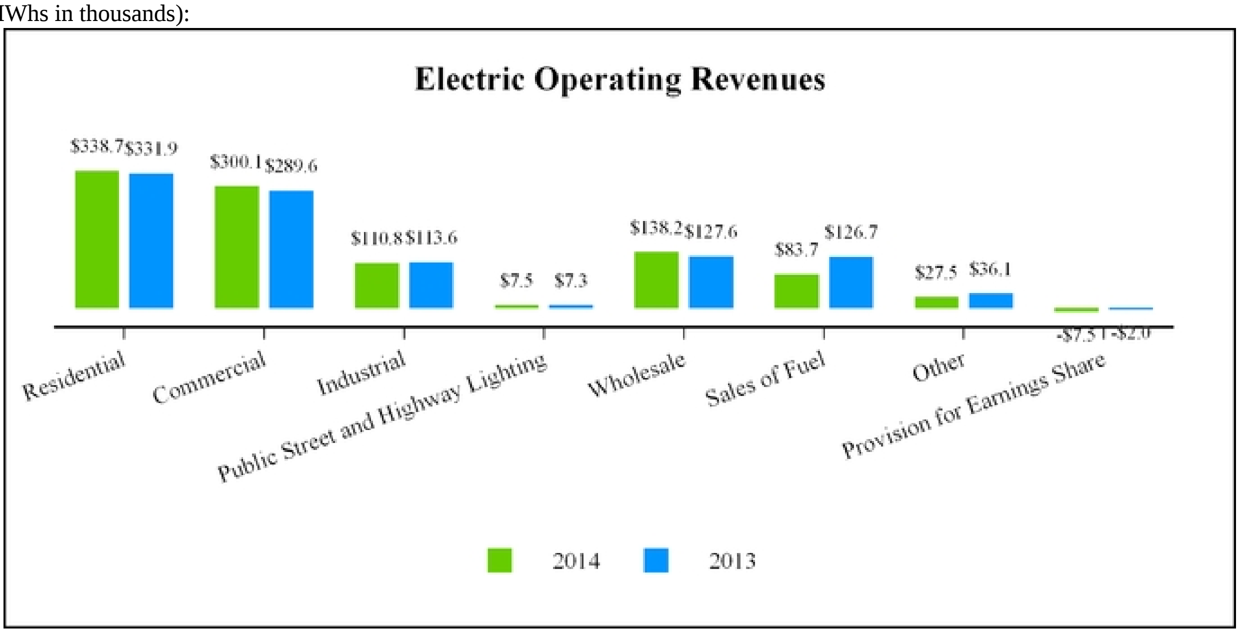


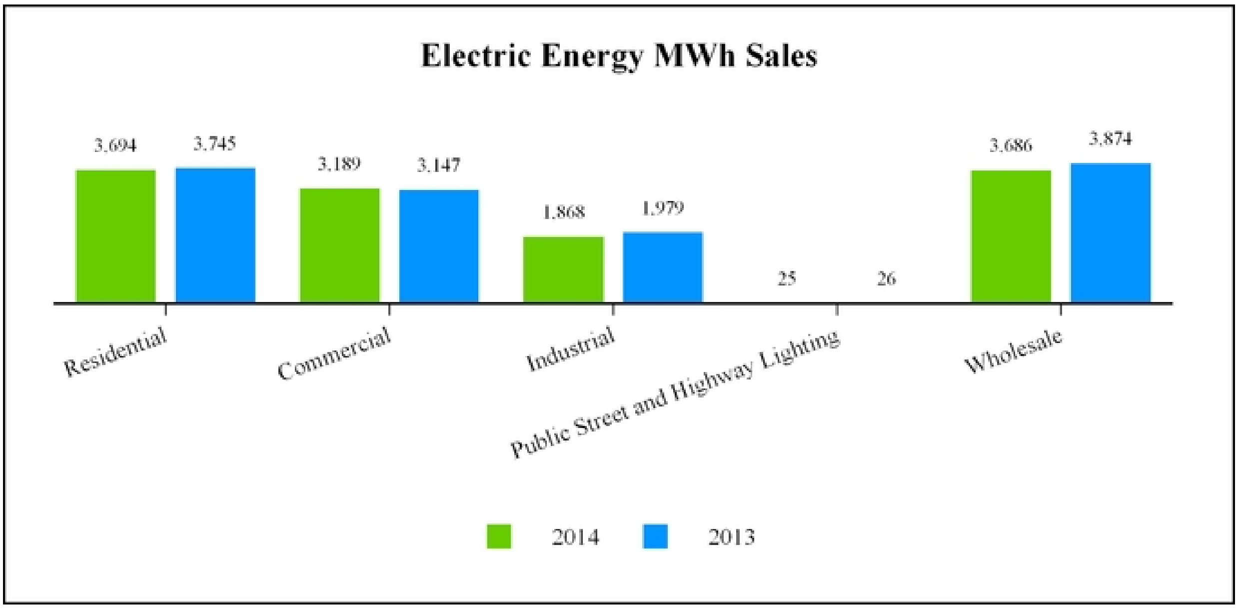
Total results of operations for electric and natural gas in the graphs above include intracompany revenues and resource costs of $142.2 million and $151.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively.



The gross margin on electric sales increased $26.0 million and the gross margin on natural gas sales increased $0.7 million. Electric gross margin for 2014 included a pre-tax benefit of $5.4 million under the ERM in Washington compared to a pre-tax expense of $4.7 million for 2013. This change represents a decrease in net power supply costs due to the Colstrip outage in 2013 and increased hydroelectric generation in 2014. Electric gross margin for 2013 included the net benefit from the settlement with the BPA of $5.1 million.

The following graphs present Avista Utilities' electric operating revenues and megawatt-hour (MWh) sales for the year ended December 31 (dollars in millions and MWhs in thousands):

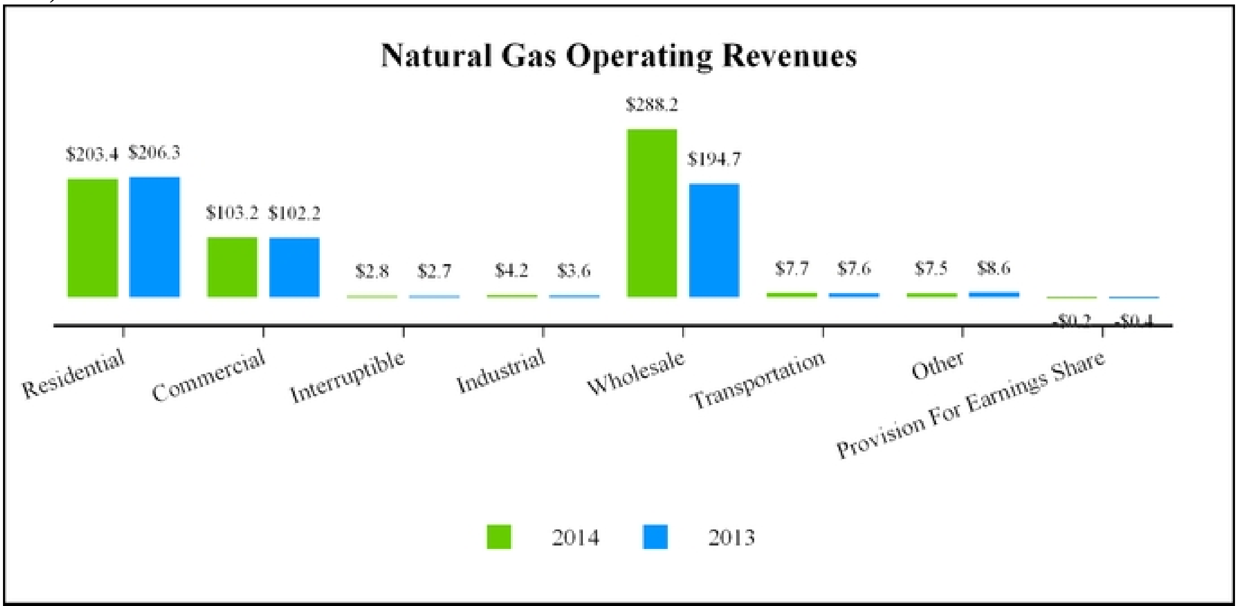


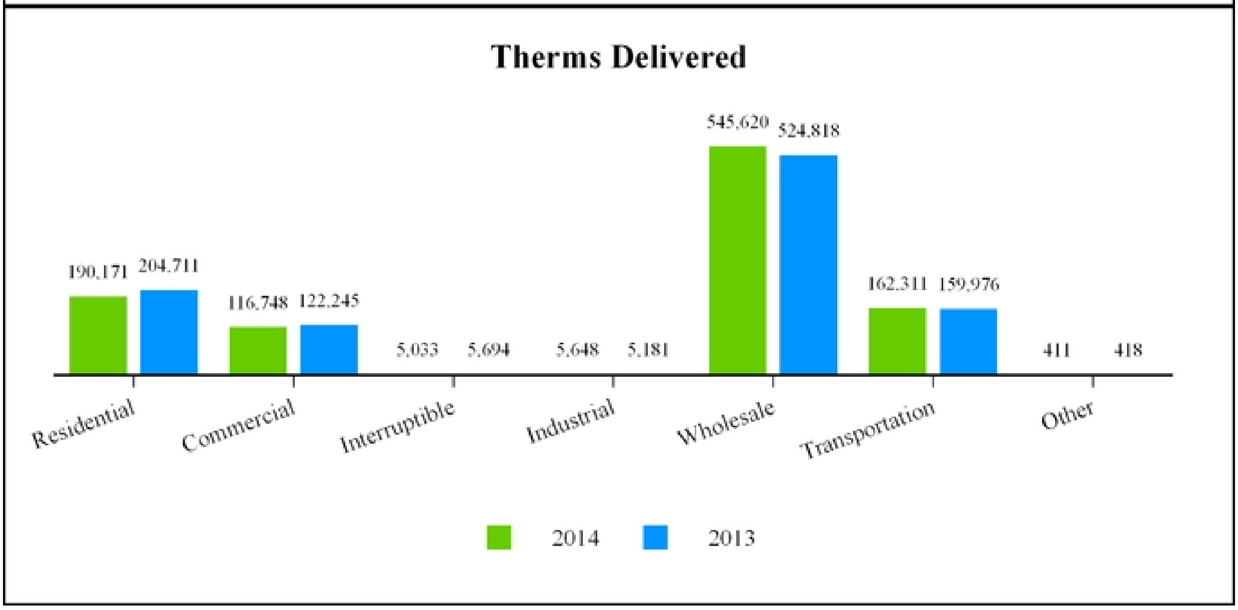


Total electric revenues decreased $31.6 million for 2014 as compared to 2013 due to the following:

- a $14.8 million increase in retail electric revenue primarily due to general rate increases and a change in revenue mix (which increased revenue by $25.2 million), partially offset by a decrease in volumes (which decreased revenue by $10.4 million). The decrease in residential volumes was primarily due to warmer weather in the fourth quarter, partially offset by customer growth. The decrease in total MWhs sold to industrial customers was primarily due to the expiration and replacement of a contract with one of our largest industrial customers in Idaho, effective July 1, 2013. The change resulting from this new contract did not impact gross margin because any change in revenues and expenses was tracked through the PCA in Idaho at 100 percent until such time as the contract was included in the Company's base rates,
- a $10.6 million increase in wholesale electric revenues due to an increase in sales prices (increased revenues $17.6 million), partially offset by a decrease in sales volumes (decreased revenues $7.0 million). The fluctuation in volumes and prices was primarily the result of our optimization activities during the period,
- a decrease of $42.9 million in sales of natural gas fuel as part of thermal generation resource optimization activities. For 2014, $67.4 million of these sales were made to our natural gas operations and are included as intracompany revenues and resource costs. For 2013, $102.4 million of these sales were made to our natural gas operations,
- an $8.6 million decrease in other electric revenues primarily due to the receipt of $11.7 million of revenue from the Bonneville Power Administration in 2013 for past use of our electric transmission system, and
- a $5.5 million increase in the provision for earnings sharing for Idaho electric customers primarily due to the 2014 provision for earnings sharing including a $1.9 million adjustment of our 2013 estimate.

The following graphs present Avista Utilities' natural gas operating revenues and therms delivered for the year ended December 31 (dollars in millions and therms in thousands):





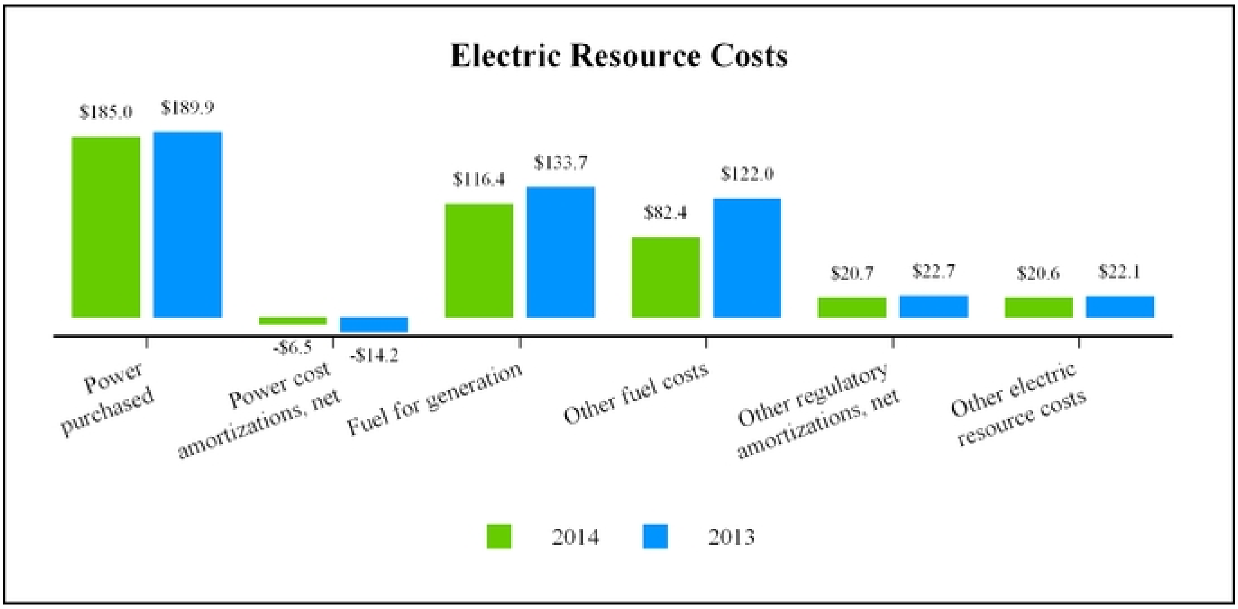
Natural gas revenues increased $31.4 million for 2014 as compared to 2013 due to the following:

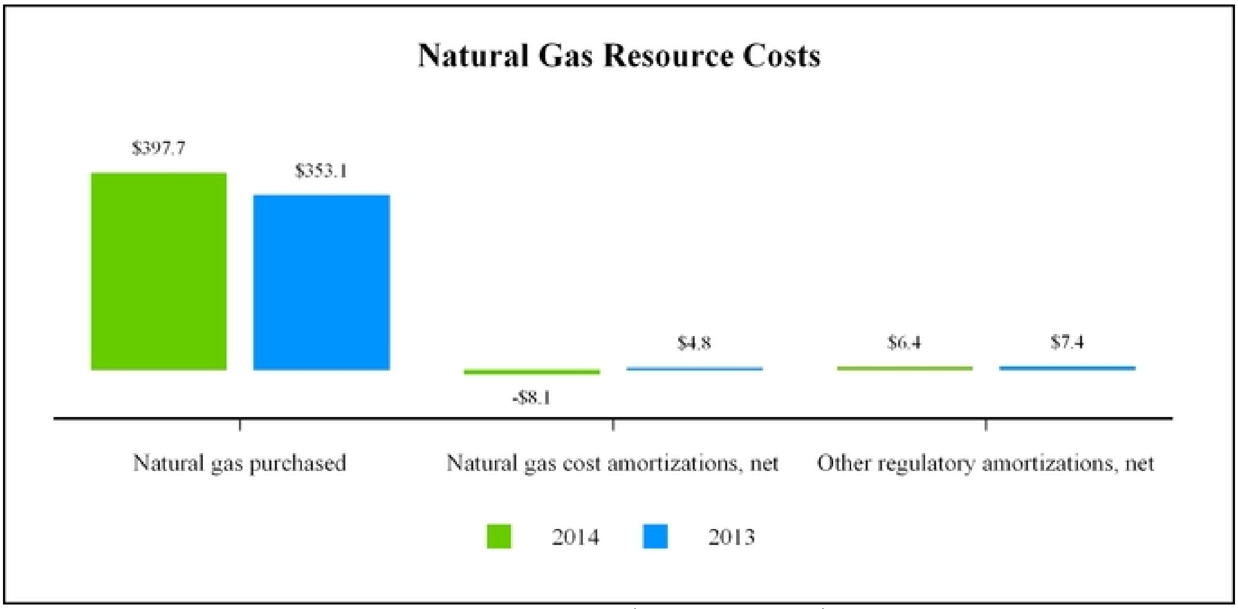
- a $1.3 million decrease in retail natural gas revenues due to a decrease in volumes (decreased revenues by $20.0 million), partially offset by general rate increases and higher PGA rates, which passed through costs of natural gas (increased revenues by $18.7 million). We had decreased volumes primarily due to weather that was warmer than normal and warmer than the prior year during the fourth quarter,
- an increase of $33.5 million in wholesale natural gas revenues due to an increase in prices (increased revenues by $24.8 million) and an increase in volumes (increased revenues by $8.7 million). In 2014, $74.7 million of wholesale sales were made to our electric generation operations and are included as intracompany revenues and resource costs. In 2013, $49.5 million of these sales were made to our electric generation operations, and
- a $0.2 million reduction to revenue in 2014 for the provision for earnings sharing for Idaho natural gas customers, compared to a reduction to revenue of $0.4 million in 2013.

The following table presents Avista Utilities' average number of electric and natural gas retail customers for the year ended December 31:

	Electric Customers		Natural Gas Customers	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Residential	324,188	321,098	291,928	288,708
Commercial	40,988	40,202	34,047	33,932
Interruptible	—	—	37	38
Industrial	1,385	1,386	264	259
Public street and highway lighting	531	527	—	—
Total retail customers	367,092	363,213	326,276	322,937

The following graphs present Avista Utilities' resource costs for the year ended December 31 (dollars in millions):





Total resource costs in the graphs above include intracompany resource costs of $142.2 million and $151.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively.

Total resource costs decreased $31.4 million for 2014 as compared to 2013 primarily due to the following:

- a decrease of $5.0 million in power purchased due to a decrease in the volume of power purchases, partially offset by an increase in wholesale prices. The fluctuation in volumes and prices was primarily the result of our overall optimization activities during the year. The decrease in volumes purchased was also due to increased hydroelectric generation,
- a decrease to 2014 electric resource costs of $6.5 million for amortizations and deferrals of power costs, compared to a decrease of $14.2 million for 2013.
  - increases to expense in 2014:
    - a $1.6 million deferral in Idaho and a $4.2 million deferral in Washington for probable future benefit to customers due to actual power supply costs being below the amount included in retail rates.
  - decreases to expense in 2014:
    - a $2.3 million refund to Idaho customers of previously deferred power costs through the PCA rebate.
    - an $8.5 million refund to Washington customers through an ERM rebate.
    - a $1.6 million deferral of RECs for probable future benefit to Washington customers.
- a decrease of $17.2 million for fuel for generation primarily due to a decrease in natural gas generation,
- a decrease of $39.6 million in other fuel costs due to the resource optimization process, and
- an increase of $44.6 million in natural gas purchased due to an increase in the price of natural gas and a slight increase in total therms purchased. Total therms purchased increased due to an increase in wholesale sales as part of the natural gas procurement and resource optimization process, mostly offset by a decrease in retail sales.

Results of Operations - Alaska Electric Light and Power Company

AEL&P was acquired on July 1, 2014 and only the results for the second half of 2014 are included in the actual overall results of Avista Corp. The discussion below is only for AEL&P's earnings that were included in Avista Corp.'s overall earnings.

2015 compared to 2014

Net income for AEL&P was $6.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2015, compared to $3.2 million for the second half of 2014.

The following table presents AEL&P's operating revenues, resource costs and resulting gross margin for the year ended December 31, 2015 and the second half of 2014 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	Second half of 2014
Operating revenues	$ 44,778	$ 21,644
Resource costs	11,973	5,900
Gross margin	$ 32,805	$ 15,744

The following table presents AEL&P's electric operating revenues and megawatt-hour (MWh) sales for the year ended December 31, 2015 and the second half of 2014 (dollars and MWhs in thousands):

	Electric Operating Revenues		Electric Energy MWh sales	
	2015	Second half of 2014	2015	Second half of 2014
Residential	$ 18,017	$ 8,283	139	63
Commercial and government	26,049	12,948	258	125
Public street and highway lighting	215	150	1	1
Total retail	44,281	21,381	398	189
Other	497	263	—	—
Total	$ 44,778	$ 21,644	398	189

AEL&P has a relatively stable load profile as it does not have a large population of customers in its service territory with electric heating and cooling requirements; therefore, their revenues are not as sensitive to weather fluctuations as Avista Utilities. However, AEL&P does have higher winter rates for its customers during the peak period of November through May of each year, which drives higher revenues during those periods. Government sales are similar to commercial sales in that they are primarily firm customers, but are government entities.

Commercial and government revenues from interruptible or non-firm customers were $8.3 million for 2015, including $7.2 million from AEL&P's largest customer. These revenues from non-firm customers are deferred and passed on for the benefit of firm customers in future periods either through base rates or a cost of power adjustment. As noted at "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Economic Conditions," one of AEL&P's largest commercial customers (a retailer), which accounts for approximately 1 percent of AEL&P's annual firm revenues, is permanently closing in early 2016. It is unknown whether a new business will occupy the building that was occupied by this retailer.

The following table presents AEL&P's average number of electric retail customers for the year ended December 31, 2015 and the second half of 2014:

	Electric Customers	
	2015	Second half of 2014
Residential	14,285	14,121
Commercial and government	2,179	2,148
Public street and highway lighting	210	213
Total retail customers	16,674	16,482

The following table presents AEL&P's resource costs for the year ended December 31, 2015 and the second half of 2014 (dollars in thousands):

	Resource Costs	
	2015	Second half of 2014
Snettisham power expenses	$ 10,377	$ 5,196
Cost of power adjustment, net	1,501	646
Fuel for generation	95	58
Total electric resource costs	$ 11,973	$ 5,900

Snettisham power expenses represent costs associated with operating the Snettisham hydroelectric project, including amounts paid under the take-or-pay PPA for the full capacity of this plant. This agreement is recorded as a capital lease on AEL&P's balance sheet, but reflected as an operating lease in the income statement. See "Note 14 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further information regarding this capital lease obligation.

Cost of power adjustments are primarily derived from certain revenues from interruptible or non-firm customers that are deferred and passed on for the benefit of firm customers in future periods. For instance, revenues from electric sales to cruise ships are passed back to firm customers at 100 percent. The amortization of these deferred balances flows through this account along with the original deferral.

Results of Operations - Ecova - Discontinued Operations

Ecova was disposed of as of June 30, 2014. As a result, in accordance with GAAP, all of Ecova's operating results were removed from each line item on the Consolidated Statements of Income and reclassified into discontinued operations for all periods presented. In addition, since Ecova was a subsidiary of Avista Capital, the net gain recognized on the sale of Ecova was attributable to our other businesses. However, in accordance with GAAP, this gain is included in discontinued operations; therefore, we included the analysis of the gain in the Ecova discontinued operations section rather than in the other businesses section.

2015 compared to 2014

Ecova's net income was $5.1 million for 2015, compared to net income of $72.4 million for 2014. The net income for 2015 was primarily related to a tax benefit during 2015 that resulted from the reversal of a valuation allowance against net operating losses at Ecova because the net operating losses were deemed realizable under the current tax code. Additionally, there were some minor true-ups to the gain recognized on the sale due to the settlement of the working capital and indemnification escrow accounts during 2015. The results for 2014 included $69.7 million of the net gain recognized on the sale of Ecova.

2014 compared to 2013

Ecova's net income was $72.4 million for 2014 compared to net income of $7.1 million for 2013. The increase was primarily attributable to the net gain recognized on the sale of Ecova of $69.7 million. Excluding the net gain, net income from Ecova's regular operations through the date of the sale were flat compared to the same period in 2013 and were the result of a decrease in depreciation and amortization expense and an increase in operating revenues, offset by an increase in operating expenses.

Results of Operations - Other Businesses

2015 compared to 2014

The net loss from these operations was $1.9 million for 2015 compared to net income of $3.2 million for 2014. The decrease in net income compared to 2014 was primarily due to the settlement of the California power markets litigation in 2014, which is described in further detail below.

In addition, the net loss for 2015 was primarily related to:

- $2.3 million (net of tax) of corporate costs, including costs associated with exploring strategic opportunities, compared to $2.4 million in 2014,
- net losses on investments (net of tax) of $0.4 million for 2015, compared to net gains of $0.2 million for 2014,
- net income at METALfx of $1.5 million for 2015, compared to net income of $0.9 million for 2014.

2014 compared to 2013

The net income from these operations was $3.2 million for 2014 compared to a net loss of $4.7 million for 2013. The net income for 2014 was primarily the result of the settlement of the California power markets litigation, where Avista Energy received settlement proceeds from a litigation with various California parties related to the prices paid for power in the

California spot markets during the years 2000 and 2001. This settlement resulted in an increase in pre-tax earnings of approximately $15.0 million. This was partially offset by a pre-tax contribution of $6.4 million of the proceeds to the Avista Foundation.

METALfx had net income of $0.9 million for 2014, compared to net income of $1.2 million for 2013.

In 2014, we also incurred $2.4 million (net of tax) of corporate costs, including costs associated with exploring strategic opportunities.

Accounting Standards to be Adopted in 2016

At this time, we are not expecting the adoption of accounting standards to have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows in 2016. For information on accounting standards adopted in 2015 and earlier periods, see “Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.”

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The preparation of our consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements. Changes in these estimates and assumptions are considered reasonably possible and may have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements and thus actual results could differ from the amounts reported and disclosed herein. The following accounting policies represent those that our management believes are particularly important to the consolidated financial statements and require the use of estimates and assumptions:

- ***Regulatory accounting***, which requires that certain costs and/or obligations be reflected as deferred charges on our Consolidated Balance Sheets and are not reflected in our Consolidated Statements of Income until the period during which matching revenues are recognized. We also have decoupling revenue deferrals. As opposed to cost deferrals which are not recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income until they are included in rates, decoupling revenue is recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income during the period in which it occurs (i.e. during the period of revenue shortfall or excess due to fluctuations in customer usage), subject to certain limitations, and a regulatory asset/liability is established which will be surcharged or rebated to customers in future periods. GAAP requires that for any alternative regulatory revenue program, like decoupling, the revenue must be collected from customers within 24 months of the deferral to qualify for recognition in the current period Consolidated Statement of Income. Any amounts included in the Company's decoupling program that won't be collected from customers within 24 months are not recorded in the financial statements until the period in which revenue recognition criteria are met. This could ultimately result in more decoupling revenue being collected from customers over the life of the decoupling program than what is deferred and recognized in the current period financial statements. We make estimates regarding the amount of revenue that will be collected with 24 months of deferral. We also make the assumption that there are regulatory precedents for many of our regulatory items and that we will be allowed recovery of these costs via retail rates in future periods. If we were no longer allowed to apply regulatory accounting or no longer allowed recovery of these costs, we could be required to recognize significant write-offs of regulatory assets and liabilities in the Consolidated Statements of Income. See "Notes 1 and 20 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further discussion of our regulatory accounting policy.

- ***Utility energy commodity derivative asset and liability accounting***, where we estimate the fair value of outstanding commodity derivatives and we offset energy commodity derivative assets or liabilities with a regulatory asset or liability. This accounting treatment is intended to defer the recognition of mark-to-market gains and losses on energy commodity transactions until the period of delivery. This accounting treatment is supported by accounting orders issued by the UTC and IPUC. If we were no longer allowed to apply regulatory accounting or no longer allowed recovery of these costs, we could be required to recognize significant changes in fair value of these energy commodity derivatives on a regular basis in the Consolidated Statements of Income, which could lead to significant fluctuations in net income. See "Notes 1 and 6 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further discussion of our energy derivative accounting policy.

- ***Interest rate derivative asset and liability accounting,*** where we estimate the fair value of outstanding interest rate swaps, and U.S. Treasury lock agreements and offset the derivative asset or liability with a regulatory asset or liability. This is similar to the treatment of energy commodity derivatives described above. Upon settlement of interest rate swaps, the regulatory asset or liability (included as part of long-term debt) is amortized as a component of interest expense over the term of the associated debt. If we no longer applied regulatory accounting or were no longer allowed recovery of these costs, we could be required to recognize significant changes in fair value of these interest rate derivatives on a regular basis in the Consolidated Statements of Income, which could lead to significant fluctuations in net income.

- ***Pension Plans and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans***, discussed in further detail below.
- ***Contingencies,*** related to unresolved regulatory, legal and tax issues for which there is inherent uncertainty for the ultimate outcome of the respective matter. We accrue a loss contingency if it is probable that an asset is impaired or a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss or impairment can be reasonably estimated. We also disclose losses that do not meet these conditions for accrual, if there is a reasonable possibility that a potential loss may be incurred. For all material contingencies, we have made a judgment as to the probability of a loss occurring and as to whether or not the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. If the loss recognition criteria are met, liabilities are accrued or assets are reduced. However, no assurance can be given to the ultimate outcome of any particular contingency. See "Notes 1 and 19 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further discussion of our commitments and contingencies.
- ***Discontinued operations,*** related to the accounting and financial statement presentation for Ecova following its disposition in 2014. In accordance with GAAP, this transaction caused Ecova to be accounted for as a discontinued operation. Ecova's revenues and expenses are included in the Consolidated Statements of Income in discontinued operations (as a single line item, net of tax). The gain, net of tax, recognized on the sale of Ecova is also included in discontinued operations. All tables throughout the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements that present Consolidated Statements of Income information were revised to only include amounts from continuing operations. In addition, we are presenting earnings per share calculations for continuing and discontinued operations.

Pension Plans and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans - Avista Utilities

We have a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all regular full-time employees at Avista Utilities that were hired prior to January 1, 2014. For substantially all regular non-union full-time employees at Avista Utilities that were hired on or after January 1, 2014, a defined contribution 401(k) plan replaced the defined benefit pension plan.

The Finance Committee of the Board of Directors approves investment policies, objectives and strategies that seek an appropriate return for the pension plan and it reviews and approves changes to the investment and funding policies.

We have contracted with an independent investment consultant who is responsible for managing/monitoring the individual investment managers. The investment managers' performance and related individual fund performance is reviewed at least quarterly by an internal benefits committee and by the Finance Committee to monitor compliance with our established investment policy objectives and strategies.

Our pension plan assets are invested in debt securities and mutual funds, trusts and partnerships that hold marketable debt and equity securities, real estate and absolute return funds. In seeking to obtain the desired return to fund the pension plan, the investment consultant recommends allocation percentages by asset classes. These recommendations are reviewed by the internal benefits committee, which then recommends their adoption by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has established target investment allocation percentages by asset classes and also investment ranges for each asset class. The target investment allocation percentages are typically the midpoint of the established range and are disclosed in "Note 10 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements."

We also have a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP) that provides additional pension benefits to our executive officers and others whose benefits under the pension plan are reduced due to the application of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the deferral of salary under deferred compensation plans.

Pension costs (including the SERP) were $27.1 million for 2015, $14.6 million for 2014 and $28.8 million for 2013. Of our pension costs, approximately 60 percent are expensed and 40 percent are capitalized consistent with labor charges. The costs related to the SERP are expensed. Our costs for the pension plan are determined in part by actuarial formulas that are dependent upon numerous factors resulting from actual plan experience and assumptions of future experience.

Pension costs are affected by among other things:

- employee demographics (including age, compensation and length of service by employees),
- the amount of cash contributions we make to the pension plan, and
- the actual return on pension plan assets,
- expected return on pension plan assets,

- discount rate used in determining the projected benefit obligation and pension costs,
- assumed rate of increase in employee compensation,
- life expectancy of participants and other beneficiaries, and
- expected method of payment (lump sum or annuity) of pension benefits.

Any changes in pension plan obligations associated with these factors may not be immediately recognized as pension costs in our Consolidated Statement of Income, but we generally recognize the change in future years over the remaining average service period of pension plan participants. As such, our costs recorded in any period may not reflect the actual level of cash benefits provided to pension plan participants.

We revise the key assumption of the discount rate each year. In selecting a discount rate, we consider yield rates at the end of the year for highly rated corporate bond portfolios with cash flows from interest and maturities similar to that of the expected payout of pension benefits. In 2015, the pension plan discount rate (exclusive of the SERP) was 4.58 percent compared to 4.21 percent in 2014 and 5.10 percent in 2013. These changes in the discount rate decreased the projected benefit obligation (exclusive of the SERP) by approximately $31.0 million in 2015 and increased the obligation by $66.3 million in 2014.

The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets is reset or confirmed annually based on past performance and economic forecasts for the types of investments held by our plan. We used an expected long-term rate of return of 5.30 percent in 2015, 6.60 percent in 2014 and 6.60 percent in 2013. This change increased pension costs by approximately $6.9 million in 2015. The actual return on plan assets, net of fees, was a loss of $4.3 million (or 0.8 percent) for 2015, a gain of $56.0 million (or 11.6 percent) for 2014 and a gain of $52.5 million (or 12.5 percent) for 2013.

The following chart reflects the sensitivities associated with a change in certain actuarial assumptions by the indicated percentage (dollars in thousands):

Actuarial Assumption	Change in Assumption	Effect on Projected Benefit Obligation	Effect on Pension Cost
Expected long-term return on plan assets	(0.5)%	$ — *	$ 2,670
Expected long-term return on plan assets	0.5 %	— *	(2,670)
Discount rate	(0.5)%	42,561	4,226
Discount rate	0.5 %	(37,969)	(3,768)

* Changes in the expected return on plan assets would not affect our projected benefit obligation.

We provide certain health care and life insurance benefits for substantially all of our retired employees. We accrue the estimated cost of postretirement benefit obligations during the years that employees provide service. Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for our postretirement plans. A one-percentage-point increase in the assumed health care cost trend rate for each year would increase our accumulated postretirement benefit obligation as of December 31, 2015 by $9.7 million and the service and interest cost by $0.5 million. A one-percentage-point decrease in the assumed health care cost trend rate for each year would decrease our accumulated postretirement benefit obligation as of December 31, 2015 by $7.5 million and the service and interest cost by $0.4 million.

As of December 31, 2015, for the estimated retiree medical plan liability and costs, which are included as part of other post-retirement benefits, our actuaries adopted an updated method of calculation. For the updated method, the assumed average per-capita claim costs for pre-65 participants and post-65 participants were age-adjusted into 5-year bands as prescribed by the Actuarial Standards of Practice. This change in method resulted in an increase to the accumulated post-retirement benefit obligation of approximately $4.6 million in 2015.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Overall Liquidity

Avista Corp.'s consolidated operating cash flows are primarily derived from the operations of Avista Utilities. The primary source of operating cash flows for Avista Utilities is revenues from sales of electricity and natural gas. Significant uses of cash flows from Avista Utilities include the purchase of power, fuel and natural gas, and payment of other operating expenses, taxes and interest, with any excess being available for other corporate uses such as capital expenditures and dividends.

We design operating and capital budgets to control operating costs and to direct capital expenditures to choices that support immediate and long-term strategies, particularly for our regulated utility operations. In addition to operating expenses, we have continuing commitments for capital expenditures for construction and improvement of utility facilities.

Our annual net cash flows from operating activities usually do not fully support the amount required for annual utility capital expenditures. As such, from time to time, we need to access long-term capital markets in order to fund these needs as well as fund maturing debt. See further discussion at “Capital Resources.”

We periodically file for rate adjustments for recovery of operating costs and capital investments and to seek the opportunity to earn reasonable returns as allowed by regulators. See further details in the section “Regulatory Matters.”

For Avista Utilities, when power and natural gas costs exceed the levels currently recovered from retail customers, net cash flows are negatively affected. Factors that could cause purchased power and natural gas costs to exceed the levels currently recovered from our customers include, but are not limited to, higher prices in wholesale markets when we buy energy or an increased need to purchase power in the wholesale markets. Factors beyond our control that could result in an increased need to purchase power in the wholesale markets include, but are not limited to:

- increases in demand (due to either weather or customer growth),
- low availability of streamflows for hydroelectric generation,
- unplanned outages at generating facilities, and
- failure of third parties to deliver on energy or capacity contracts.

Avista Utilities has regulatory mechanisms in place that provide for the deferral and recovery of the majority of power and natural gas supply costs. However, if prices rise above the level currently allowed in retail rates in periods when we are buying energy, deferral balances would increase, negatively affecting our cash flow and liquidity until such time as these costs, with interest, are recovered from customers.

In addition to the above, Avista Utilities enters into derivative instruments to hedge our exposure to certain risks, including fluctuations in commodity market prices, foreign exchange rates and interest rates (for purposes of issuing long-term debt in the future). These derivative instruments often require collateral (in the form of cash or letters of credit) or other credit enhancements, or reductions or terminations of a portion of the contract through cash settlement, in the event of a downgrade in the Company's credit ratings or changes in market prices. In periods of price volatility, the level of exposure can change significantly. As a result, sudden and significant demands may be made against the Company's credit facilities and cash. See “Enterprise Risk Management – Demands for Collateral” below.

We monitor the potential liquidity impacts of changes to energy commodity prices and other increased operating costs for our utility operations. We believe that we have adequate liquidity to meet such potential needs through our committed lines of credit.

As of December 31, 2015, we had $250.4 million of available liquidity under the Avista Corp. committed line of credit and $25.0 million under the AEL&P committed line of credit. With our $400.0 million credit facility that expires in April 2019 and AEL&P's $25.0 million credit facility that expires in November 2019, we believe that we have adequate liquidity to meet our needs for the next 12 months.

Review of Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Overall During 2015, cash flows from operating activities were $375.6 million, proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt were $100.0 million and we received $13.9 million from the settlement of the Ecova escrow receivable. Cash requirements included utility capital expenditures of $393.4 million, the redemption of long-term debt of $2.9 million, defined benefit pension plan contributions of $12.0 million, dividends of $82.4 million and the repurchase of common stock of $2.9 million.

2015 compared to 2014

Consolidated Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was $375.6 million for 2015 compared to $267.3 million for 2014. Net cash used by the changes in certain current assets and liabilities components was $4.1 million for 2015, compared to net cash used of $50.0 million for 2014. The net cash used during 2015 primarily reflects cash outflows from changes in accounts payable, collateral posted for derivative instruments and accounts receivable. This was partially offset by inflows from changes in natural gas stored and income taxes receivable.

The gross gain on the sale of Ecova of $0.8 million for 2015 is deducted in reconciling net income to net cash provided by operating activities. The cash proceeds from the sale (which includes the gross gain) is included in investing activities. This is compared to the gross gain recognized in 2014 of $160.6 million.

Net amortizations of power and natural gas costs were $21.4 million for 2015 compared to net deferrals of $14.8 million for 2014.

The provision for deferred income taxes was $51.8 million for 2015 compared to $144.3 million for 2014. The decrease in 2015 was primarily due to the combination of implementation by the Company of updated federal tax tangible property regulations and increased deductions related to bonus depreciation in 2014.

Contributions to our defined benefit pension plan were $12.0 million for 2015 compared to $32.0 million in 2014.

Net cash received for income taxes was $10.0 million for 2015 compared to net cash paid of $45.4 million for 2014.

Consolidated Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities was $387.8 million for 2015, an increase compared to $103.7 million for 2014. During 2015, we received cash proceeds (related to the settlement of the escrow accounts) of $13.9 million for the sale of Ecova. We received the majority of the proceeds ($229.9 million) from the sale of Ecova during 2014. The proceeds received in 2014 were used to pay off the balance of Ecova's long-term borrowings and make payments to option holders and noncontrolling interests (included in financing activities). We also used a portion of these proceeds to pay our $74.8 million tax liability associated with the gain on sale and to fund common stock repurchases. Utility property capital expenditures increased by $67.9 million for 2015 as compared to 2014. During 2014, we received $15.0 million in cash (net of cash paid) related to the acquisition of AERC.

Consolidated Financing Activities

Net cash provided by financing activities was $0.5 million for 2015 compared to net cash used of $224.0 million for 2014. In 2015 we had the following significant transactions:

- issuance and sale of $100.0 million of Avista Corp. first mortgage bonds in December 2015,
- cash settlement of interest rate swaps in conjunction with the execution of the purchase agreement for the Avista Corp. first mortgage bonds which resulted in the payment of $9.3 million,
- payment of $2.9 million for the redemption and maturity of long-term debt,
- cash dividends paid increased to $82.4 million (or $1.32 per share) for 2015 from $78.3 million (or $1.27 per share) for 2014,
- issuance of $1.6 million of common stock (net of issuance costs), and
- repurchase of $2.9 million of our common stock.

In 2014, we had the following significant transactions:

- issuance of $150.0 million of long-term debt ($60.0 million of Avista Corp. first mortgage bonds, $75.0 million of AEL&P first mortgage bonds and a $15.0 million AERC unsecured note representing a term loan),
- a decrease of $66.0 million in short-term borrowings on Avista Corp.'s committed line of credit,
- a decrease of $46.0 million on Ecova's committed line of credit with $6.0 million in payments throughout the year and $40.0 million related to the close of the Ecova sale,
- payment of $40.0 million for the redemption and maturity of long-term debt (primarily related to AEL&P paying off its existing debt),
- cash payments of $54.2 million to noncontrolling interests and $20.9 million to stock option holders and redeemable noncontrolling interests of Ecova related to the Ecova sale in 2014,
- issuance of $4.1 million of common stock (net of issuance costs) excluding issuances related to the acquisition of AERC. We issued $150.1 million of common stock to AERC shareholders, and this is reflected as a non-cash financing activity,
- repurchase of $79.9 million of our common stock during 2014 using the proceeds from our sale of Ecova, and
- a $16.2 million increase in cash related to the fluctuation in the balance of customer fund obligations at Ecova.

2014 compared to 2013

Consolidated Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was $267.3 million for 2014 compared to $242.6 million for 2013. Net cash used by the changes in certain current assets and liabilities components was $50.0 million for 2014, compared to net cash used of $48.2 million for 2013. The net cash used during 2014 primarily reflects cash outflows from changes in accounts payable, natural gas stored and income taxes receivable. These were partially offset by cash inflows from changes in other current liabilities (primarily related to accrued taxes and interest) and accounts receivable.

The net cash used during 2013 primarily reflects cash outflows from changes in accounts receivable, accounts payable and other current assets (primarily related to miscellaneous current assets and income taxes receivable). These were partially offset by cash inflows from other current liabilities (primarily related to accrued taxes and interest).

The gross gain on the sale of Ecova of $160.6 million for 2014 is deducted in reconciling net income to net cash provided by operating activities. The cash proceeds from the sale (which includes the gross gain) is included in investing activities.

Net amortizations of power and natural gas costs were $14.8 million for 2014 compared to $9.4 million for 2013.

The provision for deferred income taxes was $144.3 million for 2014 compared to $23.5 million for 2013. The increase for 2014 was primarily due to the combination of implementation by the Company of updated federal tax tangible property regulations and increased deductions related to bonus depreciation.

Contributions to our defined benefit pension plan were $32.0 million for 2014 compared to $44.3 million in 2013.

Collateral posted for derivative instruments increased by $23.3 million in 2014 compared to an increase of $16.1 million in 2013. We had cash collateral posted of $49.4 million as of December 31, 2014 and $26.1 million as of December 31, 2013.

Net cash paid for income taxes was $45.4 million for 2014 compared to $44.8 million for 2013.

Cash paid for interest was $73.5 million for 2014 compared to $75.4 million for 2013.

Consolidated Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities was $103.7 million for 2014, a decrease compared to $312.2 million for 2013. During 2014, we received cash proceeds (net of cash sold and escrow amounts) of $229.9 million related to the sale of Ecova. A portion of the proceeds from the Ecova sale was used to pay off the balance of Ecova's long-term borrowings and make payments to option holders and noncontrolling interests (included in financing activities). We also used a portion of these proceeds to pay our $74.8 million tax liability associated with the gain on sale. Utility property capital expenditures increased by $31.2 million for 2014 as compared to 2013. A significant portion of Ecova's funds held for clients were held as securities available for sale with purchases of $12.3 million and sales and maturities of $14.6 million in 2014. For 2013, Ecova had purchases of $35.9 million and sales and maturities of $23.0 million. The fluctuation in the balance of funds held for customers resulted in a decrease to cash of $18.9 million for 2014 as compared to an increase to cash of $1.8 million for 2013. We received $15.0 million in cash (net of cash paid) related to the acquisition of AERC during 2014.

Consolidated Financing Activities

Net cash used in financing activities was $224.0 million for 2014 compared to net cash provided of $76.8 million for 2013. During 2014, short-term borrowings on Avista Corp.'s committed line of credit decreased $66.0 million. Net borrowings on Ecova's committed line of credit decreased $46.0 million during the period with $6.0 million in payments throughout the year and $40.0 million related to the close of the Ecova sale. In September 2014, AEL&P issued $75.0 million of first mortgage bonds. In December 2014, Avista Corp. issued $60.0 million of first mortgage bonds and AERC issued a $15.0 million unsecured note representing a term loan. We cash settled interest rate swaps in conjunction with the pricing of the $60.0 million of Avista Corp. first mortgage bonds and received $5.4 million. The majority of the $40.0 million of retirements of long-term debt in 2014 relates to AEL&P paying off its existing debt.

In connection with the closing of the Ecova sale, we made cash payments of $54.2 million to noncontrolling interests and $20.9 million to stock option holders and redeemable noncontrolling interests of Ecova.

Cash dividends paid increased to $78.3 million (or $1.27 per share) for 2014 from $73.3 million (or $1.22 per share) for 2013. Excluding issuances related to the acquisition of AERC, we issued $4.1 million of common stock during 2014. We issued $150.1 million of common stock to AERC shareholders, and this is reflected as a non-cash financing activity. The fluctuation in the balance of customer fund obligations at Ecova increased cash by $16.2 million. During 2014, we repurchased $79.9 million of common stock.

Cash inflows during 2013 were from a $119.0 million increase in short-term borrowings on Avista Corp.’s committed line of credit, the issuance of $90.0 million of long-term debt and the issuance of $4.6 million of common stock. We also cash settled interest rate swap agreements for $2.9 million related to the pricing of the $90.0 million of long-term debt. Cash outflows during 2013 were from the maturity of long-term debt of $50.5 million and a net decrease in borrowings on Ecova's committed line of credit of $8.0 million (borrowings of $3.0 million and repayments of $11.0 million).

Capital Resources

Our consolidated capital structure, including the current portion of long-term debt and short-term borrowings, and excluding noncontrolling interests, consisted of the following as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in thousands):

	December 31, 2015		December 31, 2014	
	Amount	Percent of total	Amount	Percent of total
Current portion of long-term debt and capital leases	$ 93,167	2.9%	$ 6,424	0.2%
Current portion of nonrecourse long-term debt (Spokane Energy)	—	—%	1,431	0.1%
Short-term borrowings	105,000	3.2%	105,000	3.4%
Long-term debt to affiliated trusts	51,547	1.6%	51,547	1.6%
Long-term debt and capital leases	1,480,111	45.4%	1,480,702	47.3%
Total debt	1,729,825	53.1%	1,645,104	52.6%
Total Avista Corporation shareholders’ equity	1,528,626	46.9%	1,483,671	47.4%
Total	$ 3,258,451	100.0%	$ 3,128,775	100.0%

Our shareholders’ equity increased $45.0 million during 2015 primarily due to net income, partially offset by the repurchase of common stock and dividends.

We need to finance capital expenditures and acquire additional funds for operations from time to time.

The cash requirements needed to service our indebtedness, both short-term and long-term, reduce the amount of cash flow available to fund capital expenditures, purchased power, fuel and natural gas costs, dividends and other requirements.

See "Executive Level Summary" for a detailed discussion of the liquidity and capital resource transactions which occurred during 2015 and our anticipated needs for 2016.

Balances outstanding and interest rates of borrowings (excluding letters of credit) under Avista Corp.'s committed line of credit were as follows as of and for the year ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Balance outstanding at end of year	$ 105,000	$ 105,000	$ 171,000
Letters of credit outstanding at end of year	$ 44,595	$ 32,579	$ 27,434
Maximum balance outstanding during the year	$ 180,000	$ 171,000	$ 171,000
Average balance outstanding during the year	$ 95,573	$ 62,088	$ 27,580
Average interest rate during the year	0.98%	1.01%	1.14%
Average interest rate at end of year	1.18%	0.93%	1.02%

Any default on the line of credit or other financing arrangements of Avista Corp. or any of our “significant subsidiaries,” if any, could result in cross-defaults to other agreements of such entity, and/or to the line of credit or other financing arrangements of any other of such entities. Any defaults could also induce vendors and other counterparties to demand collateral. In the event of any such default, it would be difficult for us to obtain financing on reasonable terms to pay creditors or fund operations. We would also likely be prohibited from paying dividends on our common stock. Avista Corp. does not guarantee the indebtedness of any of its subsidiaries. As of December 31, 2015, Avista Corp. and its subsidiaries were in compliance with all of the covenants of their financing agreements, and none of Avista Corp.'s subsidiaries constituted a “significant subsidiary” as defined in Avista Corp.'s committed line of credit.

We are restricted under our Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended, as to the additional preferred stock we can issue. As of December 31, 2015, we could issue $1.3 billion of additional preferred stock at an assumed dividend rate of 6.3 percent. We are not planning to issue preferred stock.

Under the Avista Corp. and the AEL&P Mortgages and Deeds of Trust securing Avista Corp.'s and AEL&P's first mortgage bonds (including Secured Medium-Term Notes), respectively, each entity may issue additional first mortgage bonds in an aggregate principal amount equal to the sum of:

- 66-2/3 percent of the cost or fair value (whichever is lower) of property additions at each entity which have not previously been made the basis of any application under the Mortgages, or
- an equal principal amount of retired first mortgage bonds at each entity which have not previously been made the basis of any application under the Mortgages, or
- deposit of cash.

However, Avista Corp. and AEL&P may not individually issue any additional first mortgage bonds (with certain exceptions in the case of bonds issued on the basis of retired bonds) unless the particular entity issuing the bonds has “net earnings” (as defined in the Mortgages) for any period of 12 consecutive calendar months out of the preceding 18 calendar months that were at least twice the annual interest requirements on all mortgage securities at the time outstanding, including the first mortgage bonds to be issued, and on all indebtedness of prior rank. As of December 31, 2015, property additions and retired bonds would have allowed, and the net earnings test would not have prohibited, the issuance of $1.1 billion in aggregate principal amount of additional first mortgage bonds at Avista Corp. and $5.0 million at AEL&P. We believe that we have adequate capacity to issue first mortgage bonds to meet our financing needs over the next several years.

Capital Expenditures

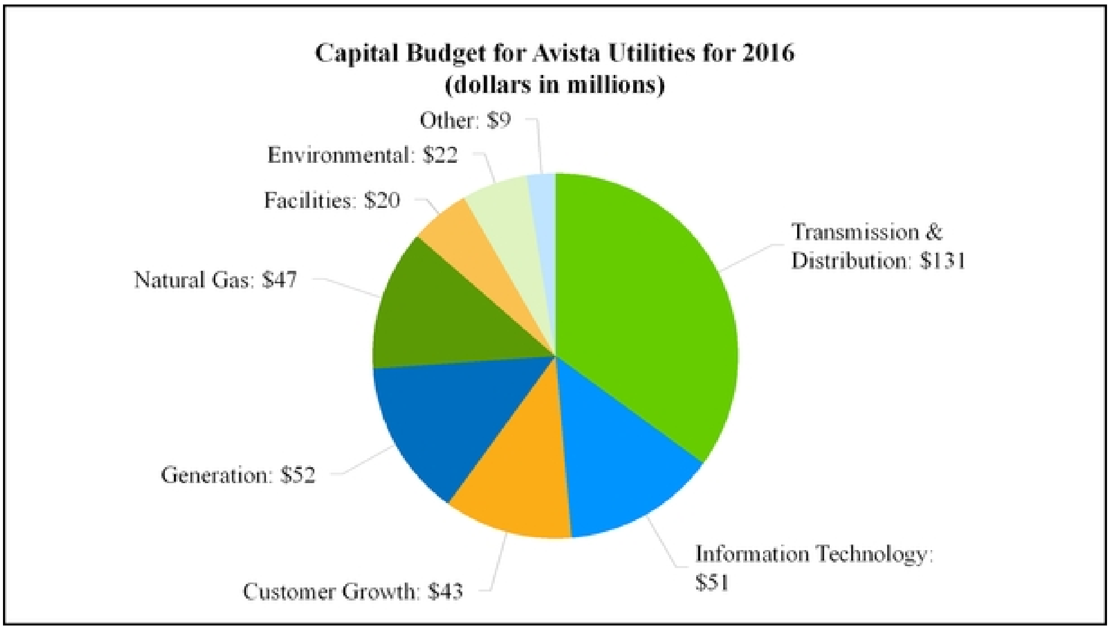
Utility cash-basis capital expenditures were $1,013.3 million for the years 2013 through 2015 including $13.8 million at AEL&P for 2014 and 2015.

The following table summarizes our expected future capital expenditures by year (in thousands):

	Avista Utilities	AEL&P
Expected total annual capital expenditures (by year)		
2016	375,000	17,000
2017	405,000	13,000
2018	405,000	18,000

Most of the capital expenditures at Avista Utilities are for upgrading our existing facilities and technology, and not for construction of new facilities. A significant portion of the capital expenditures at AEL&P are for the construction of an additional back-up generation plant planned to be completed in 2016 and a new hydroelectric generation project in 2017 and 2018.

The following graph shows the Avista Utilities' capital budget for 2016:



These estimates of capital expenditures are subject to continuing review and adjustment. Actual capital expenditures may vary from our estimates due to factors such as changes in business conditions, construction schedules and environmental requirements.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of December 31, 2015, we had $44.6 million in letters of credit outstanding under our $400.0 million committed line of credit, compared to $32.6 million as of December 31, 2014.

Pension Plan

We contributed $12.0 million to the pension plan in 2015. We expect to contribute a total of $60.0 million to the pension plan in the period 2016 through 2020, with an annual contribution of $12.0 million over that period.

The final determination of pension plan contributions for future periods is subject to multiple variables, most of which are beyond our control, including changes to the fair value of pension plan assets, changes in actuarial assumptions (in particular the discount rate used in determining the benefit obligation), or changes in federal legislation. We may change our pension plan contributions in the future depending on changes to any variables, including those listed above.

See "Note 10 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information regarding the pension plan.

Credit Ratings

Our access to capital markets and our cost of capital are directly affected by our credit ratings. In addition, many of our contracts for the purchase and sale of energy commodities contain terms dependent upon our credit ratings. See “Enterprise Risk Management – Demands for Collateral” and “Note 6 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.” The following table summarizes our credit ratings as of February 23, 2016:

	Standard & Poor’s (1)	Moody’s (2)
Corporate/Issuer rating	BBB	Baa1
Senior secured debt	A-	A2
Senior unsecured debt	BBB	Baa1

(1) Standard & Poor’s lowest “investment grade” credit rating is BBB-.
(2) Moody’s lowest “investment grade” credit rating is Baa3.

A security rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities. Each security rating is subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. Each security rating agency has its own methodology for assigning ratings, and, accordingly, each rating should be considered in the context of the applicable methodology, independent of all other ratings. The rating agencies provide ratings at the request of Avista Corp. and charge fees for their services.

Dividends

On February 5, 2016, Avista Corp.'s Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of $0.3425 per share on the Company's common stock. This was an increase of $0.0125 per share, or 3.8 percent from the previous quarterly dividend of $0.3300 per share.

See "Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities" for a detailed discussion of our dividend policy and the factors which could limit the payment of dividends.

Contractual Obligations

The following table provides a summary of our future contractual obligations as of December 31, 2015 (dollars in millions):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Thereafter
Avista Utilities:						
Long-term debt maturities	$ 90	$ —	$ 273	$ 90	$ 52	$ 949
Long-term debt to affiliated trusts	—	—	—	—	—	52
Interest payments on long-term debt (1)	74	73	64	56	52	697
Short-term borrowings	105	—	—	—	—	—
Energy purchase contracts (2)	341	233	215	202	150	1,266
Operating lease obligations (3)	2	1	1	—	—	3
Other obligations (4)	34	31	26	31	32	192
Information technology contracts (5)	2	2	—	—	—	—
Pension plan funding (6)	12	12	12	12	12	—
AERC (consolidated) total contractual commitments (7)	15	15	15	30	15	307
Avista Capital (consolidated) total contractual commitments (8)	2	1	1	1	1	—
Total contractual obligations	$ 677	$ 368	$ 607	$ 422	$ 314	$ 3,466

(1) Represents our estimate of interest payments on long-term debt, which is calculated based on the assumption that all debt is outstanding until maturity. Interest on variable rate debt is calculated using the rate in effect at December 31, 2015.

(2) Energy purchase contracts were entered into as part of the obligation to serve our retail electric and natural gas customers' energy requirements. As a result, costs are generally recovered either through base retail rates or adjustments to retail rates as part of the power and natural gas cost adjustment mechanisms.

(3) Includes the interest component of the lease obligation.

(4) Represents operational agreements, settlements and other contractual obligations for our generation, transmission and distribution facilities. These costs are generally recovered through base retail rates.

(5) Includes information service contracts which are recorded to other operating expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Income. On March 30, 2015, Avista Corp. provided a cancellation notice, effective May 31, 2015, to one of its information technology service providers. New contracts were entered into to replace the cancelled contract. The replacement contracts result in similar amount of expense each year; however, this resulted in a significant decrease in future information technology contractual commitments because the new contracts do not have minimum committed spending in them and are primarily time and materials contracts.

(6) Represents our estimated cash contributions to pension plans and other postretirement benefit plans through 2020. We cannot reasonably estimate pension plan contributions beyond 2020 at this time and have excluded them from the table above.

(7) Primarily relates to long-term debt and capital lease maturities and the related interest. AERC contractual commitments also include contractually required capital project funding and operating and maintenance costs associated with the Snettisham hydroelectric project. These costs are generally recovered through base retail rates.

(8) Primarily relates to operating lease commitments and a commitment to fund a limited liability company in exchange for equity ownership, made by a subsidiary of Avista Capital.

The above contractual obligations do not include income tax payments. Also, asset retirement obligations are not included above and payments associated with these have historically been less than $1 million per year. There are approximately $16.0 million remaining asset retirement obligations as of December 31, 2015.

In addition to the contractual obligations disclosed above, we will incur additional operating costs and capital expenditures in future periods for which we are not contractually obligated as part of our normal business operations.

Competition

Our utility electric and natural gas distribution business has historically been recognized as a natural monopoly. In each regulatory jurisdiction, our rates for retail electric and natural gas services (other than specially negotiated retail rates for industrial or large commercial customers, which are subject to regulatory review and approval) are generally determined on a “cost of service” basis. Rates are designed to provide, after recovery of allowable operating expenses and capital investments, an opportunity for us to earn a reasonable return on investment as allowed by our regulators.

In retail markets, we compete with various rural electric cooperatives and public utility districts in and adjacent to our service territories in the provision of service to new electric customers. Alternative energy technologies, including customer-sited solar, wind or geothermal generation, may also compete with us for sales to existing customers. While the risk is currently small in our service territory given the small numbers of customers utilizing these technologies, advances in power generation, energy efficiency and other alternative energy technologies could lead to more wide-spread usage of these technologies, thereby reducing customer demand for the energy supplied by us. This reduction in usage and demand would reduce our revenue and negatively impact our financial condition including possibly leading to our inability to fully recover our investments in generation, transmission and distribution assets. Similarly, our natural gas distribution operations compete with other energy sources including heating oil, propane and other fuels.

Certain natural gas customers could bypass our natural gas system, reducing both revenues and recovery of fixed costs. To reduce the potential for such bypass, we price natural gas services, including transportation contracts, competitively and have varying degrees of flexibility to price transportation and delivery rates by means of individual contracts. These individual contracts are subject to state regulatory review and approval. We have long-term transportation contracts with several of our largest industrial customers under which the customer acquires its own commodity while using our infrastructure for delivery. Such contracts reduce the risk of these customers bypassing our system in the foreseeable future and minimizes the impact on our earnings.

Also, non-utility businesses are developing new technologies and services to help energy consumers manage energy in new ways that may improve productivity and could alter demand for the energy we sell.

In wholesale markets, competition for available electric supply is influenced by the:

- localized and system-wide demand for energy,
- type, capacity, location and availability of generation resources, and
- variety and circumstances of market participants.

These wholesale markets are regulated by the FERC, which requires electric utilities to:

- transmit power and energy to or for wholesale purchasers and sellers,
- enlarge or construct additional transmission capacity for the purpose of providing these services, and
- transparently price and offer transmission services without favor to any party, including the merchant functions of the utility.

Participants in the wholesale energy markets include:

- other utilities,
- federal power marketing agencies,
- energy marketing and trading companies,
- independent power producers,
- financial institutions, and

- commodity brokers.

Economic Conditions and Utility Load Growth

The general economic data, on both national and local levels, contained in this section is based, in part, on independent government and industry publications, reports by market research firms or other independent sources. While we believe that these publications and other sources are reliable, we have not independently verified such data and can make no representation as to its accuracy.

We track multiple economic indicators affecting three distinct metropolitan statistical areas in our Avista Utilities service area: Spokane, Washington, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Medford, Oregon. Several key indicators are employment change, unemployment rates and foreclosure rates. On a year-over-year basis, December 2015 showed positive job growth, and lower unemployment rates in all three metropolitan areas. However, the unemployment rates in Spokane and Medford are still above the national average. Except for Medford, foreclosure rates are in line with or below the U.S rate in all areas, and key leading indicators, initial unemployment claims and residential building permits, continue to signal modest growth over the next 12 months. Therefore, in 2016, we expect economic growth in our service area to be somewhat stronger than the U.S. as a whole.

Nonfarm employment (non-seasonally adjusted) in our eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and southwestern Oregon metropolitan service areas exhibited moderate growth between December 2014 and December 2015. In Spokane, Washington employment growth was 2.5 percent with gains in all major sectors except leisure and hospitality. Employment increased by 4.4 percent in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, reflecting gains in all major sectors except information and leisure and hospitality. In Medford, Oregon, employment growth was 3.3 percent, with gains in all major sectors except construction. U.S. nonfarm sector jobs grew by 1.9 percent in the same 12-month period.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates went down in December 2015 from the year earlier in Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, and Medford. In Spokane the rate was 7.7 percent in December 2014 and declined to 6.3 percent in December 2015; in Coeur d'Alene the rate went from 5.1 percent to 4.7 percent; and in Medford the rate declined from 8.2 percent to 6.5 percent. The U.S. rate declined from 5.6 percent to 5.0 percent in the same period.

Except for the Medford area, the housing market in our Avista Utilities service area continues to experience foreclosure rates in line with the national average. The December 2015 national rate was 0.08 percent, compared to 0.08 percent in Spokane County, Washington; 0.04 percent in Kootenai County (Coeur d'Alene), Idaho; and 0.1 percent in Jackson County (Medford), Oregon.

Our AEL&P service area is centered in Juneau. Although Juneau is Alaska’s state capital, it is not a metropolitan statistical area. This means breadth and frequency of economic data is more limited. Therefore, the dates of Juneau's economic data may significantly lag the period of this filing.

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages for Juneau shows employment increased 0.5 percent between second quarter 2014 and second quarter 2015. The modest growth in employment was largely due to gains in construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation, and utilities; information; professional and business services; and leisure and hospitality, mostly offset by a contraction in government employment, which is Juneau's largest single sector. Government (including active duty military personnel) accounts for approximately 37 percent of total employment. Employment declines also occurred in natural resources and mining; financial activities; education and health services; and other services. Between December 2014 and December 2015 the non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 5.0 percent to 4.7 percent.

The Juneau foreclosure rate is below the U.S. rate. The December 2015 rate was 0.02 percent compared to 0.08 percent for the U.S.

Based on our forecast for 2016 through 2019 for Avista Utilities' service area, we expect annual electric customer growth to average 1.0 percent, within a forecast range of 0.6 percent to 1.4 percent. We expect annual natural gas customer growth to average 1.1 percent, within a forecast range of 0.6 percent to 1.6 percent. We anticipate retail electric load growth to average 0.7 percent, within a forecast range of 0.4 percent and 1.0 percent. We expect natural gas load growth to average 1.1 percent, within a forecast range of 0.6 percent and 1.6 percent. The forecast ranges reflect (1) the inherent uncertainty associated with the economic assumptions on which forecasts are based and (2) natural gas customer and load growth has been historically volatile.

In AEL&P's service area, we expect annual residential customer growth to be in a narrow range around 0.4 percent for 2016 through 2019. We expect no significant growth in commercial and government customers over the same period. We anticipate that average annual total load growth will be in a narrow range around 0.6 percent, with residential load growth averaging 0.6 percent; commercial 0.8 percent; and government 0 percent (no load growth).

The forward-looking statements set forth above regarding retail load growth are based, in part, upon purchased economic forecasts and publicly available population and demographic studies. The expectations regarding retail load growth are also based upon various assumptions, including:

- assumptions relating to weather and economic and competitive conditions,
- internal analysis of company-specific data, such as energy consumption patterns,
- internal business plans,
- an assumption that we will incur no material loss of retail customers due to self-generation or retail wheeling, and
- an assumption that demand for electricity and natural gas as a fuel for mobility will for now be immaterial.

Changes in actual experience can vary significantly from our projections.

Environmental Issues and Contingencies

We are subject to environmental regulation by federal, state and local authorities. The generation, transmission, distribution, service and storage facilities in which we have ownership interests are designed and operated in compliance with applicable environmental laws. Furthermore, we conduct periodic reviews and audits of pertinent facilities and operations to ensure compliance and to respond to or anticipate emerging environmental issues. The Company's Board of Directors has established a committee to oversee environmental issues.

We monitor legislative and regulatory developments at all levels of government for environmental issues, particularly those with the potential to impact the operation and productivity of our generating plants and other assets.

Environmental laws and regulations may:

- increase the operating costs of generating plants;
- increase the lead time and capital costs for the construction of new generating plants;
- require modification of our existing generating plants;
- require existing generating plant operations to be curtailed or shut down;
- reduce the amount of energy available from our generating plants;
- restrict the types of generating plants that can be built or contracted with; and
- require construction of specific types of generation plants at higher cost.

Compliance with environmental laws and regulations could result in increases to capital expenditures and operating expenses. We intend to seek recovery of any such costs through the ratemaking process.

Clean Air Act

We must comply with the requirements under the Clean Air Act (CAA) in operating our thermal generating plants. The CAA currently requires a Title V operating permit for Colstrip (expires in 2017), Coyote Springs 2 (expires in 2018), the Kettle Falls GS (application has been made for a new permit), and the Rathdrum CT (application has been made for a new permit). Boulder Park GS, Northeast CT, and other activities only require minor source operating or registration permits based on their limited operation and emissions. The Title V operating permits are renewed every five years and updated to include newly applicable CAA requirements. We actively monitor legislative, regulatory and program developments within the CAA that may impact our facilities.

On March 6, 2013, the Sierra Club and Montana Environmental Information Center, filed a Complaint (Complaint) in the United States District Court for the District of Montana, Billings Division, against the owners of Colstrip. The Complaint alleges certain violations of the CAA. See “Sierra Club and Montana Environmental Information Center Complaint Against the Owners of Colstrip” in “Note 19 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for further information on this matter.

Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)

The EPA regulates hazardous air pollutants from a published list of industrial sources referred to as "source categories" which must meet control technology requirements if they emit one or more of the pollutants in significant quantities. In 2012, the EPA finalized the Mercury Air Toxic Standards (MATS) for the coal and oil-fired source category. At the time of issuance in 2012, we examined the existing emission control systems of Colstrip Units 3 & 4, the only units in which we are a minority owner, and concluded that the existing emission control systems should be sufficient to meet mercury limits.

For the remaining portion of the rule that utilized Particulate Matter as a surrogate for air toxics (including metals and acid gases), the Colstrip owners reviewed recent stack testing data and expected that no additional emission control systems would be needed for Units 3 & 4 MATS compliance.

On June 29, 2015, the Supreme Court held that the EPA's interpretation of MATS was unreasonable when it deemed cost irrelevant for MATS regulation. The EPA's interpretation of MATS has been reversed and remanded.

Regional Haze Program

The EPA set a national goal of eliminating man-made visibility degradation in Class I areas by the year 2064. States are expected to take actions to make “reasonable progress” through 10-year plans, including application of Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) requirements. BART is a retrofit program applied to large emission sources, including electric generating units built between 1962 and 1977. In the case where a State opts out of implementing the Regional Haze program, the EPA may act directly. On September 18, 2012, the EPA finalized the Regional Haze federal implementation plan (FIP) for Montana. The FIP includes both emission limitations and pollution controls for Colstrip Units 1 & 2. Colstrip Units 3 & 4, the only units of which we are a minority owner, are not currently affected, but will be evaluated for Reasonable Progress at the next review period in September 2017. We do not anticipate any material impacts on Units 3 & 4 at this time.

Coal Ash Management/Disposal

On April 17, 2015, the EPA published a final rule regarding coal combustion residuals (CCRs), also termed coal combustion byproducts or coal ash in the Federal Register, and this rule became effective on October 15, 2015. Colstrip, of which we are a 15 percent owner of Units 3 and 4, produces this byproduct. The rule establishes technical requirements for CCR landfills and surface impoundments under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the nation's primary law for regulating solid waste. We, in conjunction with the other owners, are developing a multi-year compliance plan to strategically address the new CCR requirements and existing state obligations while maintaining operational stability. During the second quarter of 2015, the operator of Colstrip provided an initial cost estimate of the expected retirement costs associated with complying with the new CCR rule and this estimate was subsequently updated during the fourth quarter of 2015. Based on the initial assessments, Avista Corp. recorded an increase to its asset retirement obligations of $12.5 million with a corresponding increase in the cost basis of the utility plant.

In addition to an increase to our ARO, there are expected to be significant compliance costs at Colstrip in the future, both operating and capital costs, due to a series of incremental infrastructure improvements which are separate from any retirement obligations. Due to the preliminary nature of available data, we cannot reasonably estimate the future compliance costs; however, we will update our ARO and compliance cost estimates when data becomes available.

The actual asset retirement costs and future compliance costs related to the CCR Rule requirements may vary substantially from the estimates used to record the increased obligation due to uncertainty about the compliance strategies that will be used and the preliminary nature of available data used to estimate costs, such as the quantity of coal ash present at certain sites and the volume of fill that will be needed to cap and cover certain impoundments. We will coordinate with the plant operators and continue to gather additional data in future periods to make decisions about compliance strategies and the timing of closure activities. As additional information becomes available, we will update the ARO and future nonretirement compliance costs for these changes in estimates, which could be material. We expect to seek recovery of any increased costs related to complying with the new rule through customer rates.

Climate Change

Concerns about long-term global climate changes could have a significant effect on our business. Our operations could also be affected by changes in laws and regulations intended to mitigate the risk of or alter global climate changes, including restrictions on the operation of our power generation resources and obligations imposed on the sale of natural gas. Changing temperatures and precipitation, including snowpack conditions, affect the availability and timing of streamflows, which impact hydroelectric generation. Extreme weather events could increase service interruptions, outages and maintenance costs. Changing temperatures could also increase or decrease customer demand.

Our Climate Policy Council (an interdisciplinary team of management and other employees):

- facilitates internal and external communications regarding climate change issues,
- analyzes policy effects, anticipates opportunities and evaluates strategies for Avista Corp., and
- develops recommendations on climate related policy positions and action plans.

Climate Change - Federal Regulatory Actions

The EPA released the final rules for the Clean Power Plan (Final CPP) and the Carbon Pollution Standards (Final CPS) on August 3, 2015. The Final CPP and the Final CPS are both intended to reduce the carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from certain coal-fired and natural gas electric generating units (EGUs). These rules were published in the Federal Register on October 23, 2015 and were immediately challenged via lawsuits by other parties.

The Final CPP was promulgated pursuant to Section 111(d) of the CAA and applies to CO2 emissions from existing EGUs. The Final CPP is intended to reduce national CO2 emissions by approximately 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The Final CPS rule was issued pursuant to Section 111(b) of the CAA and applies to the emissions of new, modified and reconstructed EGUs. The two rules are the first rules ever adopted by the U.S. federal government to comprehensively control and reduce CO2 emissions from the power sector. The EPA also issued a proposed Federal Implementation Plan (Proposed FIP) for the Final CPP. The Final FIP that the EPA adopts could be imposed on states by the EPA, should a state decide not to develop its own plan.

The Final CPP establishes individual state emission reduction goals based upon the assumed potential for (1) heat rate improvements at coal-fired units, (2) increased utilization of natural gas-fired combined cycle plants, and (3) increased utilization of low or zero carbon emitting generation resources. As expressed in the final rule, states have until September 2016 to submit state compliance plans, with a potential for two-year extensions. Avista Corp. owns two EGUs that are subject to the Final CPP: its portion (15 percent of Units 3 & 4) of Colstrip in Montana and Coyote Springs 2 in Oregon. States may adopt rate-based or mass-based plans, and may choose to focus compliance on specific EGUs or adopt broader measures to reduce carbon emissions from this sector. The states in which Avista Utilities generates or delivers electricity, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon, are all evaluating options for developing state plans, which will define compliance approaches and obligations. Alaska was exempted in the Final CPP. The EPA may consider rulemaking for Alaska and Hawaii, both states which lack regional grid connections, in the future.

In a separate but related rulemaking, the EPA finalized CO2 new source performance standards (NSPS) for new, modified and reconstructed fossil fuel-fired EGUs under CAA section 111(b). These EGUs fall into the same two categories of sources regulated by the Final CPP: steam generating units (also known as “utility boilers and IGCC units”), which primarily burn coal, and stationary combustion turbines, which primarily burn natural gas.

GHG emission standards could result in significant compliance costs. Such standards could also preclude us from developing, operating or contracting with certain types of generating plants. Additionally, the Climate Action Plan requirements related to preparing the U.S. for the impacts of climate change could affect us and others in the industry as transmission system modifications to improve resiliency may be needed in order to meet those requirements. The promulgated and proposed GHG rulemakings mentioned above have been legally challenged in multiple venues. On February 9, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court granted a request for stay, halting implementation of the CPP. Given this development and the ongoing legal challenges, we cannot fully predict the outcome or estimate the extent to which our facilities may be impacted by these regulations at this time. We intend to seek recovery of any costs related to compliance with these requirements through the ratemaking process.

Climate Change - State Legislation and State Regulatory Activities

The states of Washington and Oregon have adopted non-binding targets to reduce GHG emissions. Both states enacted their targets with an expectation of reaching the targets through a combination of renewable energy standards, and assorted “complementary policies,” but no specific reductions are mandated.

Washington and Oregon apply a GHG emissions performance standard (EPS) to electric generation facilities used to serve retail loads in their jurisdictions. The EPS prevents utilities from constructing or purchasing generation facilities, or entering into power purchase agreements of five years or longer duration, to purchase energy produced by plants that have emission levels higher than 1,100 pounds of GHG per MWh. The Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) initiated a process to adopt a lower emissions performance standard in 2012, any new standard will be applicable until at least 2017. Commerce published a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on January 16, 2013 with a new EPS of 970 pounds of GHG per MWh. We will engage in the next process to revise the EPS, which should occur in 2017.

The Energy Independence Act (EIA) in Washington requires electric utilities with over 25,000 customers to acquire qualified renewable energy resources and/or renewable energy credits equal to 15 percent of the utility's total retail load in 2020. I-937 also requires these utilities to meet biennial energy conservation targets beginning in 2012. The renewable energy standard increases from three percent in 2012 to nine percent in 2016. Failure to comply with renewable energy and efficiency standards could result in penalties of $50 per MWh or greater assessed against a utility for each MWh it is deficient in meeting a standard. We have met, and will continue to meet, the requirements of EIA through a variety of renewable energy generating means, including, but not limited to, some combination of hydro upgrades, wind and biomass. In 2012, EIA was amended in such a way that our Kettle Falls GS and certain other biomass energy facilities, which commenced operation before March 31, 1999, are considered resources that may be used to meet the renewable energy standards beginning in 2016.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has commenced rulemaking, using its existing authorities, to cap and reduce carbon emissions across the State of Washington in pursuit of the State’s carbon goals, which were enacted in 2008 by the Washington State Legislature (Legislature). The rule applies to sources of annual greenhouse emissions in excess of 100,000 tons for the first compliance period of 2017 through 2019; this threshold incrementally decreases to 70,000 metric tons beginning in 2035. The rule affects stationary sources and transportation fuel suppliers, as well as natural gas distribution companies. Ecology has identified approximately 30 entities responsible for 60 percent of the state’s emission sources that would be regulated under the proposed rule. The proposed rule would only apply to Avista Corp. as a natural gas distribution company, for the emissions associated with the use of the gas we provide our customers. The Governor of Washington ordered Ecology to finalize the rule by June 2016.

An Initiative to the Legislature (I-732), which would impose a carbon tax on fossil-fueled generation and natural gas distribution, as well as on transportation fuels, has qualified for submittal to the Legislature. The Legislature may enact the measure into law, pass an alternative, in which case the original initiative and the alternative will be referred to the voters in November, or allow the measure to go onto the ballot in its original form. In addition, a coalition of environmental and labor groups in Washington announced its intent to file an initiative at the start of 2016 that would apply cap and trade regulation to sources of greenhouse gas emissions, with proceeds from the State's sale of compliance instruments (allowances) dedicated to clean-energy investments and other government programs. If filed and if it gains sufficient signatures, this initiative would go on the general ballot in 2016. While we cannot predict the eventual outcome of actions arising out of initiatives, proposed legislation and regulatory actions at this time nor estimate the effect thereof, we will continue to seek recovery, through the ratemaking process, of all operating and capitalized costs related to our utility operations.

On February 6, 2014, the UTC issued a letter finding that Puget Sound Energy’s (PSE’s) 2013 Electric Integrated Resource Plan meets the requirements of the Revised Code of Washington and the Washington Administrative Code. In its letter, however, the UTC expressed concern regarding the continued operation of the Colstrip plant as a resource to serve retail customers. Although the UTC recognized that the results of the analyses presented by PSE “differed significantly between [Colstrip] Units 1 and 2 and Units 3 and 4,” the UTC did not limit its concerns solely to Colstrip Units 1 and 2. The UTC recommended that PSE “consult with UTC staff to consider a Colstrip Proceeding to determine the prudency of any new investment in Colstrip before it is made or, in the alternative, a closure or partial-closure plan.” As a 15 percent owner of Colstrip Units 3 and 4, we cannot estimate the effect of such proceeding, should it occur, on the future ownership and operation of our share of Colstrip Units 3 and 4. Our remaining investment in Colstrip Units 3 and 4 as of December 31, 2015 was $118.8 million.

In Oregon, legislation has been introduced which would require Portland General Electric and Pacificorp to remove coal-fired generation from their rate-base by 2030. Because these two utilities, along with Avista Utilities, hold minority interests in Colstrip, the legislation could indirectly impact Avista Utilities, though specific impacts cannot be identified at this time. While the legislation requires the two utilities to eliminate Colstrip from their rates, they would be permitted to sell the output of their shares of Colstrip into the wholesale market or, as is the case with Pacificorp, reallocate the plant to other states. We cannot predict the eventual outcome of actions arising from this legislation at this time or estimate the effect thereof; however, we will continue to seek recovery, through the ratemaking process, of all operating and capitalized costs related to our generation assets.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Wildlife

A number of species of fish in the Northwest are listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Efforts to protect these and other species have not significantly impacted generation levels at any of our hydroelectric facilities. We are implementing fish protection measures at our hydroelectric project on the Clark Fork River under a 45-year FERC operating license for Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids (issued March 2001) that incorporates a comprehensive settlement agreement. The restoration of native salmonid fish, including bull trout, is a key part of the agreement. The result is a collaborative native salmonid restoration program with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Native American tribes and the states of Idaho and Montana on the lower Clark Fork River, consistent with requirements of the FERC license. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service issued an updated Critical Habitat Designation for bull trout in 2010 that includes the lower Clark Fork River, as well as portions of the Coeur d'Alene basin within our Spokane River Project area, and issued a final Bull Trout Recovery Plan under the ESA. Issues related to these activities are expected to be resolved through the ongoing collaborative effort of our

Clark Fork and Spokane River FERC licenses. See “Fish Passage at Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids” in “Note 19 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for further information.

Various statutory authorities, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, have established penalties for the unauthorized take of migratory birds. Because we operate facilities that can pose risks to a variety of such birds, we have developed and follow an avian protection plan.

Other

For other environmental issues and other contingencies see “Note 19 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.”

Enterprise Risk Management

The material risks to our businesses are discussed in "Item 1A. Risk Factors," "Forward-Looking Statements," as well as "Environmental Issues and Contingencies." The following discussion focuses on our mitigation processes and procedures to address these risks.

We consider the management of these risks an integral part of managing our core businesses and a key element of our approach to corporate governance.

Risk management includes identifying and measuring various forms of risk that may affect the Company. We have an enterprise risk management process for managing risks throughout our organization. Our Board of Directors and its Committees take an active role in the oversight of risk affecting the Company. Our risk management department facilitates the collection of risk information across the Company, providing senior management with a consolidated view of the Company’s major risks and risk mitigation measures. Each area identifies risks and implements the related mitigation measures. The enterprise risk process supports management in identifying, assessing, quantifying, managing and mitigating the risks. Despite all risk mitigation measures, however, risks are not eliminated.

Our primary identified categories of risk exposure are:

• Financial	• Compliance
• Utility regulatory	• Technology
• Energy commodity	• Strategic
• Operational	• External Mandates

Financial Risk

Financial risk is any risk that could have a direct material impact on the financial performance or financial viability of the Company. Broadly, financial risks involve variation of earnings and liquidity. Underlying risks include, but are not limited to, those described in "Item 1A. Risk Factors."

We mitigate financial risk in a variety of ways including through oversight from the Finance Committee of our Board of Directors and from senior management. Our Regulatory department is also critical in risk mitigation as they have regular communications with state commission regulators and staff and they monitor and develop rate strategies for the Company. Rate strategies, such as decoupling, help mitigate the impacts of revenue fluctuations due to weather, conservation or the economy. We also have a Treasury department that monitors our daily cash position and future cash flow needs, as well as monitoring market conditions to determine the appropriate course of action for capital financing and/or hedging strategies.

Weather Risk

To partially mitigate the risk of financial underperformance due to weather-related factors, we developed decoupling rate mechanisms that were approved by the Washington and Idaho commissions. Decoupling mechanisms are designed to break the link between a utility's revenues and consumers' energy usage and instead provide revenue based on the number of customers, thus mitigating a large portion of the risk associated with lower customer loads. See "Regulatory Matters" for further discussion of our decoupling mechanisms.

Access to Capital Markets

Our capital requirements rely to a significant degree on regular access to capital markets. We actively engage with rating agencies, banks, investors and state public utility commissions to understand and address the factors that support access to capital markets on reasonable terms. We manage our capital structure to maintain a financial risk profile that these parties will deem prudent. We forecast cash requirements to determine liquidity needs, including sources and variability of cash flows that may arise from our spending plans or from external forces, such as changes in energy prices or interest rates. Our financial and operating forecasts consider various metrics that affect credit ratings. Our regulatory strategies include working with state public utility commissions and filing for rate changes as appropriate to meet financial performance expectations.

Interest Rate Risk

Uncertainty about future interest rates causes risk related to a portion of our existing debt, our future borrowing requirements, and our pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations. We manage debt interest rate exposure by limiting our variable rate debt to a percentage of total capitalization of the Company. We hedge a portion of our interest rate risk on forecasted debt issuances with financial derivative instruments, which may include interest rate swaps and U.S. Treasury lock agreements. The Finance Committee of our Board of Directors periodically reviews and discusses interest rate risk management processes and the steps management has undertaken to control interest rate risk. Our Risk Management Committee, which is comprised of certain officers and other management personnel, also reviews our interest rate risk management plan. Additionally, interest rate risk is managed by monitoring market conditions when timing the issuance of long-term debt and optional debt redemptions and establishing fixed rate long-term debt with varying maturities.

Our interest rate swap agreements are considered economic hedges against fluctuations in future cash flows associated with anticipated debt issuances. Interest rates on our long-term debt are generally set based on underlying U.S. Treasury rates plus credit spreads, which are based on our credit ratings and prevailing market prices for debt. The swap agreements hedge against changes in the U.S. Treasury rates but do not hedge the credit spread.

Even though we work to manage our exposure to interest rate risk by locking in certain long-term interest rates through interest rate swap agreements, if market interest rates decrease below the interest rates we have locked in, this will result in a liability related to our interest rate swap agreements, which can be significant. However, through our regulatory accounting practices similar to our energy commodity derivatives, any interim mark-to-market gains or losses are offset by regulatory assets and liabilities. Upon settlement of interest rate swaps, the regulatory asset or liability (included as part of long-term debt) is amortized as a component of interest expense over the term of the associated debt.

The following table summarizes our interest rate swap agreements outstanding as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 (dollars in thousands):

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Number of agreements	23	22
Notional amount	$ 455,000	$ 420,000
Mandatory cash settlement dates	2016 to 2022	2015 to 2018
Short-term derivative assets (1)	$ —	$ 460
Long-term derivative assets (1)	23	—
Short-term derivative liability (1)	(19,264)	(7,325)
Long-term derivative liability (1) (2)	(30,679)	(40,857)

(1) There are offsetting regulatory assets and liabilities for these items on the Consolidated Balance Sheets in accordance with regulatory accounting practices.
(2) The balance as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 reflects the offsetting of $34.0 million and $28.9 million, respectively of cash collateral against the net derivative positions where a legal right of offset exists.

In anticipation of issuing long-term debt in future years, we entered into three interest rate swap agreements in January 2016, hedging an aggregate notional amount of $30.0 million with mandatory cash settlement dates in 2018 and 2022.

The following table shows our outstanding interest rate swaps as of February 23, 2016 (dollars in thousands):

As of Date	Number of Contracts	Notional Amount	Mandatory Cash Settlement Date
February 23, 2016	6	115,000	2016
	4	55,000	2017
	13	265,000	2018
	3	40,000	2019
	4	50,000	2022

We estimate that a 10-basis-point increase in forward LIBOR interest rates as of December 31, 2015 would decrease the interest rate swap derivative net liability by $9.8 million, while a 10-basis-point decrease would increase the interest rate swap net liability by $10.1 million.

We estimated that a 10-basis-point increase in forward LIBOR interest rates as of December 31, 2014 would have decreased the interest rate swap derivative net liability by $9.0 million, while a 10-basis-point decrease would increase the interest rate swap net liability by $9.3 million.

The interest rate on $51.5 million of long-term debt to affiliated trusts is adjusted quarterly, reflecting current market rates. Amounts borrowed under our committed line of credit agreements have variable interest rates.

Historically, during years where we have long-term debt that is maturing, we have to issue long-term debt to replace the maturing debt. To hedge our interest rate risk associated with these expected long-term debt issuances, we enter into interest rate swap agreements (discussed above). The following table shows our long-term debt (including current portion) and related weighted average interest rates, by expected maturity dates as of December 31, 2015 (dollars in thousands):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Thereafter	Total	Fair Value
Fixed rate long-term debt (1)	$ 90,000	$ —	$ 272,500	$ 105,000	$ 52,000	$ 1,023,500	$ 1,543,000	$ 1,650,815
Weighted average interest rate	0.84%	—	6.07%	5.22%	3.89%	5.15%	5.02%	
Variable rate long-term debt to affiliated trusts	—	—	—	—	—	$ 51,547	$ 51,547	$ 36,083
Weighted average interest rate	—	—	—	—	—	1.29%	1.29%	

(1) These balances include the fixed rate long-term debt of Avista Corp., AEL&P and AERC.

Our pension plan is exposed to interest rate risk because the value of pension obligations and other post-retirement obligations vary directly with changes in the discount rates, which are derived from end-of-year market interest rates. In addition, the value of pension investments and potential income on pension investments is partially affected by interest rates because a significant portion of pension investments are in fixed income securities. The Finance Committee of the Board of Directors approves investment policies, objectives and strategies that seek an appropriate return for the pension plan and it reviews and approves changes to the investment and funding policies. We manage interest rate risk associated with our pension and other post-retirement benefit plans by investing a targeted amount of pension plan assets in fixed income investments that have maturities with similar profiles to future projected benefit obligations. We have implemented a liability-driven investment process for the pension plan with the objective of enhancing the match between changes in pension investments and changes in pension obligations and reducing volatility of annual pension expense arising from changes in interest rates.

Credit Risk

Counterparty non-performance risk relates to potential losses that we would incur as a result of non-performance of contractual obligations by counterparties to deliver energy or make financial settlements.

Changes in market prices may dramatically alter the size of credit risk with counterparties, even when we establish conservative credit limits. Should a counterparty fail to perform, we may be required to honor the underlying commitment or to replace existing contracts with contracts at then-current market prices.

We enter into bilateral transactions with various counterparties. We also trade energy and related derivative instruments through clearinghouse exchanges.

We seek to mitigate credit risk by:

- transacting through clearinghouse exchanges,
- entering into bilateral contracts that specify credit terms and protections against default,
- applying credit limits and duration criteria to existing and prospective counterparties,
- actively monitoring current credit exposures,

- asserting our collateral rights with counterparties, and
- carrying out transaction settlements timely and effectively.

The extent of transactions conducted through exchanges has increased as many market participants have shown a preference toward exchange trading and have reduced bilateral transactions. We actively monitor the collateral required by such exchanges to effectively manage our capital requirements.

To address the impact on our operations of energy market price volatility, our hedging practices for electricity (including fuel for generation) and natural gas extend beyond the current operating year. Executing this extended hedging program may increase credit risk and demands for collateral. Our credit risk management process is designed to mitigate such credit risks through limit setting, contract protections and counterparty diversification, among other practices.

Credit risk affects demands on our capital. We are subject to limits and credit terms that counterparties may assert to allow us to enter into transactions with them and maintain acceptable credit exposures. Many of our counterparties allow unsecured credit at limits prescribed by agreements or their discretion. Capital requirements for certain transaction types involve a combination of initial margin and market value margins without any unsecured credit threshold. Counterparties may seek assurances of performance from us in the form of letters of credit, prepayment or cash deposits.

Credit exposure can change significantly in periods of commodity price and interest rate volatility. As a result, sudden and significant demands may be made against our credit facilities and cash. We actively monitor the exposure to possible collateral calls and take steps to minimize capital requirements.

Counterparties' credit exposure to us is dynamic in normal markets and may change significantly in more volatile markets. The amount of potential default risk to us from each counterparty depends on the extent of forward contracts, unsettled transactions, interest rates and market prices. There is a risk that we do not obtain sufficient additional collateral from counterparties that are unable or unwilling to provide it.

As of December 31, 2015, we had cash deposited as collateral of $28.7 million and letters of credit of $28.2 million outstanding related to our energy derivative contracts. Price movements and/or a downgrade in our credit ratings could impact further the amount of collateral required. See "Credit Ratings" for further information. For example, in addition to limiting our ability to conduct transactions, if our credit ratings were lowered to below "investment grade" based on our positions outstanding at December 31, 2015, we would potentially be required to post additional collateral of up to $9.0 million. This amount is different from the amount disclosed in "Note 6 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" because, while this analysis includes contracts that are not considered derivatives in addition to the contracts considered in Note 6, this analysis also takes into account contractual threshold limits that are not considered in Note 6. Without contractual threshold limits, we would potentially be required to post additional collateral of $18.4 million.

Under the terms of interest rate swap agreements that we enter into periodically, we may be required to post cash or letters of credit as collateral depending on fluctuations in the fair value of the instrument. As of December 31, 2015, we had interest rate swap agreements outstanding with a notional amount totaling $455.0 million and we had deposited cash in the amount of $34.0 million and letters of credit of $9.6 million as collateral for these interest rate swap derivative contracts. If our credit ratings were lowered to below "investment grade" based on our interest rate swap agreements outstanding at December 31, 2015, we would have to post $18.8 million of additional collateral.

Foreign Currency Risk

A significant portion of our utility natural gas supply (including fuel for electric generation) is obtained from Canadian sources. Most of those transactions are executed in U.S. dollars, which avoids foreign currency risk. A portion of our short-term natural gas transactions and long-term Canadian transportation contracts are committed based on Canadian currency prices. The short-term natural gas transactions are typically settled within sixty days with U.S. dollars. We economically hedge a portion of the foreign currency risk by purchasing Canadian currency exchange contracts when such commodity transactions are initiated. This risk has not had a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows and these differences in cost related to currency fluctuations are included with natural gas supply costs for ratemaking.

Further information for derivatives and fair values is disclosed at "Note 6 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" and "Note 16 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements."

Utility Regulatory Risk

Because we are primarily a regulated utility, we face the risk that regulators may not grant rates that provide timely or sufficient recovery of our costs or allow a reasonable rate of return for our shareholders. This includes costs associated with our investment in rate base, as well as commodity costs and other operating and financing expenses.

We mitigate regulatory risk through oversight from our Board of Directors and from senior management. We have a separate regulatory group which communicates with commission regulators and staff regarding the Company's business plans and concerns. The regulatory group also considers the regulator's priorities and rate policies and makes recommendations to senior management on regulatory strategy for the Company. See "Regulatory Matters" for further discussion of regulatory matters affecting our Company.

Energy Commodity Risk

Energy commodity risks are associated with fulfilling our obligation to serve customers, managing variability of energy facilities, rights and obligations and fulfilling the terms of our energy commodity agreements with counterparties. These risks include, among other things, those described in "Item 1A. Risk Factors."

We mitigate energy commodity risk primarily through our energy resources risk policy, which includes oversight from the Risk Management Committee, which is comprised of certain officers and other management and oversight from the Audit Committee and the Environmental, Technology and Operations Committee of our Board of Directors. In conjunction with the oversight committees, our management team develops hedging strategies, detailed resource procurement plans, resource optimization strategies and long-term integrated resource planning to mitigate some of the risk associated with energy commodities. The various plans and strategies are monitored daily and developed with quantitative methods.

Our energy resources risk policy, which includes our wholesale energy markets credit policy and control procedures to manage energy commodity price and credit risks. Nonetheless, adverse changes in commodity prices, generating capacity, customer loads, regulation and other factors may result in losses of earnings, cash flows and/or fair values.

We measure the volume of monthly, quarterly and annual energy imbalances between projected power loads and resources. The measurement process is based on expected loads at fixed prices (including those subject to retail rates) and expected resources to the extent that costs are essentially fixed by virtue of known fuel supply costs or projected hydroelectric conditions. To the extent that expected costs are not fixed, either because of volume mismatches between loads and resources or because fuel cost is not locked in through fixed price contracts or derivative instruments, our risk policy guides the process to manage this open forward position over a period of time. Normal operations result in seasonal mismatches between power loads and available resources. We are able to vary the operation of generating resources to match parts of intra-hour, hourly, daily and weekly load fluctuations. We use the wholesale power markets, including the natural gas market as it relates to power generation fuel, to sell projected resource surpluses and obtain resources when deficits are projected. We buy and sell fuel for thermal generation facilities based on comparative power market prices and marginal costs of fueling and operating available generating facilities and the relative economics of substitute market purchases for generating plant operation.

To address the impact on our operations of energy market price volatility, our hedging practices for electricity (including fuel for generation) and natural gas extend beyond the current operating year. Executing this extended hedging program may increase our credit risks. Our credit risk management process is designed to mitigate such credit risks through limit setting, contract protections and counterparty diversification, among other practices.

Our projected retail natural gas loads and resources are regularly reviewed by operating management and the Risk Management Committee. To manage the impacts of volatile natural gas prices, we seek to procure natural gas through a diversified mix of spot market purchases and forward fixed price purchases from various supply basins and time periods. We have an active hedging program that extends several years into the future with the goal of reducing price volatility in our natural gas supply costs. We use natural gas storage capacity to support high demand periods and to procure natural gas when prices are likely to be seasonally lower. Securing prices throughout the year and even into subsequent years mitigates potential adverse impacts of significant purchase requirements in a volatile price environment.

The following table presents energy commodity derivative fair values as a net asset or (liability) as of December 31, 2015 that are expected to settle in each respective year (dollars in thousands):

	Purchases				Sales			
	Electric Derivatives		Gas Derivatives		Electric Derivatives		Gas Derivatives	
Year	Physical (1)	Financial (1)	Physical (1)	Financial (1)	Physical (1)	Financial (1)	Physical (1)	Financial (1)
2016	$ (6,928)	$ (14,988)	$ (5,895)	$ (41,006)	$ 82	$ 28,857	$ 173	$ 22,445
2017	(6,403)	36	(1,050)	(9,473)	(23)	3,971	(1,125)	313
2018	(5,614)	—	—	(3,554)	(50)	—	(1,172)	(162)
2019	(3,072)	—	(22)	(1,964)	(44)	—	(1,220)	—
2020	—	—	35	(18)	—	—	(1,130)	—
Thereafter	—	—	—	—	—	—	(679)	—

The following table presents energy commodity derivative fair values as a net asset or (liability) as of December 31, 2014 that are expected to settle in each respective year (dollars in thousands):

	Purchases				Sales			
	Electric Derivatives		Gas Derivatives		Electric Derivatives		Gas Derivatives	
Year	Physical (1)	Financial (1)	Physical (1)	Financial (1)	Physical (1)	Financial (1)	Physical (1)	Financial (1)
2015	$ (6,053)	$ (27,664)	$ (10,607)	$ (50,852)	$ 17	$ 32,629	$ 1,228	$ 31,661
2016	(5,978)	(5,124)	(2,970)	(19,381)	(80)	13,126	(853)	10,170
2017	(4,657)	—	(355)	(2,428)	(117)	1,151	—	119
2018	(4,173)	—	—	(389)	(120)	—	—	—
2019	(2,191)	—	—	(147)	(85)	—	—	—
Thereafter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(1) Physical transactions represent commodity transactions where we will take delivery of either electricity or natural gas and financial transactions represent derivative instruments with no physical delivery, such as futures, swaps, options, or forward contracts.

The above electric and natural gas derivative contracts will be included in either power supply costs or natural gas supply costs during the period they are delivered and will be included in the various recovery mechanisms (ERM, PCA, and PGAs), or in the general rate case process, and are expected to eventually be collected through retail rates from customers.

See "Item 1. Business – Electric Operations," "Item 1. Business – Natural Gas Operations," and "Item 1A. Risk Factors" for additional discussion of the risks associated with Energy Commodities.

Operational Risk

Operational risk involves potential disruption, losses, or excess costs arising from external events or inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems. Our operations are subject to operational and event risks that include, but are not limited to, those described in "Item 1A. Risk Factors."

To manage operational and event risks, we maintain emergency operating plans, business continuity and disaster recovery plans, maintain insurance coverage against some, but not all, potential losses and seek to negotiate indemnification arrangements with contractors for certain event risks. In addition, we design and follow detailed vegetation management and asset management inspection plans, which help mitigate wildfire and storm event risks, as well as identify utility assets which may be failing and in need of repair or replacement. We also have an Emergency Operating Center, which is a team of employees that plan for and train to deal with potential emergencies or unplanned outages at our facilities, resulting from natural disasters or other events. To prevent unauthorized access to our facilities, we have both physical and cyber security in place.

To address the risk related to fuel cost, availability and delivery restraints, we have an energy resources risk policy, which includes our wholesale energy markets credit policy and control procedures to manage energy commodity price and credit risks. Development of the energy resources risk policy includes planning for sufficient capacity to meet our customer and wholesale energy delivery obligations. See further discussion of the energy resources risk policy above.

Oversight of the operational risk management process is performed by the Environmental, Technology and Operations Committee of our Board of Directors and from senior management with input from each operating department.

Compliance Risk

Compliance risk is the potential consequences of legal or regulatory sanctions or penalties arising from the failure of the Company to comply with requirements of applicable laws, rules and regulations. We have extensive compliance obligations. Our primary compliance risks and obligations include, among others, those described in "Item 1A. Risk Factors."

We mitigate compliance risk through oversight from the Environmental, Technology and Operations Committee and the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors and from senior management. We also have separate Regulatory and Environmental Compliance departments that monitor legislation, regulatory orders and actions to determine the overall potential impact to our Company and develop strategies for complying with the various rules and regulations. We also engage outside attorneys, and consultants, when necessary, to help ensure compliance with laws and regulations.

See "Item 1. Business, Regulatory Issues" through "Item 1. Business, Reliability Standards" and “Environmental Issues and Contingencies” for further discussion of compliance issues that impact our Company.

Technology Risk

Our primary technology risks are described in "Item 1A. Risk Factors."

We mitigate technology risk through trainings and exercises at all levels of the Company. The Environmental, Technology and Operations Committee of our Board of Directors along with senior management are regularly briefed on security policy, programs and incidents. Annual cyber and physical training and testing of employees are included in our enterprise security program as is business continuity testing and a data breach response exercises.

Technology governance is led by senior management, which includes new technology strategy, risk planning and major project planning and approval. The technology project management office and enterprise capital planning group provide project cost, timeline and schedule oversight. In addition, there are independent third party audits of our critical infrastructure security program and our business risk security controls.

We have a Technology department dedicated to securing, maintaining, evaluating and developing our information technology systems. There is regular training of the technology and security team. This group also evaluates the Company's technology for obsolescence and makes recommendations for upgrading or replacing systems as necessary. This group also monitors for intrusion and security events that may include a data breach.

Strategic Risk

Strategic risk relates to the potential impacts resulting from incorrect assumptions about external and internal factors, inappropriate business plans, ineffective business strategy execution, or the failure to respond in a timely manner to changes in the regulatory, macroeconomic or competitive environments. Our primary strategic risks include, among others, those described in "Item 1A. Risk Factors."

We mitigate strategic risk through detailed oversight from the Board of Directors and from senior management. We also have a Chief Strategy Officer that heads a Strategic Initiatives department, to search for and evaluate opportunities for the Company and makes recommendations to senior management. The Strategic Initiatives department not only focuses on whether opportunities are financially viable, but also considers whether these opportunities fall within our core policies and our core business strategies. We mitigate our reputational risk primarily through a focus on adherence to our core policies, including our Code of Conduct, maintaining an appropriate Company culture and tone at the top, and through communication and engagement of our external stakeholders.

External Mandates Risk

External mandate risk involves forces outside the Company, which may include significant changes in customer expectations, disruptive technologies that result in obsolescence of our business model and government action that could impact the Company. See "Environmental Issues and Contingencies" and "Forward-Looking Statements" for a discussion of or reference to our external mandates risks.

We mitigate external mandate risk through detailed oversight from the Environmental, Technology and Operations Committee of our Board of Directors and from senior management. We have a Climate Council which meets internally to assess the potential impacts of climate policy to our business and to identify strategies to plan for change. We also have employees dedicated to actively engage and monitor federal, state and local government positions and legislative actions that may affect us or our customers.

To prevent the threat of municipalization, we work to build strong relationships with the communities we serve through, among other things:

- communication and involvement with local business leaders and community organizations,
- providing customers with a multitude of limited income initiatives, including energy fairs, senior outreach and low income workshops, mobile outreach strategy and a Low Income Rate Assistance Plan,
- tailoring our internal company initiatives to focus on choices for our customers, to increase their overall satisfaction with the Company, and
- engaging in the legislative process in a manner that fosters the interests of our customers and the communities we serve.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

The information required by this item is set forth in the Enterprise Risk Management section of "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

The Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm and Financial Statements begin on the next page.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Avista Corporation
Spokane, Washington

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Avista Corporation and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, equity and redeemable noncontrolling interests, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Avista Corporation and subsidiaries at December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, and our report, dated February 23, 2016 expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Seattle, Washington
February 23, 2016

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

Avista Corporation

For the Years Ended December 31
Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts

	2015	2014	2013
Operating Revenues:			
Utility revenues	$ 1,456,091	$ 1,433,343	$ 1,402,195
Non-utility revenues	28,685	39,219	39,549
Total operating revenues	1,484,776	1,472,562	1,441,744
Operating Expenses:			
Utility operating expenses:			
Resource costs	656,964	678,244	689,586
Other operating expenses	303,221	286,832	276,228
Depreciation and amortization	143,499	129,570	117,174
Taxes other than income taxes	97,657	94,300	88,435
Non-utility operating expenses:			
Other operating expenses	29,526	30,418	38,651
Depreciation and amortization	695	610	581
Total operating expenses	1,231,562	1,219,974	1,210,655
Income from operations	253,214	252,588	231,089
Interest expense	79,968	75,302	77,118
Interest expense to affiliated trusts	473	450	467
Capitalized interest	(3,546)	(3,924)	(3,676)
Other income-net	(9,300)	(11,346)	(5,167)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	185,619	192,106	162,347
Income tax expense	67,449	72,240	58,014
Net income from continuing operations	118,170	119,866	104,333
Net income from discontinued operations (Note 5)	5,147	72,411	7,961
Net income	123,317	192,277	112,294
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(90)	(236)	(1,217)
Net income attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	$ 123,227	$ 192,041	$ 111,077

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (continued)

Avista Corporation

For the Years Ended December 31
Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts

	2015	2014	2013
Amounts attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders:			
Net income from continuing operations	$ 118,080	$ 119,817	$ 104,273
Net income from discontinued operations	5,147	72,224	6,804
Net income attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	$ 123,227	$ 192,041	$ 111,077
Weighted-average common shares outstanding (thousands), basic	62,301	61,632	59,960
Weighted-average common shares outstanding (thousands), diluted	62,708	61,887	59,997
Earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, basic:			
Earnings per common share from continuing operations	$ 1.90	$ 1.94	$ 1.74
Earnings per common share from discontinued operations	0.08	1.18	0.11
Total earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, basic	$ 1.98	$ 3.12	$ 1.85
Earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted:			
Earnings per common share from continuing operations	$ 1.89	$ 1.93	$ 1.74
Earnings per common share from discontinued operations	0.08	1.17	0.11
Total earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted	$ 1.97	$ 3.10	$ 1.85

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Avista Corporation

For the Years Ended December 31
Dollars in thousands

	2015	2014	2013
Net income	$ 123,317	$ 192,277	$ 112,294
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss):			
Unrealized investment gains/(losses) - net of taxes of $0, $664 and $(1,026), respectively	—	1,126	(1,741)
Reclassification adjustment for realized gains on investment securities included in net income - net of taxes of $0, $(1) and $(7), respectively	—	(2)	(12)
Reclassification adjustment for realized losses on investment securities included in net income from discontinued operations - net of taxes of $0, $273 and $0, respectively	—	462	—
Change in unfunded benefit obligation for pension and other postretirement benefit plans - net of taxes of $667, $(1,967) and $1,418, respectively	1,238	(3,655)	2,634
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	1,238	(2,069)	881
Comprehensive income	124,555	190,208	113,175
Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(90)	(236)	(1,217)
Comprehensive income attributable to Avista Corporation shareholders	$ 124,465	$ 189,972	$ 111,958

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Statements.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

Avista Corporation

As of December 31

Dollars in thousands

	2015	2014
Assets:		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 10,484	$ 22,143
Accounts and notes receivable-less allowances of $4,530 and $4,888, respectively	169,413	171,925
Utility energy commodity derivative assets	683	1,525
Regulatory asset for utility derivatives	17,260	29,640
Materials and supplies, fuel stock and stored natural gas	54,148	66,356
Deferred income taxes	—	14,794
Income taxes receivable	24,121	43,893
Other current assets	29,937	45,071
Total current assets	306,046	395,347
Net Utility Property:		
Utility plant in service	5,129,192	4,718,062
Construction work in progress	202,683	227,758
Total	5,331,875	4,945,820
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	1,433,286	1,325,858
Total net utility property	3,898,589	3,619,962
Other Non-current Assets:		
Investment in exchange power-net	8,983	11,433
Investment in affiliated trusts	11,547	11,547
Goodwill	57,672	57,976
Long-term energy contract receivable	14,694	28,202
Other property and investments-net	50,750	42,016
Total other non-current assets	143,646	151,174
Deferred Charges:		
Regulatory assets for deferred income tax	101,240	100,412
Regulatory assets for pensions and other postretirement benefits	235,009	235,758
Other regulatory assets	99,798	91,920
Regulatory asset for unsettled interest rate swaps	83,973	77,063
Non-current regulatory asset for utility derivatives	32,420	24,483
Other deferred charges	5,928	4,852
Total deferred charges	558,368	534,488
Total assets	$ 4,906,649	$ 4,700,971

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Statements.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (continued)

Avista Corporation

As of December 31
Dollars in thousands

	2015	2014
Liabilities and Equity:		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 114,349	$ 112,974
Current portion of long-term debt and capital leases	93,167	6,424
Current portion of nonrecourse long-term debt of Spokane Energy	—	1,431
Short-term borrowings	105,000	105,000
Utility energy commodity derivative liabilities	14,268	18,045
Other current liabilities	147,896	141,395
Total current liabilities	474,680	385,269
Long-term debt and capital leases	1,480,111	1,480,702
Long-term debt to affiliated trusts	51,547	51,547
Regulatory liability for utility plant retirement costs	261,594	254,140
Pensions and other postretirement benefits	201,453	189,489
Deferred income taxes	747,477	710,342
Other non-current liabilities and deferred credits	161,500	146,240
Total liabilities	3,378,362	3,217,729
Commitments and Contingencies (See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements)		
Equity:		
Avista Corporation Shareholders' Equity:		
Common stock, no par value; 200,000,000 shares authorized; 62,312,651 and 62,243,374 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively	1,004,336	999,960
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(6,650)	(7,888)
Retained earnings	530,940	491,599
Total Avista Corporation shareholders' equity	1,528,626	1,483,671
Noncontrolling Interests	(339)	(429)
Total equity	1,528,287	1,483,242
Total liabilities and equity	$ 4,906,649	$ 4,700,971

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Avista Corporation

For the Years Ended December 31
Dollars in thousands

	2015	2014	2013
Operating Activities:			
Net income	$ 123,317	$ 192,277	$ 112,294
Non-cash items included in net income:			
Depreciation and amortization	147,835	138,337	133,189
Provision for deferred income taxes	51,801	144,269	23,532
Power and natural gas cost amortizations (deferrals), net	21,358	(14,821)	(9,408)
Amortization of debt expense	3,526	3,692	3,813
Amortization of investment in exchange power	2,450	2,450	2,450
Stock-based compensation expense	6,914	8,114	6,218
Equity-related AFUDC	(8,331)	(8,808)	(6,066)
Pension and other postretirement benefit expense	37,050	22,943	42,067
Amortization of Spokane Energy contract	13,508	12,417	11,414
Write-off of wind generation capitalized costs	—	—	2,534
Gain on sale of Ecova	(777)	(160,612)	—
Other	(6,881)	9,009	12,982
Contributions to defined benefit pension plan	(12,000)	(32,000)	(44,263)
Changes in certain current assets and liabilities:			
Accounts and notes receivable	(10,538)	16,425	(32,675)
Materials and supplies, fuel stock and stored natural gas	12,208	(19,394)	2,509
Increase in collateral posted for derivative instruments	(13,301)	(23,301)	(16,073)
Income taxes receivable	19,772	(36,110)	(5,006)
Other current assets	2,338	(7,117)	2,608
Accounts payable	(8,138)	(12,562)	(8,389)
Other current liabilities	(6,471)	32,060	8,827
Net cash provided by operating activities	375,640	267,268	242,557
Investing Activities:			
Utility property capital expenditures (excluding equity-related AFUDC)	(393,425)	(325,516)	(294,363)
Other capital expenditures	(885)	(6,427)	(8,750)
Federal and state grant payments received	2,730	2,530	3,409
Cash received (paid) in acquisition, net	(95)	15,007	—
Decrease (increase) in funds held for clients	—	(18,931)	1,815
Purchase of securities available for sale	—	(12,267)	(35,949)
Sale and maturity of securities available for sale	—	14,612	22,960
Proceeds from sale of Ecova, net of cash sold	13,856	229,903	—
Other	(10,008)	(2,647)	(1,339)
Net cash used in investing activities	$ (387,827)	$ (103,736)	$ (312,217)

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (continued)

Avista Corporation

For the Years Ended December 31
Dollars in thousands

	2015	2014	2013
Financing Activities:			
Net increase (decrease) in short-term borrowings	$ —	$ (66,000)	$ 119,000
Borrowings from Ecova line of credit	—	—	3,000
Repayment of borrowings from Ecova line of credit	—	(46,000)	(11,000)
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	100,000	150,000	90,000
Redemption and maturity of long-term debt and capital leases	(2,905)	(39,971)	(50,462)
Maturity of nonrecourse long-term debt of Spokane Energy	(1,431)	(16,407)	(14,965)
Cash received (paid) for settlement of interest rate swap agreements	(9,326)	5,429	2,901
Issuance of common stock, net of issuance costs	1,560	4,060	4,609
Repurchase of common stock	(2,920)	(79,856)	—
Cash dividends paid	(82,397)	(78,314)	(73,276)
Increase in client fund obligations	—	16,216	11,278
Payment to noncontrolling interests for sale of Ecova	—	(54,179)	—
Payment to option holders and redeemable noncontrolling interests for sale of Ecova	—	(20,871)	—
Other	(2,053)	1,930	(4,315)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	528	(223,963)	76,770
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(11,659)	(60,431)	7,110
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	22,143	82,574	75,464
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	$ 10,484	$ 22,143	$ 82,574
Supplemental Cash Flow Information:			
Cash paid (received) during the year:			
Interest	$ 79,673	$ 73,526	$ 75,411
Income taxes (net of total refunds of $37,200, $35,573 and $123, respectively)	(9,961)	45,416	44,772
Non-cash financing and investing activities:			
Accounts payable for capital expenditures	35,248	26,959	12,723
Valuation adjustment for redeemable noncontrolling interests	—	(15,873)	10,704
Receivable for escrow amounts associated with the sale of Ecova	—	13,079	—
Non-cash stock issuance for acquisition of AERC	—	150,119	—

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY AND REDEEMABLE NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS

Avista Corporation

For the Years Ended December 31
Dollars in thousands

	2015	2014	2013
Common Stock, Shares:			
Shares outstanding at beginning of year	62,243,374	60,076,752	59,812,796
Shares issued through equity compensation plans	125,620	51,127	58,002
Shares issued through Employee Investment Plan (401-K)	33,057	33,168	42,073
Shares issued through Dividend Reinvestment Plan	—	110,501	163,881
Shares issued for acquisition	—	4,501,441	—
Shares repurchased	(89,400)	(2,529,615)	—
Shares outstanding at end of year	62,312,651	62,243,374	60,076,752
Common Stock, Amount:			
Balance at beginning of year	$ 999,960	$ 896,993	$ 889,237
Equity compensation expense	6,035	7,676	6,002
Issuance of common stock through equity compensation plans	462	108	(1,342)
Issuance of common stock through Employee Investment Plan (401-K)	1,099	1,005	1,127
Issuance of common stock through Dividend Reinvestment Plan	—	3,441	4,360
Issuance of common stock for acquisition, net of issuance costs	—	149,625	—
Payment of minimum tax withholdings for share-based payment awards	(1,832)	—	—
Repurchase of common stock	(1,431)	(40,486)	—
Equity transactions of consolidated subsidiaries	—	(1,062)	(3,007)
Payment to option holders and redeemable noncontrolling interests for sale of Ecova	—	(20,871)	—
Excess tax benefits	43	3,531	616
Balance at end of year	1,004,336	999,960	896,993
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss:			
Balance at beginning of year	(7,888)	(5,819)	(6,700)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	1,238	(2,069)	881
Balance at end of year	(6,650)	(7,888)	(5,819)
Retained Earnings:			
Balance at beginning of year	491,599	407,092	376,940
Net income attributable to Avista Corporation shareholders	123,227	192,041	111,077
Cash dividends paid (common stock)	(82,397)	(78,314)	(73,276)
Repurchase of common stock	(1,489)	(39,370)	—
Valuation adjustments and other noncontrolling interests activity	—	10,150	(7,649)
Balance at end of year	530,940	491,599	407,092
Total Avista Corporation shareholders' equity	$ 1,528,626	$ 1,483,671	$ 1,298,266

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY AND REDEEMABLE NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS (continued)

Avista Corporation

For the Years Ended December 31
Dollars in thousands

	2015	2014	2013
Noncontrolling Interests:			
Balance at beginning of year	$ (429)	$ 20,001	$ 17,658
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	90	240	1,066
Issuance of subsidiary noncontrolling interests	—	—	480
Purchase of subsidiary noncontrolling interests	—	—	(4,182)
Deconsolidation of noncontrolling interests related to sale of Ecova	—	(23,612)	—
Other	—	2,942	4,979
Balance at end of year	(339)	(429)	20,001
Total equity	$ 1,528,287	$ 1,483,242	$ 1,318,267
Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests:			
Balance at beginning of year	$ —	$ 15,889	$ 4,938
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	—	(4)	151
Purchase of subsidiary noncontrolling interests	—	(12)	(405)
Valuation adjustments and other noncontrolling interests activity	—	(15,873)	11,205
Balance at end of year	$ —	$ —	$ 15,889

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Statements.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Business

Avista Corp. is primarily an electric and natural gas utility with certain other business ventures. Avista Utilities is an operating division of Avista Corp., comprising the regulated utility operations in the Pacific Northwest. Avista Utilities provides electric distribution and transmission, and natural gas distribution services in parts of eastern Washington and northern Idaho. Avista Utilities also provides natural gas distribution service in parts of northeastern and southwestern Oregon. Avista Utilities has electric generating facilities in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana. Avista Utilities also supplies electricity to a small number of customers in Montana, most of whom are employees who operate Avista Utilities' Noxon Rapids generating facility.

On July 1, 2014, Avista Corp. acquired AERC, and as of that date, AERC became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avista Corp. The primary subsidiary of AERC is AEL&P, comprising regulated electric utility operations in Juneau, Alaska. There are no AERC earnings included in the overall results of Avista Corp. prior to July 1, 2014. See Note 4 for information regarding the acquisition of AERC.

Avista Capital, a wholly owned subsidiary of Avista Corp., is the parent company of all of the subsidiary companies in the non-utility businesses. During the first half of 2014 and prior, Avista Capital’s subsidiaries included Ecova, which was an 80.2 percent owned subsidiary prior to its disposition on June 30, 2014. Ecova was a provider of energy efficiency and other facility information and cost management programs and services for multi-site customers and utilities throughout North America. See Note 5 for information regarding the disposition of Ecova and Note 21 for business segment information.

Basis of Reporting

The consolidated financial statements include the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the Company and its subsidiaries and other majority owned subsidiaries and variable interest entities for which the Company or its subsidiaries are the primary beneficiaries. Ecova's revenues and expenses are included in the Consolidated Statements of Income in discontinued operations; however, as of June 30, 2014 and for all subsequent reporting periods there are no balance sheet amounts included for Ecova. All tables throughout the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements that present Consolidated Statements of Income information were revised to include only the amounts from continuing operations. Intercompany balances were eliminated in consolidation. The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the Company’s proportionate share of utility plant and related operations resulting from its interests in jointly owned plants (see Note 7).

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant estimates include:

- determining the market value of energy commodity derivative assets and liabilities,
- pension and other postretirement benefit plan obligations,
- contingent liabilities,
- goodwill impairment testing,
- recoverability of regulatory assets, and
- unbilled revenues.

Changes in these estimates and assumptions are considered reasonably possible and may have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements and thus actual results could differ from the amounts reported and disclosed herein.

System of Accounts

The accounting records of the Company’s utility operations are maintained in accordance with the uniform system of accounts prescribed by the FERC and adopted by the state regulatory commissions in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Alaska.

Regulation

The Company is subject to state regulation in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Alaska. The Company is also subject to federal regulation primarily by the FERC, as well as various other federal agencies with regulatory oversight of particular aspects of its operations.

Utility Revenues

Utility revenues related to the sale of energy are recorded when service is rendered or energy is delivered to customers. Revenues and resource costs from Avista Utilities’ settled energy contracts that are “booked out” (not physically delivered) are reported on a net basis as part of utility revenues. AEL&P does not have booked out transactions. The determination of the energy sales to individual customers is based on the reading of their meters, which occurs on a systematic basis throughout the month. At the end of each calendar month, the amount of energy delivered to customers since the date of the last meter reading is estimated and the corresponding unbilled revenue is estimated and recorded. Our estimate of unbilled revenue is based on:

- the number of customers,
- current rates,
- meter reading dates,
- actual native load for electricity,
- actual throughput for natural gas, and
- electric line losses and natural gas system losses.

Any difference between actual and estimated revenue is automatically corrected in the following month when the actual meter reading and customer billing occurs.

Accounts receivable includes unbilled energy revenues of the following amounts as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Unbilled accounts receivable	$ 62,003	$ 80,718

Other Non-Utility Revenues

Revenues from the other businesses are primarily derived from the operations of AM&D, doing business as METALfx, and are recognized when the risk of loss transfers to the customer, which occurs when products are shipped. In addition, prior to Spokane Energy's dissolution in 2015, there were revenues at Spokane Energy related to a long-term fixed rate electric capacity contract. This contract was transferred to Avista Corp. during the second quarter of 2015 and the revenues from this contract are now included in utility revenues.

Depreciation

For utility operations, depreciation expense is estimated by a method of depreciation accounting utilizing composite rates for utility plant. Such rates are designed to provide for retirements of properties at the expiration of their service lives. For utility operations, the ratio of depreciation provisions to average depreciable property was as follows for the years ended December 31:

	2015	2014	2013
Avista Utilities			
Ratio of depreciation to average depreciable property	3.09%	2.97%	2.90%
Alaska Electric Light and Power Company			
Ratio of depreciation to average depreciable property	2.42%	2.43%	N/A

The average service lives for the following broad categories of utility plant in service are (in years):

	Avista Utilities	Alaska Electric Light and Power Company
Electric thermal/other production	40	36
Hydroelectric production	79	45
Electric transmission	57	39
Electric distribution	36	38
Natural gas distribution property	45	N/A

Taxes Other Than Income Taxes

Taxes other than income taxes include state excise taxes, city occupational and franchise taxes, real and personal property taxes and certain other taxes not based on net income. These taxes are generally based on revenues or the value of property. Utility related taxes collected from customers (primarily state excise taxes and city utility taxes) are recorded as operating revenue and expense and totaled the following amounts for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Utility taxes	$ 59,173	$ 58,250	$ 55,565

Allowance for Funds Used During Construction

The AFUDC represents the cost of both the debt and equity funds used to finance utility plant additions during the construction period. As prescribed by regulatory authorities, AFUDC is capitalized as a part of the cost of utility plant and the debt component is credited against total interest expense in the Consolidated Statements of Income in the line item “capitalized interest.” The equity component of AFUDC is included in the Consolidated Statement of Income in the line item “other income-net.” The Company is permitted, under established regulatory rate practices, to recover the capitalized AFUDC, and a reasonable return thereon, through its inclusion in rate base and the provision for depreciation after the related utility plant is placed in service. Cash inflow related to AFUDC does not occur until the related utility plant is placed in service and included in rate base. The effective AFUDC rate was the following for the years ended December 31:

	2015	2014	2013
Avista Utilities			
Effective AFUDC rate	7.32%	7.64%	7.64%
Alaska Electric Light and Power Company			
Effective AFUDC rate	9.31%	10.37%	N/A

Income Taxes

A deferred income tax asset or liability is determined based on the enacted tax rates that will be in effect when the differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and tax basis of existing assets and liabilities are expected to be reported in the Company’s consolidated income tax returns. The deferred income tax expense for the period is equal to the net change in the deferred income tax asset and liability accounts from the beginning to the end of the period. The effect on deferred income taxes from a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. Deferred income tax liabilities and regulatory assets are established for income tax benefits flowed through to customers. The Company recognizes the effect of state tax credits, which are generated from utility plant, as they are utilized. The Company did not incur any penalties on income tax positions in 2015, 2014 or 2013. The Company would recognize interest accrued related to income tax positions as interest expense and any penalties incurred as other operating expense.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company currently issues three types of stock-based compensation awards - restricted shares, market-based awards and performance-based awards. Historically, these stock compensation awards have not been material to the Company's overall financial results. Compensation cost relating to share-based payment transactions is recognized in the Company’s financial statements based on the fair value of the equity or liability instruments issued and recorded over the requisite service period.

The Company recorded stock-based compensation expense (included in other operating expenses) and income tax benefits in the Consolidated Statements of Income of the following amounts for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Stock-based compensation expense	$ 6,914	$ 6,007	$ 5,037
Income tax benefits	2,420	2,102	1,763

Restricted share awards vest in equal thirds each year over a three-year period and are payable in Avista Corp. common stock at the end of each year if the service condition is met. In addition to the service condition, the Company must meet a return on equity target in order for the CEO's restricted shares to vest. Restricted stock is valued at the close of market of the Company's common stock on the grant date.

Total Shareholder Return (TSR) awards are market-based awards and Cumulative Earnings Per Share (CEPS) awards are performance awards. CEPS awards were first granted in 2014. Both types of awards vest after a period of three years and are payable in cash or Avista Corp. common stock at the end of the three-year period. The method of settlement is at the discretion of the Company and historically the Company has settled these awards through issuance of Avista Corp. common stock and intends to continue this practice. Both types of awards entitle the recipients to dividend equivalent rights, are subject to forfeiture under certain circumstances, and are subject to meeting specific market or performance conditions. Based on the level of attainment of the market or performance conditions, the amount of cash paid or common stock issued will range from 0 to 200 percent of the initial awards granted. Dividend equivalent rights are accumulated and paid out only on shares that eventually vest and have met the market and performance conditions.

For both the TSR awards and the CEPS awards, the Company accounts for them as equity awards and compensation cost for these awards is recognized over the requisite service period, provided that the requisite service period is rendered. For TSR awards, if the market-condition is not met at the end of the three-year service period, there will be no change in the cumulative amount of compensation cost recognized, since the awards are still considered vested even though the market metric was not met. For CEPS awards, at the end of the three-year service period, if the internal performance metric of cumulative earnings per share is not met, all compensation cost for these awards is reversed as these awards are not considered vested.

The fair value of each TSR award is estimated on the date of grant using a statistical model that incorporates the probability of meeting the market targets based on historical returns relative to a peer group. The estimated fair value of the equity component of CEPS awards was estimated on the date of grant as the share price of Avista Corp. common stock on the date of grant, less the net present value of the estimated dividends over the three-year period.

The following table summarizes the number of grants, vested and unvested shares, earned shares (based on market metrics), and other pertinent information related to the Company's stock compensation awards for the years ended December 31:

	2015	2014	2013
Restricted Shares			
Shares granted during the year	58,302	62,075	44,556
Shares vested during the year	(60,379)	(52,899)	(55,456)
Unvested shares at end of year	106,091	112,042	104,416
Unrecognized compensation expense at end of year (in thousands)	$ 1,705	$ 1,349	$ 1,199
TSR Awards			
TSR shares granted during the year	116,435	117,550	175,000
TSR shares vested during the year	(171,334)	(167,584)	(176,718)
TSR shares earned based on market metrics	222,734	97,199	—
Unvested TSR shares at end of year	223,697	287,834	344,684
Unrecognized compensation expense (in thousands)	$ 3,219	$ 2,833	$ 3,651
CEPS Awards			
CEPS shares granted during the year	58,259	59,025	—
Unvested CEPS shares at end of year	111,887	58,017	—
Unrecognized compensation expense (in thousands)	$ 1,840	$ 1,577	$ —

Outstanding TSR and CEPS share awards include a dividend component that is paid in cash. This component of the share grants is accounted for as a liability award. These liability awards are revalued on a quarterly basis taking into account the number of awards outstanding, historical dividend rate, the change in the value of the Company's common stock relative to an external benchmark (TSR awards only) and the amount of CEPS earned to-date compared to estimated CEPS over the performance period (CEPS awards only). Over the life of these awards, the cumulative amount of compensation expense recognized will match the actual cash paid. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company had recognized cumulative compensation expense and a liability of $1.5 million and $1.3 million, respectively, related to the dividend component on the outstanding and unvested share grants.

Other Income - Net

Other Income - net consisted of the following items for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Interest income	$ 653	$ 987	$ 754
Interest on regulatory deferrals	48	220	126
Equity-related AFUDC	8,331	8,808	6,066
Net gain (loss) on investments	(637)	276	(3,378)
Other income	905	1,055	1,599
Total	$ 9,300	$ 11,346	$ 5,167

Earnings per Common Share Attributable to Avista Corporation Shareholders

Basic earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders is computed by dividing net income attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders is calculated by dividing net income attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders (adjusted for the effect of potentially dilutive securities issued to noncontrolling interests by the Company's subsidiaries) by diluted weighted average common shares outstanding during the period, including common stock equivalent shares outstanding using the treasury stock method, unless such shares are anti-dilutive. Common stock equivalent shares include shares issuable upon exercise of stock options and contingent stock awards. See Note 18 for earnings per common share calculations.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, the Company considers all temporary investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Company maintains an allowance for doubtful accounts to provide for estimated and potential losses on accounts receivable. The Company determines the allowance for utility and other customer accounts receivable based on historical write-offs as compared to accounts receivable and operating revenues. Additionally, the Company establishes specific allowances for certain individual accounts. The following table presents the activity in the allowance for doubtful accounts during the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Allowance as of the beginning of the year	$ 4,888	$ 44,309	$ 44,155
Additions expensed during the year	5,802	5,296	5,099
Net deductions (1)	(6,160)	(44,717)	(4,945)
Allowance as of the end of the year	$ 4,530	$ 4,888	$ 44,309

(1) During the second quarter of 2014, the Company received $15.0 million in gross proceeds related to the settlement of its California wholesale power markets litigation. The gross proceeds effectively settled all outstanding receivables and payables at Avista Energy (which had been fully reserved against since 2001). As a result of the settlement, the Company reversed $15.0 million of the allowance, which was recorded as a reduction to non-utility other operating expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Income, and the remainder of the receivables, payables and allowance of $24.5 million were removed from the Consolidated Balance Sheets (and had no effect on net income).

Materials and Supplies, Fuel Stock and Stored Natural Gas

Inventories of materials and supplies, fuel stock and stored natural gas are recorded at average cost for our regulated operations and the lower of cost or market for our non-regulated operations and consisted of the following as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Materials and supplies	$ 37,101	$ 32,483
Fuel stock	4,273	5,142
Stored natural gas	12,774	28,731
Total	$ 54,148	$ 66,356

Utility Plant in Service

The cost of additions to utility plant in service, including an allowance for funds used during construction and replacements of units of property and improvements, is capitalized. The cost of depreciable units of property retired plus the cost of removal less salvage is charged to accumulated depreciation.

Asset Retirement Obligations

The Company records the fair value of a liability for an asset retirement obligation (ARO) in the period in which it is incurred. When the liability is initially recorded, the associated costs of the ARO are capitalized as part of the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. The liability is accreted to its present value each period and the related capitalized costs are depreciated over the useful life of the related asset. In addition, if there are changes in the estimated timing or estimated costs of the AROs, adjustments are recorded during the period new information becomes available as an increase or decrease to the liability, with the offset recorded to the related long-lived asset. Upon retirement of the asset, the Company either settles the ARO for its recorded amount or incurs a gain or loss. The Company records regulatory assets and liabilities for the difference between asset retirement costs currently recovered in rates and AROs recorded since asset retirement costs are recovered through rates charged to customers (see Note 9 for further discussion of the Company's asset retirement obligations).

The Company recovers certain asset retirement costs through rates charged to customers as a portion of its depreciation expense for which the Company has not recorded asset retirement obligations. The Company has recorded the amount of estimated retirement costs collected from customers (that do not represent legal or contractual obligations) and included them as a regulatory liability on the Consolidated Balance Sheets in the following amounts as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Regulatory liability for utility plant retirement costs	$ 261,594	$ 254,140

Goodwill

Goodwill arising from acquisitions represents the excess of the purchase price over the estimated fair value of net assets acquired. The Company evaluates goodwill for impairment using a combination of discounted cash flow models and a market approach on at least an annual basis or more frequently if impairment indicators arise. The Company completed its annual evaluation of goodwill for potential impairment as of November 30, 2015 and determined that goodwill was not impaired at that time.

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill are as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Ecova	AEL&P	Other	Accumulated Impairment Losses	Total
Balance as of January 1, 2014	$ 71,011	$ —	$ 12,979	$ (7,733)	$ 76,257
Adjustments	112	—	—	—	112
Goodwill sold during the year	(71,123)	—	—	—	(71,123)
Goodwill acquired during the year	—	52,730	—	—	52,730
Balance as of the December 31, 2014	—	52,730	12,979	(7,733)	57,976
Adjustments	—	(304)	—	—	(304)
Balance as of the December 31, 2015	$ —	$ 52,426	$ 12,979	$ (7,733)	$ 57,672

Accumulated impairment losses are attributable to the other businesses. The goodwill sold during 2014 relates to the Ecova disposition, which occurred on June 30, 2014. See Note 5 for information regarding this sales transaction. The goodwill acquired during 2014 relates to the acquisition of AERC and the goodwill associated with this acquisition is not deductible for tax purposes. See Note 4 for information regarding this business acquisition and Note 21 regarding the Company's reportable segments.

Derivative Assets and Liabilities

Derivatives are recorded as either assets or liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets measured at estimated fair value. In certain defined conditions, a derivative may be specifically designated as a hedge for a particular exposure. The accounting for a derivative depends on the intended use of such derivative and the resulting designation.

The UTC and the IPUC issued accounting orders authorizing Avista Utilities to offset energy commodity derivative assets or liabilities with a regulatory asset or liability. This accounting treatment is intended to defer the recognition of mark-to-market gains and losses on energy commodity transactions until the period of delivery. The orders provide for Avista Utilities to not recognize the unrealized gain or loss on utility derivative commodity instruments in the Consolidated Statements of Income. Realized gains or losses are recognized in the periods of delivery, subject to approval for recovery through retail rates. Realized gains and losses, subject to regulatory approval, result in adjustments to retail rates through purchased gas cost adjustments, the ERM in Washington, the PCA mechanism in Idaho, and periodic general rates cases. Regulatory assets are assessed regularly and are probable for recovery through future rates.

Substantially all forward contracts to purchase or sell power and natural gas are recorded as derivative assets or liabilities at estimated fair value with an offsetting regulatory asset or liability. Contracts that are not considered derivatives are accounted for on the accrual basis until they are settled or realized, unless there is a decline in the fair value of the contract that is determined to be other-than-temporary.

For interest rate swap agreements, each period Avista Utilities records all mark-to-market gains and losses as assets and liabilities and records offsetting regulatory assets and liabilities, such that there is no income statement impact. Upon settlement of interest rate swaps, the regulatory asset or liability (included as part of long-term debt) is amortized as a component of interest expense over the term of the associated debt. While the Company has not received any formal accounting orders from the various state commissions allowing for the offset of interest rate swap assets and liabilities with regulatory assets and liabilities, the Company has deemed this accounting treatment appropriate and future recovery probable due to the regulatory precedents set in prior general rate cases and the fact that the state commissions view interest rate swap derivatives as risk management tools similar to energy commodity derivatives.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company has multiple master netting agreements with a variety of entities that allow for cross-commodity netting of derivative agreements with the same counterparty (i.e. power derivatives can be netted with natural gas derivatives) under ASC 815-10-45. The Company does not have any agreements which allow for cross-affiliate netting among multiple affiliated legal entities. The Company nets all derivative instruments when allowed by the agreement for presentation in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Fair Value Measurements

Fair value represents the price that would be received when selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Energy commodity derivative assets and liabilities, deferred compensation assets, as well as derivatives related to interest rate swap agreements and foreign currency exchange contracts, are reported at estimated fair value on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. See Note 16 for the Company’s fair value disclosures.

Regulatory Deferred Charges and Credits

The Company prepares its consolidated financial statements in accordance with regulatory accounting practices because:

- rates for regulated services are established by or subject to approval by independent third-party regulators,
- the regulated rates are designed to recover the cost of providing the regulated services, and
- in view of demand for the regulated services and the level of competition, it is reasonable to assume that rates can be charged to and collected from customers at levels that will recover costs.

Regulatory accounting practices require that certain costs and/or obligations (such as incurred power and natural gas costs not currently included in rates, but expected to be recovered or refunded in the future), are reflected as deferred charges or credits on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. These costs and/or obligations are not reflected in the Consolidated Statements of Income until the period during which matching revenues are recognized. The Company also has decoupling revenue deferrals. As opposed to cost deferrals which are not recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income until they are included in rates, decoupling revenue is recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income during the period it occurs (i.e. during the period of revenue shortfall or excess due to fluctuations in customer usage), subject to certain limitations, and a regulatory asset/liability is established which will be surcharged or rebated to customers in future periods. GAAP requires that for any alternative regulatory revenue program, like decoupling, the revenue must be collected from customers within 24 months of the deferral to qualify for recognition in the current period Consolidated Statement of Income. Any amounts included in the Company's decoupling program that won't be collected from customers within 24 months are not recorded in the financial statements until the period in which revenue recognition criteria are met. This could ultimately result in more decoupling revenue being collected from customers over the life of the decoupling program than what is deferred and recognized in the current period financial statements.

If at some point in the future the Company determines that it no longer meets the criteria for continued application of regulatory accounting practices for all or a portion of its regulated operations, the Company could be:

- required to write off its regulatory assets, and
- precluded from the future deferral of costs or decoupled revenues not recovered through rates at the time such amounts are incurred, even if the Company expected to recover these amounts from customers in the future.

See Note 20 for further details of regulatory assets and liabilities.

Investment in Exchange Power-Net

The investment in exchange power represents the Company’s previous investment in Washington Public Power Supply System Project 3 (WNP-3), a nuclear project that was terminated prior to completion. Under a settlement agreement with the Bonneville Power Administration in 1985, Avista Utilities began receiving power in 1987, for a 32.5-year period, related to its investment in WNP-3. Through a settlement agreement with the UTC in the Washington jurisdiction, Avista Utilities is amortizing the recoverable portion of its investment in WNP-3 (recorded as investment in exchange power) over a 32.5-year period that began in 1987. For the Idaho jurisdiction, Avista Utilities fully amortized the recoverable portion of its investment in exchange power.

Unamortized Debt Expense

Unamortized debt expense includes debt issuance costs that are amortized over the life of the related debt. See further discussion related to the Consolidated Balance Sheet classification of these costs below under reclassifications.

Unamortized Debt Repurchase Costs

For the Company’s Washington regulatory jurisdiction and for any debt repurchases beginning in 2007 in all jurisdictions, premiums paid to repurchase debt are amortized over the remaining life of the original debt that was repurchased or, if new debt is issued in connection with the repurchase, these costs are amortized over the life of the new debt. In the Company’s other regulatory jurisdictions, premiums paid to repurchase debt prior to 2007 are being amortized over the average remaining maturity of outstanding debt when no new debt was issued in connection with the debt repurchase. These costs are recovered through retail rates as a component of interest expense.

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax, consisted of the following as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Unfunded benefit obligation for pensions and other postretirement benefit plans - net of taxes of $3,580 and $4,247, respectively	$ 6,650	$ 7,888

The following table details the reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive loss by component for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

Details about Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss Components	Amounts Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss 2015	2014	Affected Line Item in Statement of Income
Realized gains on investment securities	$ —	$ 3	(a)
Realized losses on investment securities	—	(735)	(a)
	—	(732)	Total before tax
	—	272	Tax benefit (a)
	$ —	$ (460)	Net of tax
Amortization of defined benefit pension items			
Amortization of net prior service cost	$ (31)	$ 1,094	(b)
Amortization of net loss	(2,623)	83,301	(b)
Adjustment due to effects of regulation	749	(78,773)	(b)
	(1,905)	5,622	Total before tax
	667	(1,967)	Tax expense (benefit)
	$ (1,238)	$ 3,655	Net of tax

(a) These amounts were included as part of net income from discontinued operations for all periods presented (see Note 5 for additional details).

(b) These accumulated other comprehensive loss components are included in the computation of net periodic pension cost (see Note 10 for additional details).

Appropriated Retained Earnings

In accordance with the hydroelectric licensing requirements of section 10(d) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), the Company maintains an appropriated retained earnings account for any earnings in excess of the specified rate of return on the Company's investment in the licenses for its various hydroelectric projects. Per section 10(d) of the FPA, the Company must maintain these excess earnings in an appropriated retained earnings account until the termination of the licensing agreements or apply them to reduce the net investment in the licenses of the hydroelectric projects at the discretion of the FERC. The Company typically calculates the earnings in excess of the specified rate of return on an annual basis, usually during the second quarter.

In addition to the hydroelectric project licenses identified above for Avista Utilities, the requirements of section 10(d) of the FPA also apply to the AEL&P licenses for Lake Dorothy and Annex Creek/Salmon Creek (combined).

The appropriated retained earnings amounts included in retained earnings were as follows as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Appropriated retained earnings	$ 21,030	$ 14,270

Operating Leases

The Company has multiple lease arrangements involving various assets, with minimum terms ranging from 1 to 45 years. Future minimum lease payments required under operating leases having initial or remaining noncancelable lease terms in excess of one year were not material as of December 31, 2015.

Contingencies

The Company has unresolved regulatory, legal and tax issues which have inherently uncertain outcomes. The Company accrues a loss contingency if it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss or impairment can be reasonably estimated. The Company also discloses losses that do not meet these conditions for accrual, if there is a reasonable possibility that a material loss may be incurred. As of December 31, 2015, the Company has not recorded any significant amounts related to unresolved contingencies. See Note 19 for further discussion of the Company's commitments and contingencies.

Reclassifications

Certain prior year amounts on the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets were reclassified to conform to the current year presentation. The reclassifications related the presentation of debt issuance costs due to the retrospective adoption of FASB ASU No. 2015-03, "Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs" as of December 31, 2015. This resulted in a decrease to Other Deferred Charges and a decrease to Long-Term Debt and Capital Leases of $11.4 million as of December 31, 2014. There was no other impact on the Company's financial statements or results of operations.

Also, the Company adopted FASB ASU 2015-17 “Income Taxes (Topic 740) - Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes,” as of December 31, 2015 on a prospective basis, which resulted in all 2015 deferred income taxes being classified as noncurrent liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheet, compared to 2014 under the previous guidance, which required entities to separately present Deferred Tax Assets (DTAs) and Deferred Tax Liabilities (DTLs) as current and noncurrent in a classified balance sheet. This makes the 2015 presentation of deferred income taxes incomparable to the 2014 presentation of deferred income taxes.

See Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of the adoption of both of these ASUs.

NOTE 2. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In April 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-08, "Presentation of Financial Statements (Topic 205) and Property, Plant, and Equipment (Topic 360): Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity." This ASU amends the definition of a discontinued operation and requires entities to provide additional disclosures about discontinued operations as well as disposal transactions that do not meet the discontinued-operations criteria. ASU 2014-08 makes it more difficult for a disposal transaction to qualify as a discontinued operation. In addition, the ASU requires entities to reclassify assets and liabilities of a discontinued operation for all comparative periods presented in the Balance Sheet rather than just the current period, and it requires additional disclosures on the face of the Statement of Cash Flows regarding discontinued operations. This ASU became effective for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2014; however, early adoption was permitted. The Company evaluated this standard and determined that it would not early adopt this standard. Since the disposition of Ecova occurred before the effective date of this standard, and the Company did not early adopt this standard, there is no impact on the Company's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows in the current year.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)," which outlines a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers and supersedes most current revenue recognition guidance, including industry-specific guidance. The core principle of the revenue model is that an entity identifies the various performance obligations in a contract, allocates the transaction price among the performance obligations and recognizes revenue as the entity satisfies the performance obligations. This ASU was originally effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and early adoption is not permitted. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Deferral of the Effective Date," which deferred the effective date of ASU 2014-09 for one year, with adoption as of the original date permitted. However, while this ASU is not effective until 2018, it will require retroactive application to all periods presented in the financial statements. As such, at adoption in 2018, amounts in 2016 and 2017 may have to be revised or a cumulative adjustment to opening retained earnings may have to be recorded. The Company is evaluating this standard and cannot, at this time, estimate the potential impact on its future financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-02, "Consolidation (Topic 810): Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis." This ASU significantly changes the consolidation analysis required under GAAP, including the identification of variable interest entities (VIE). The ASU also removes the deferral of the VIE analysis related to investments in certain investment funds, which will result in a different consolidation evaluation for these types of investments. This ASU is effective for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2015; however, early adoption is permitted. The Company evaluated this standard and determined that it will not early adopt this standard. The Company is evaluating this standard and cannot, at this time, estimate the potential impact on its future financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-03, "Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs." This ASU amends the presentation of debt issuance costs in the financial statements such that an entity presents such costs in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the related debt liability rather than as a deferred asset. Amortization of the costs will continue to be reported as interest expense. ASU No. 2015-03 is effective for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2015; however, early adoption is permitted. Upon adoption, entities will apply the new guidance retrospectively to all comparable prior periods presented in the financial statements. The Company evaluated this standard and determined that it will early adopt this standard as of December 31, 2015. As such, the Company revised its presentation of debt issuance costs for long-term debt in the Consolidated Balance Sheets for both periods presented. See Note 1 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements - Reclassifications for the quantification of the impact on the prior year Consolidated Balance Sheet.

ASU No. 2015-03 did not address the presentation of debt issuance costs associated with line of credit arrangements. Accordingly, in August 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-15, "Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs Associated with Line-of-Credit Arrangements." This ASU incorporates guidance from the Securities and Exchange Commission which states that it would not object to an entity deferring and presenting debt issuance costs as an asset and subsequently amortizing the deferred debt issuance costs ratably over the term of the line of credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are any outstanding borrowings on the line-of-credit arrangement. This ASU was effective upon issuance. The presentation outlined in ASU No. 2015-15 is consistent with the Company's historical presentation of line of credit issuance costs; therefore, there is no impact on the Company's financial statements as a result of adopting this accounting standard in 2015.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-05, "Intangibles - Goodwill and Other - Internal-Use Software (Subtopic 350-40): Customer’s Accounting for Fees Paid in a Cloud Computing Arrangement." This ASU provides guidance on how organizations should account for fees paid in a cloud computing arrangement, including helping organizations understand whether their arrangement includes a software license. If the arrangement includes a software license, the software license would be accounted for in a manner consistent with internal-use software. If a cloud-computing arrangement does not include a software license, the customer is required to account for the arrangement as a service contract. This ASU is effective for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2015; however, early adoption is permitted. The Company evaluated this standard and determined that it will not early adopt this standard. Upon adoption, an entity can elect to apply this ASU prospectively or retroactively and disclose the method selected. The Company is evaluating this standard and cannot, at this time, estimate the potential impact on its future financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

In May 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-07, "Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities That Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent)." This ASU removes, from the fair value hierarchy,
investments for which the practical expedient is used to measure fair value at net asset value (NAV). Instead, an entity is required to include those investments as a reconciling line item so that the total fair value amount of investments in the disclosure is consistent with the amount on the balance sheet. Further, entities must provide certain disclosures for investments for which they elect to use the NAV practical expedient to determine fair value. This ASU is effective for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2015 and early adoption is permitted. The Company evaluated this standard and determined that it will early adopt this standard as of December 31, 2015. As required, this ASU is being applied retrospectively to all periods presented. The adoption of this standard did not affect the Company's future financial condition, results of operations and cash flows; however, it did affect the Company's disclosures. See Note 10 and 16 for the expanded disclosures surrounding the adoption of this ASU.

In November 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-17 “Income Taxes (Topic 740) - Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes,” which requires entities to present DTAs and DTLs as noncurrent in a classified balance sheet. The ASU simplifies the current guidance, which requires entities to separately present DTAs and DTLs as current and noncurrent in a classified balance sheet. This ASU is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those years and early adoption is permitted. In addition, upon adoption, entities are permitted to apply the amendments either prospectively or retrospectively. The Company has evaluated this standard and determined that it will early adopt this standard as of December 31, 2015 and it will apply this ASU on a prospective basis. As such, the Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014 was not adjusted to reflect the new ASU. The Company early adopted this ASU to ease the burden of preparing its financial statements and eliminate the need to evaluate deferred taxes for current and noncurrent presentation.

NOTE 3. VARIABLE INTEREST ENTITIES

Lancaster Power Purchase Agreement

The Company has a PPA for the purchase of all the output of the Lancaster Plant, a 270 MW natural gas-fired combined cycle combustion turbine plant located in Kootenai County, Idaho, owned by an unrelated third-party (Rathdrum Power LLC), through 2026.

Avista Corp. has a variable interest in the PPA. Accordingly, Avista Corp. made an evaluation of which interest holders have the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the economic performance of the entity and which interest holders have the obligation to absorb losses or receive benefits that could be significant to the entity. Avista Corp. pays a fixed capacity and operations and maintenance payment and certain monthly variable costs under the PPA. Under the terms of the PPA, Avista Corp. makes the dispatch decisions, provides all natural gas fuel and receives all of the electric energy output from the Lancaster Plant. However, Rathdrum Power LLC (the owner) controls the daily operation of the Lancaster Plant and makes operating and maintenance decisions. Rathdrum Power LLC controls all of the rights and obligations of the Lancaster Plant after the expiration of the PPA in 2026. It is estimated that the plant will have 15 to 25 years of useful life after that time. Rathdrum Power LLC bears the maintenance risk of the plant and will receive the residual value of the Lancaster Plant. Avista

Corp. has no debt or equity investments in the Lancaster Plant and does not provide financial support through liquidity arrangements or other commitments (other than the PPA). Based on its analysis, Avista Corp. does not consider itself to be the primary beneficiary of the Lancaster Plant. Accordingly, neither the Lancaster Plant nor Rathdrum Power LLC is included in Avista Corp.'s consolidated financial statements. The Company has a future contractual obligation of approximately $296.5 million under the PPA (representing the fixed capacity and operations and maintenance payments through 2026) and believes this would be its maximum exposure to loss. However, the Company believes that such costs will be recovered through retail rates.

NOTE 4. BUSINESS ACQUISITIONS

Alaska Energy and Resources Company

On July 1, 2014, the Company acquired AERC, based in Juneau, Alaska, and as of that date, AERC became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avista Corp.

The primary subsidiary of AERC is AEL&P, a regulated utility which provides electric services to approximately 17,000 customers in the City and Borough of Juneau (Juneau), Alaska as of December 31, 2015. In addition to the regulated utility, AERC owns AJT Mining, which is an inactive mining company holding certain properties.

The purpose of the acquisition was to expand and diversify Avista Corp.'s energy assets and deliver long-term value to its customers, communities and investors.

In connection with the closing, on July 1, 2014 Avista Corp. issued 4,500,014 new shares of common stock to the shareholders of AERC based on a contractual formula that resulted in a price of $32.46 per share, reflecting a purchase price of $170.0 million, plus acquired cash, less outstanding debt and other closing adjustments.

The $32.46 price per share of Avista Corp. common stock was determined based on the average closing stock price of Avista Corp. common stock for the 10 consecutive trading days immediately preceding, but not including, the trading day prior to July 1, 2014. This value was used solely for determining the number of shares to issue based on the adjusted contract closing price (see reconciliation below). The fair value of the consideration transferred at the closing date was based on the closing stock price of Avista Corp. common stock on July 1, 2014, which was $33.35 per share.

On October 1, 2014, a working capital adjustment was made in accordance with the agreement and plan of merger which resulted in Avista Corp. issuing an additional 1,427 shares of common stock to the shareholders of AERC. The number of shares issued on October 1, 2014 was based on the same contractual formula described above. The fair value of the new shares issued in October was $30.71 per share, which was the closing stock price of Avista Corp. common stock on that date.

The contract acquisition price and the fair value of consideration transferred for AERC were as follows (in thousands, except "per share" and number of shares data):

Contract acquisition price (using the calculated $32.46 per share common stock price)		
Gross contract price	$	170,000
Acquired cash		19,704
Acquired debt (excluding capital lease obligation)		(38,832)
Other closing adjustments (including the working capital adjustment)		37
Total adjusted contract price	$	150,909
Fair value of consideration transferred		
Avista Corp. common stock (4,500,014 shares at $33.35 per share)	$	150,075
Avista Corp. common stock (1,427 shares at $30.71 per share)		44
Cash		4,792
Fair value of total consideration transferred	$	154,911

The fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed as of July 1, 2014 (after consideration of the working capital adjustment and the income tax true-ups during the second quarter of 2015) were as follows (in thousands):

		July 1, 2014
Assets acquired:		
Current Assets:		
Cash	$	19,704
Accounts receivable - gross totals $3,928		3,851
Materials and supplies		2,017
Other current assets		999
Total current assets		26,571
Utility Property:		
Utility plant in service		113,964
Utility property under long-term capital lease		71,007
Construction work in progress		3,440
Total utility property		188,411
Other Non-current Assets:		
Non-utility property		6,660
Electric plant held for future use		3,711
Goodwill (1)		52,426
Other deferred charges and non-current assets		5,368
Total other non-current assets		68,165
Total assets	$	283,147
Liabilities Assumed:		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$	700
Current portion of long-term debt and capital lease obligations		3,773
Other current liabilities (1)		2,807
Total current liabilities		7,280
Long-term debt		37,227
Capital lease obligations		68,840
Other non-current liabilities and deferred credits (1)		14,889
Total liabilities	$	128,236
Total net assets acquired	$	154,911

(1) During the second quarter of 2015, the Company recorded a reduction to goodwill of approximately $0.3 million due to income tax related adjustments. After consideration of the goodwill adjustment in the second quarter of 2015, the transaction resulted in a total amount of goodwill of $52.4 million. The goodwill associated with this acquisition is not deductible for tax purposes.

The majority of AERC’s operations are subject to the rate-setting authority of the RCA and are accounted for pursuant to GAAP, including the accounting guidance for regulated operations. The rate-setting and cost recovery provisions currently in place for AERC’s regulated operations provide revenues derived from costs, including a return on investment, of assets and liabilities included in rate base. Due to this regulation, the fair values of AERC’s assets and liabilities subject to these rate-setting provisions are assumed to approximate their carrying values. There were not any identifiable intangible assets associated with this acquisition. The excess of the purchase consideration over the estimated fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed was recognized as goodwill at the acquisition date. The goodwill reflects the value paid for the expected continued growth of a rate-regulated business located in a defined service area with a constructive regulatory environment, the attractiveness of stable, growing cash flows, as well as providing a platform for potential future growth outside of the rate-regulated electric utility in Alaska and potential additional utility investment.

The following table summarizes the supplemental pro forma information for the years ended December 31 related to the acquisition of AERC as if the acquisition had occurred on January 1, 2013 (dollars in thousands - unaudited):

	2015	2014	2013
Actual Avista Corp. revenues from continuing operations (excluding AERC)	$ 1,439,807	$ 1,450,918	$ 1,441,744
Supplemental pro forma AERC revenues (1)	44,969	46,467	41,594
Total pro forma revenues	1,484,776	1,497,385	1,483,338
Actual AERC revenues included in Avista Corp. revenues (1)	44,969	21,644	—
Actual Avista Corp. net income from continuing operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders (excluding AERC)	111,772	116,665	104,273
Actual Avista Corp. net income from discontinued operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	5,147	72,224	6,804
Adjustment to Avista Corp.'s net income for acquisition costs (net of tax) (2)	22	870	(892)
Supplemental pro forma AERC net income (1)	6,308	8,806	9,328
Total pro forma net income	123,249	198,565	119,513
Actual AERC net income included in Avista Corp. net income (1)	$ 6,308	$ 3,152	$ —

(1) AERC was acquired on July 1, 2014; therefore, all the revenues and net income for the second half of 2014 and all of 2015 are actual amounts that are included in Avista Corp.'s overall results. All revenue and net income amounts prior to July 1, 2014 are supplemental pro forma amounts and are excluded from Avista Corp.'s overall results.

(2) This adjustment is to treat all transaction costs as if they occurred on January 1, 2013 and to remove them from the periods in which they actually occurred. The transaction costs were expensed and presented in the Consolidated Statements of Income in other operating expenses within utility operating expenses. Since the start of the transaction through December 31, 2015, Avista Corp. has expensed $3.0 million (pre-tax) in total transaction fees. In addition to the amounts expensed, through December 31, 2015, Avista Corp. has included $0.4 million in fees associated with the issuance of common stock for the transaction as a reduction to common stock. These fees do not impact the supplemental pro forma information above.

NOTE 5. DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

On June 30, 2014, Avista Capital, completed the sale of its interest in Ecova to Cofely USA Inc., an indirect subsidiary of GDF SUEZ, a French multinational utility company, and an unrelated party to Avista Corp. The sales price was $335.0 million in cash, less the payment of debt and other customary closing adjustments. At the closing of the transaction on June 30, 2014, Ecova became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cofely USA Inc. and the Company has not had and will not have any further involvement with Ecova after such date.

The purchase price of $335.0 million, as adjusted, was divided among the security holders of Ecova, including minority shareholders, option holders and a warrant holder, pro rata based on ownership. Approximately $16.8 million (5 percent of the purchase price) was held in escrow for 15 months from the closing of the transaction to satisfy certain indemnification obligations under the merger agreement (Escrow). An additional $1.0 million was held in escrow pending resolution of adjustments to working capital. The indemnification escrow and the working capital adjustment escrow amounts above represent the full amounts to be divided among all security holders pro rata based on ownership.

As expected, no claims were made against the Escrow as of September 30, 2015 (the end of the claims period) and accordingly, all Escrow amounts were released in October 2015 and the Company received its full portion of the Escrow proceeds together with the remainder of the working capital adjustment escrow for a total amount of $13.8 million. After consideration of the escrow amounts received, the sales transaction provided cash proceeds to Avista Corp., net of debt, payment to option and minority holders, income taxes and transaction expenses, of $143.7 million and resulted in a net gain of $74.8 million. Almost all of the net gain was recognized in 2014 with some true-ups during 2015.

The summary of cash proceeds associated with the sales transaction are as follows (in thousands):

Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows		
Contract price	$	335,000
Closing adjustments		4,103
Litigation settlement at Ecova		588
Gross proceeds from sale (1)		339,691
Cash sold in the transaction		(95,932)
Gross proceeds from sale of Ecova, net of cash sold (per Statement of Cash Flows) (2)	$	243,759
Reconciliation of total net proceeds		
Gross proceeds from sale (1)	$	339,691
Repayment of long-term borrowings under committed line of credit		(40,000)
Payment to option holders and redeemable noncontrolling interests		(20,871)
Payment to noncontrolling interests		(54,179)
Transaction expenses withheld from proceeds		(5,461)
Net proceeds to Avista Capital (prior to tax payments) (2)		219,180
Tax payments made in 2014		(74,842)
Tax payments made in 2015		(590)
Total net proceeds related to sales transaction	$	143,748

(1) Of this total amount, approximately $16.8 million was held in escrow for 15 months from the transaction closing date for any indemnity claims and an additional $1.0 million was held in escrow pending resolution of adjustments to working capital. Both of these escrow accounts were resolved during 2015.

(2) Of the total gross proceeds and total net proceeds received, approximately $229.9 million and $205.4 million was received in 2014, respectively, with the remainder being received in 2015.

Prior to the completion of the sales transaction, Ecova was a reportable business segment. The major classes of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts immediately prior to the completion of the sales transaction were as follows:

		June 30, 2014
Assets:		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$	95,932
Accounts and notes receivable-less allowances of $410		32,070
Investments and funds held for clients		114,598
Income taxes receivable		2,548
Other current assets		8,908
Total current assets		254,056
Other Non-current Assets:		
Goodwill		71,123
Intangible assets-net of accumulated amortization of $42,266		37,185
Other property and investments-net		4,656
Total other non-current assets		112,964
Total assets	$	367,020

		June 30, 2014
Liabilities:		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$	72,453
Client fund obligations		115,333
Current portion of long-term debt		67
Other current liabilities		35,329
Total current liabilities		223,182
Long-term borrowings under committed line of credit		40,000
Other non-current liabilities		2,117
Total liabilities	$	265,299

Amounts reported in discontinued operations for 2013 through 2015 relate solely to the Ecova business segment. The following table presents amounts that were included in discontinued operations for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

		2015		2014		2013
Revenues	$	—	$	87,534	$	176,761
Gain on sale of Ecova (1)		777		160,612		—
Transaction expenses and accelerated employee benefits (2)		71		9,062		—
Gain on sale of Ecova, net of transaction expenses		706		151,550		—
Income before income taxes		706		156,025		13,177
Income tax expense (benefit) (3)		(4,441)		83,614		5,216
Net income from discontinued operations		5,147		72,411		7,961
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests		—		(187)		(1,157)
Net income from discontinued operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	$	5,147	$	72,224	$	6,804

(1) This represents the gross gain recorded to discontinued operations. The total gain net of taxes and transactions expenses is $74.8 million, of which $69.7 million was recognized during 2014.

(2) Avista Corp.'s portion of the total transaction expenses was $9.1 million (including amounts which were withheld from the transaction net proceeds) and this was recognized during the second and third quarters of 2014 and the third and fourth quarters of 2015. All transaction expenses paid on the Ecova sale (including Avista Corp.'s portion and the portion attributable to the minority interest holders of Ecova) were $11.1 million, of which $5.5 million was withheld from the net proceeds and the remainder was paid during the second and third quarters of 2014. The transaction expenses were for legal, accounting and other consulting fees, and the accelerated employee benefits related to employee stock options which were settled in accordance with the Ecova equity plan.

(3) The tax benefit during 2015 primarily resulted from the reversal of a valuation allowance against net operating losses at Ecova because the net operating losses were deemed realizable under the current tax code.

NOTE 6. DERIVATIVES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The disclosures below in Note 6 apply only to Avista Corp. and Avista Utilities; AERC and its primary subsidiary AEL&P do not enter into derivative instruments.

Energy Commodity Derivatives

Avista Utilities is exposed to market risks relating to changes in electricity and natural gas commodity prices and certain other fuel prices. Market risk is, in general, the risk of fluctuation in the market price of the commodity being traded and is influenced primarily by supply and demand. Market risk includes the fluctuation in the market price of associated derivative commodity instruments. Avista Utilities utilizes derivative instruments, such as forwards, futures, swaps and options in order to manage the various risks relating to these commodity price exposures. The Company has an energy resources risk policy and control procedures to manage these risks.

As part of the Company's resource procurement and management operations in the electric business, the Company engages in an ongoing process of resource optimization, which involves the economic selection from available energy resources to serve the Company's load obligations and the use of these resources to capture available economic value. The Company transacts in wholesale markets by selling and purchasing electric capacity and energy, fuel for electric generation, and derivative contracts related to capacity, energy and fuel. Such transactions are part of the process of matching resources with load obligations and hedging the related financial risks. These transactions range from terms of intra-hour up to multiple years.

As part of its resource procurement and management of its natural gas business, Avista Utilities makes continuing projections of its natural gas loads and assesses available natural gas resources including natural gas storage availability. Natural gas resource planning typically includes peak requirements, low and average monthly requirements and delivery constraints from natural gas supply locations to Avista Utilities' distribution system. However, daily variations in natural gas demand can be significantly different than monthly demand projections. On the basis of these projections, Avista Utilities plans and executes a series of transactions to hedge a portion of its projected natural gas requirements through forward market transactions and derivative instruments. These transactions may extend as much as four natural gas operating years (November through October) into the future. Avista Utilities also leaves a significant portion of its natural gas supply requirements unhedged for purchase in short-term and spot markets.

The following table presents the underlying energy commodity derivative volumes as of December 31, 2015 that are expected to be settled in each respective year (in thousands of MWhs and mmBTUs):

	Purchases				Sales			
	Electric Derivatives		Gas Derivatives		Electric Derivatives		Gas Derivatives	
Year	Physical (1) MWh	Financial (1) MWh	Physical (1) mmBTUs	Financial (1) mmBTUs	Physical (1) MWh	Financial (1) MWh	Physical (1) mmBTUs	Financial (1) mmBTUs
2016	407	1,954	17,252	142,693	280	2,656	3,182	112,233
2017	397	97	675	49,200	255	483	1,360	26,965
2018	397	—	—	15,118	286	—	1,360	2,738
2019	235	—	305	6,935	158	—	1,345	—
2020	—	—	455	905	—	—	1,430	—
Thereafter	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,060	—

(1) Physical transactions represent commodity transactions in which Avista Utilities will take or make delivery of either electricity or natural gas; financial transactions represent derivative instruments with delivery of cash in the amount of gain or loss but with no physical delivery of the commodity, such as futures, swaps, options, or forward contracts.

The electric and natural gas derivative contracts above will be included in either power supply costs or natural gas supply costs during the period they are settled and will be included in the various recovery mechanisms (ERM, PCA, and PGAs), or in the general rate case process, and are expected to be collected through retail rates from customers.

Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts

A significant portion of Avista Utilities' natural gas supply (including fuel for power generation) is obtained from Canadian sources. Most of those transactions are executed in U.S. dollars, which avoids foreign currency risk. A portion of Avista Utilities' short-term natural gas transactions and long-term Canadian transportation contracts are committed based on Canadian currency prices and settled within 60 days with U.S. dollars. Avista Utilities hedges a portion of the foreign currency risk by purchasing Canadian currency exchange contracts when such commodity transactions are initiated. This risk has not had a material effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows and these differences in cost related to currency fluctuations were included with natural gas supply costs for ratemaking. The following table summarizes the foreign currency hedges that the Company has entered into as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Number of contracts	24	18
Notional amount (in United States dollars)	$ 1,463	$ 5,474
Notional amount (in Canadian dollars)	2,002	6,198

Interest Rate Swap Agreements

Avista Corp. is affected by fluctuating interest rates related to a portion of its existing debt, and future borrowing requirements. The Company hedges a portion of its interest rate risk with financial derivative instruments, which may include interest rate swaps and U.S. Treasury lock agreements. These interest rate swaps and U.S. Treasury lock agreements are considered economic hedges against fluctuations in future cash flows associated with anticipated debt issuances.

The following table summarizes the interest rate swaps that the Company has outstanding as of the balance sheet date indicated below (dollars in thousands):

Balance Sheet Date	Number of Contracts	Notional Amount	Mandatory Cash Settlement Date
December 31, 2015	6	115,000	2016
	3	45,000	2017
	11	245,000	2018
	2	30,000	2019
	1	20,000	2022
December 31, 2014	5	75,000	2015
	5	95,000	2016
	3	45,000	2017
	9	205,000	2018

During the third quarter 2015, in connection with the execution of a purchase agreement for bonds that the Company issued in December 2015, the Company cash-settled five interest rate swap contracts (notional aggregate amount of $75.0 million) and paid a total of $9.3 million. The interest rate swap contracts were settled in connection with the pricing of $100.0 million of Avista Corp. first mortgage bonds that were issued in December 2015 (see Note 14). Upon settlement of interest rate swaps, the regulatory asset or liability (included as part of long-term debt) is amortized as a component of interest expense over the term of the associated debt.

The fair value of outstanding interest rate swaps can vary significantly from period to period depending on the total notional amount of swaps outstanding and fluctuations in market interest rates compared to the interest rates fixed by the swaps. The Company would be required to make cash payments to settle the interest rate swaps if the fixed rates are higher than prevailing market rates at the date of settlement. Conversely, the Company receives cash to settle its interest rate swaps when prevailing market rates at the time of settlement exceed the fixed swap rates.

Summary of Outstanding Derivative Instruments

The amounts recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 reflect the offsetting of derivative assets and liabilities where a legal right of offset exists.

The following table presents the fair values and locations of derivative instruments recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2015 (in thousands):

		Fair Value			
Derivative	Balance Sheet Location	Gross Asset	Gross Liability	Collateral Netting	Net Asset (Liability) in Balance Sheet
Foreign currency contracts	Other current liabilities	$ 2	$ (19)	$ —	$ (17)
Interest rate contracts	Other property and investments-net	23	—	—	23
Interest rate contracts	Other current liabilities	118	(23,262)	3,880	(19,264)
Interest rate contracts	Other non-current liabilities and deferred credits	1,407	(62,236)	30,150	(30,679)
Commodity contracts	Current utility energy commodity derivative assets	1,236	(553)	—	683
Commodity contracts	Current utility energy commodity derivative liabilities	67,466	(85,409)	3,675	(14,268)
Commodity contracts	Other non-current liabilities and deferred credits	6,613	(39,033)	10,851	(21,569)
Total derivative instruments recorded on the balance sheet		$ 76,865	$ (210,512)	$ 48,556	$ (85,091)

The following table presents the fair values and locations of derivative instruments recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014 (in thousands):

		Fair Value			
Derivative	Balance Sheet Location	Gross Asset	Gross Liability	Collateral Netting	Net Asset (Liability) in Balance Sheet
Foreign currency contracts	Other current liabilities	$ 1	$ (21)	$ —	$ (20)
Interest rate contracts	Other current assets	966	(506)	—	460
Interest rate contracts	Other current liabilities	—	(7,325)	—	(7,325)
Interest rate contracts	Other non-current liabilities and deferred credits	—	(69,737)	28,880	(40,857)
Commodity contracts	Current utility energy commodity derivative assets	2,063	(538)	—	1,525
Commodity contracts	Current utility energy commodity derivative liabilities	66,421	(97,586)	13,120	(18,045)
Commodity contracts	Other non-current liabilities and deferred credits	29,594	(54,077)	2,390	(22,093)
Total derivative instruments recorded on the balance sheet		$ 99,045	$ (229,790)	$ 44,390	$ (86,355)

Exposure to Demands for Collateral

The Company's derivative contracts often require collateral (in the form of cash or letters of credit) or other credit enhancements, or reductions or terminations of a portion of the contract through cash settlement, in the event of a downgrade in the Company's credit ratings or changes in market prices. In periods of price volatility, the level of exposure can change significantly. As a result, sudden and significant demands may be made against the Company's credit facilities and cash. The Company actively monitors the exposure to possible collateral calls and takes steps to mitigate capital requirements.

The following table presents the Company's collateral outstanding related to its derivative instruments as of as of December 31 (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Energy commodity derivatives		
Cash collateral posted	$ 28,716	$ 20,565
Letters of credit outstanding	28,200	14,500
Balance sheet offsetting (cash collateral against net derivative positions)	14,526	15,510
Interest rate swaps		
Cash collateral posted	34,030	28,880
Letters of credit outstanding	9,600	10,900
Balance sheet offsetting (cash collateral against net derivative positions)	34,030	28,880

Certain of the Company’s derivative instruments contain provisions that require the Company to maintain an "investment grade" credit rating from the major credit rating agencies. If the Company’s credit ratings were to fall below “investment grade,” it would be in violation of these provisions, and the counterparties to the derivative instruments could request immediate payment or demand immediate and ongoing collateralization on derivative instruments in net liability positions.

The following table presents the aggregate fair value of all derivative instruments with credit-risk-related contingent features that are in a liability position and the amount of additional collateral the Company could be required to post as of December 31 (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Energy commodity derivatives		
Liabilities with credit-risk-related contingent features	$ 7,090	$ 12,911
Additional collateral to post	6,980	16,227
Interest rate swaps		
Liabilities with credit-risk-related contingent features	85,498	77,568
Additional collateral to post	18,750	19,404

Credit Risk

Credit risk relates to the potential losses that the Company would incur as a result of non-performance by counterparties of their contractual obligations to deliver energy or make financial settlements. The Company often extends credit to counterparties and customers and is exposed to the risk that it may not be able to collect amounts owed to the Company. Credit risk includes potential counterparty default due to circumstances:

- relating directly to it,
- caused by market price changes, and
- relating to other market participants that have a direct or indirect relationship with such counterparty.

Changes in market prices may dramatically alter the size of credit risk with counterparties, even when conservative credit limits are established. Should a counterparty fail to perform, the Company may be required to honor the underlying commitment or to replace existing contracts with contracts at then-current market prices.

The Company enters into bilateral transactions with various counterparties. The Company also transacts in energy and related derivative instruments through clearinghouse exchanges.

In addition, the Company has concentrations of credit risk related to geographic location as it operates in the western United States and western Canada. These concentrations of counterparties and concentrations of geographic location may impact the Company's overall exposure to credit risk because the counterparties may be similarly affected by changes in conditions.

The Company maintains credit support agreements with certain counterparties and margin calls are periodically made and/or received. Margin calls are triggered when exposures exceed contractual limits or when there are changes in a counterparty's creditworthiness. Price movements in electricity and natural gas can generate exposure levels in excess of these contractual limits. Negotiating for collateral in the form of cash, letters of credit, or performance guarantees is common industry practice.

NOTE 7. JOINTLY OWNED ELECTRIC FACILITIES

The Company has a 15 percent ownership interest in a twin-unit coal-fired generating facility, Colstrip, located in southeastern Montana, and provides financing for its ownership interest in the project. The Company's share of related fuel costs as well as operating expenses for plant in service are included in the corresponding accounts in the Consolidated Statements of Income. The Company's share of utility plant in service for Colstrip and accumulated depreciation were as follows as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Utility plant in service	$ 362,199	$ 350,518
Accumulated depreciation	(243,363)	(239,845)

NOTE 8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The balances of the major classifications of property, plant and equipment are detailed in the following table as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Avista Utilities:		
Electric production	$ 1,217,179	$ 1,171,002
Electric transmission	640,586	603,909
Electric distribution	1,468,157	1,360,185
Electric construction work-in-progress (CWIP) and other	358,846	311,807
Electric total	3,684,768	3,446,903
Natural gas underground storage	43,080	41,963
Natural gas distribution	878,982	810,487
Natural gas CWIP and other	62,024	57,088
Natural gas total	984,086	909,538
Common plant (including CWIP)	456,796	394,027
Total Avista Utilities	5,125,650	4,750,468
AEL&P:		
Electric production	72,292	71,969
Electric transmission	18,817	18,392
Electric distribution	19,005	17,936
Electric production held under long-term capital lease	71,007	71,007
Electric CWIP and other	16,971	7,893
Electric total	198,092	187,197
Common plant	8,133	8,155
Total AEL&P	206,225	195,352
Other (1)	25,709	25,803
Total	$ 5,357,584	$ 4,971,623

(1) Included in other property and investments-net on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Accumulated depreciation was $10.6 million as of December 31, 2015 and $10.8 million as of December 31, 2014 for the other businesses. The decrease in accumulated depreciation for the other businesses was due to the sale of certain assets which were nearing the end of their useful lives.

NOTE 9. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS

See Note 1 for a discussion of the Company's accounting policy associated with AROs.

Specifically, the Company has recorded liabilities for future AROs to:

- restore coal ash containment ponds at Colstrip,
- cap a landfill at the Kettle Falls Plant,
- remove plant and restore the land at the Coyote Springs 2 site at the termination of the land lease, and
- dispose of PCBs in certain transformers.

Due to an inability to estimate a range of settlement dates, the Company cannot estimate a liability for the:

- removal and disposal of certain transmission and distribution assets, and
- abandonment and decommissioning of certain hydroelectric generation and natural gas storage facilities.

On April 17, 2015, the EPA published a final rule regarding CCRs, also termed coal combustion byproducts or coal ash in the Federal Register and this rule became effective on October 15, 2015. Colstrip, of which Avista Corp. is a 15 percent owner of units 3 and 4, produces this byproduct. The rule establishes technical requirements for CCR landfills and surface impoundments under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the nation's primary law for regulating solid waste. The

Company, in conjunction with the other Colstrip owners, is developing a multi-year compliance plan to strategically address the new CCR requirements and existing State obligations while maintaining operational stability. During the second quarter of 2015, the operator of Colstrip provided an initial cost estimate of the expected retirement costs associated with complying with the new CCR rule and this estimate was subsequently updated during the fourth quarter of 2015. Based on the initial assessments, Avista Corp. recorded an increase to its ARO of $12.5 million during 2015 with a corresponding increase in the cost basis of the utility plant.

The actual asset retirement costs related to the new CCR rule requirements may vary substantially from the estimates used to record the increased obligation due to uncertainty about the compliance strategies that will be used and the preliminary nature of available data used to estimate costs, such as the quantity of coal ash present at certain sites and the volume of fill that will be needed to cap and cover certain impoundments. Avista Corp. will coordinate with the plant operator and continue to gather additional data in future periods to make decisions about compliance strategies and the timing of closure activities. As additional information becomes available, Avista Corp. will update the ARO for these changes in estimates, which could be material. The Company expects to seek recovery of any increased costs related to complying with the new rule through customer rates.

The following table documents the changes in the Company's asset retirement obligation during the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Asset retirement obligation at beginning of year	$ 3,028	$ 2,859	$ 3,168
Liabilities incurred	12,539	—	—
Liabilities settled	(29)	(41)	(263)
Accretion expense (income)	459	210	(46)
Asset retirement obligation at end of year	$ 15,997	$ 3,028	$ 2,859

NOTE 10. PENSION PLANS AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT PLANS

The pension and other postretirement benefit plans described below only relate to Avista Utilities. AEL&P (not discussed below) participates in a defined contribution multiemployer plan for its union workers and a defined contribution money purchase pension plan for its nonunion workers. METALfx (not discussed below) has a defined contribution 401(k) savings plan. None of the subsidiary retirement plans, individually or in the aggregate, are significant to Avista Corp.

Avista Utilities

The Company has a defined benefit pension plan covering the majority of all regular full-time employees at Avista Utilities that were hired prior to January 1, 2014. Individual benefits under this plan are based upon the employee's years of service, date of hire and average compensation as specified in the plan. Non-union employees hired on or after January 1, 2014 participate in a defined contribution 401(k) plan in lieu of a defined benefit pension plan. The Company's funding policy is to contribute at least the minimum amounts that are required to be funded under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, but not more than the maximum amounts that are currently deductible for income tax purposes. The Company contributed $12.0 million in cash to the pension plan in 2015, $32.0 million in 2014 and $44.3 million in 2013. The Company expects to contribute $12.0 million in cash to the pension plan in 2016.

The Company also has a SERP that provides additional pension benefits to executive officers and certain key employees of the Company. The SERP is intended to provide benefits to individuals whose benefits under the defined benefit pension plan are reduced due to the application of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the deferral of salary under deferred compensation plans. The liability and expense for this plan are included as pension benefits in the tables included in this Note.

The Company expects that benefit payments under the pension plan and the SERP will total (dollars in thousands):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total 2021-2025
Expected benefit payments	$ 29,182	$ 30,260	$ 31,332	$ 32,804	$ 34,430	$ 189,919

The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets is based on past performance and economic forecasts for the types of investments held by the plan. In selecting a discount rate, the Company considers yield rates for highly rated corporate bond portfolios with maturities similar to that of the expected term of pension benefits.

The Company provides certain health care and life insurance benefits for eligible retired employees that were hired prior to January 1, 2014. The Company accrues the estimated cost of postretirement benefit obligations during the years that employees provide services. The liability and expense of this plan are included as other postretirement benefits. Non-union employees hired on or after January 1, 2014, will have access to the retiree medical plan upon retirement; however, Avista Corp. will no longer provide a contribution toward their medical premium.

The Company has a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) to provide employees with tax-advantaged funds to pay for allowable medical expenses upon retirement. The amount earned by the employee is fixed on the retirement date based on the employee's years of service and the ending salary. The liability and expense of the HRA are included as other postretirement benefits.

The Company provides death benefits to beneficiaries of executive officers who die during their term of office or after retirement. Under the plan, an executive officer's designated beneficiary will receive a payment equal to twice the executive officer's annual base salary at the time of death (or if death occurs after retirement, a payment equal to twice the executive officer's total annual pension benefit). The liability and expense for this plan are included as other postretirement benefits.

The Company expects that benefit payments under other postretirement benefit plans will total (dollars in thousands):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total 2021-2025
Expected benefit payments	$ 7,345	$ 7,522	$ 7,713	$ 7,933	$ 6,907	$ 36,560

The Company expects to contribute $7.3 million to other postretirement benefit plans in 2016, representing expected benefit payments to be paid during the year excluding the Medicare Part D subsidy. The Company uses a December 31 measurement date for its pension and other postretirement benefit plans.

The following table sets forth the pension and other postretirement benefit plan disclosures as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 and the components of net periodic benefit costs for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 (dollars in thousands):

	Pension Benefits		Other Post-retirement Benefits	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Change in benefit obligation:				
Benefit obligation as of beginning of year	$ 634,674	$ 527,004	$ 127,989	$ 108,249
Service cost	19,791	15,757	2,925	1,844
Interest cost	26,117	26,224	5,158	5,226
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(35,790)	97,128	12,668	18,714
Plan change	(228)	—	(1,000)	—
Transfer of accrued vacation	—	—	—	437
Cumulative adjustment to reclassify liability	—	—	(1,521)	—
Benefits paid	(31,061)	(31,439)	(7,424)	(6,481)
Benefit obligation as of end of year	$ 613,503	$ 634,674	$ 138,795	$ 127,989
Change in plan assets:				
Fair value of plan assets as of beginning of year	$ 539,311	$ 481,502	$ 31,312	$ 29,732
Actual return on plan assets	(4,305)	55,974	(444)	1,580
Employer contributions	12,000	32,000	—	—
Benefits paid	(29,772)	(30,165)	—	—
Fair value of plan assets as of end of year	$ 517,234	$ 539,311	$ 30,868	$ 31,312
Funded status	$ (96,269)	$ (95,363)	$ (107,927)	$ (96,677)
Unrecognized net actuarial loss	162,961	175,596	92,433	82,421
Unrecognized prior service cost	25	256	(10,180)	(10,379)
Prepaid (accrued) benefit cost	66,717	80,489	(25,674)	(24,635)
Additional liability	(162,986)	(175,852)	(82,253)	(72,042)
Accrued benefit liability	$ (96,269)	$ (95,363)	$ (107,927)	$ (96,677)
Accumulated pension benefit obligation	$ 542,209	$ 551,615	—	—

	Pension Benefits		Other Post-retirement Benefits	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation:				
For retirees			$ 65,652	$ 58,276
For fully eligible employees			$ 34,498	$ 31,843
For other participants			$ 38,645	$ 37,870
Included in accumulated other comprehensive loss (income) (net of tax):				
Unrecognized prior service cost	$ 16	$ 166	$ (6,617)	$ (6,747)
Unrecognized net actuarial loss	105,925	114,138	60,081	53,574
Total	105,941	114,304	53,464	46,827
Less regulatory asset	(99,414)	(106,484)	(53,341)	(46,759)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss (income) for unfunded benefit obligation for pensions and other postretirement benefit plans	$ 6,527	$ 7,820	$ 123	$ 68

	Pension Benefits		Other Post-retirement Benefits	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Weighted average assumptions as of December 31:				
Discount rate for benefit obligation	4.57%	4.21%	4.57%	4.16%
Discount rate for annual expense	4.21%	5.10%	4.16%	5.02%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	5.30%	6.60%	6.36%	6.40%
Rate of compensation increase	4.87%	4.87%		
Medical cost trend pre-age 65 – initial			7.00%	7.00%
Medical cost trend pre-age 65 – ultimate			5.00%	5.00%
Ultimate medical cost trend year pre-age 65			2022	2021
Medical cost trend post-age 65 – initial			7.00%	7.00%
Medical cost trend post-age 65 – ultimate			5.00%	5.00%
Ultimate medical cost trend year post-age 65			2023	2022

	Pension Benefits			Other Post-retirement Benefits		
	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
Components of net periodic benefit cost:						
Service cost	$ 19,791	$ 15,757	$ 19,045	$ 2,925	$ 1,844	$ 4,144
Interest cost	26,117	26,224	23,896	5,158	5,226	5,216
Expected return on plan assets	(28,299)	(32,131)	(27,671)	(1,991)	(1,903)	(1,606)
Amortization of prior service cost	2	22	319	(1,199)	(1,116)	(149)
Net loss recognition	9,451	4,731	13,199	5,095	4,289	5,674
Net periodic benefit cost	$ 27,062	$ 14,603	$ 28,788	$ 9,988	$ 8,340	$ 13,279

Plan Assets

The Finance Committee of the Company's Board of Directors approves investment policies, objectives and strategies that seek an appropriate return for the pension plan and other postretirement benefit plans and reviews and approves changes to the investment and funding policies.

The Company has contracted with investment consultants who are responsible for managing/monitoring the individual investment managers. The investment managers' performance and related individual fund performance is periodically reviewed by an internal benefits committee and by the Finance Committee to monitor compliance with investment policy objectives and strategies.

Pension plan assets are invested in mutual funds, trusts and partnerships that hold marketable debt and equity securities, real estate, absolute return and commodity funds. In seeking to obtain the desired return to fund the pension plan, the investment consultant recommends allocation percentages by asset classes. These recommendations are reviewed by the internal benefits committee, which then recommends their adoption by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has established target investment allocation percentages by asset classes and also investment ranges for each asset class. The target investment allocation percentages are typically the midpoint of the established range. The target investment allocation percentages by asset classes are indicated in the table below:

	2015	2014
Equity securities	27%	27%
Debt securities	58%	58%
Real estate	6%	6%
Absolute return	9%	9%

The fair value of pension plan assets invested in debt and equity securities was based primarily on fair value (market prices). The fair value of investment securities traded on a national securities exchange is determined based on the reported last sales price; securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued at the last reported bid price. Investment securities for which market prices are not readily available or for which market prices do not represent the value at the time of pricing, the investment manager estimates fair value based upon other inputs (including valuations of securities that are comparable in coupon, rating, maturity and industry). Investments in common/collective trust funds are presented at estimated fair value, which is determined based on the unit value of the fund. Unit value is determined by an independent trustee, which sponsors the fund, by dividing the fund’s net assets by its units outstanding at the valuation date. The Company's investments in common/collective trusts have redemption limitations that permit quarterly redemptions following notice requirements of 45 to 60 days. The fair values of the closely held investments and partnership interests are based upon the allocated share of the fair value of the underlying assets as well as the allocated share of the undistributed profits and losses, including realized and unrealized gains and losses. Most of the Company's investments in closely held investments and partnership interests have redemption limitations that range from bi-monthly to semi-annually following redemption notice requirements of 60 to 90 days. One investment in a partnership has a lock-up for redemption currently expiring in 2022 and is subject to extension.

The fair value of pension plan assets invested in real estate was determined by the investment manager based on three basic approaches:

- properties are externally appraised on an annual basis by independent appraisers, additional appraisals may be performed as warranted by specific asset or market conditions,
- property valuations are reviewed quarterly and adjusted as necessary, and
- loans are reflected at fair value.

The fair value of pension plan assets was determined as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

Effective December 31, 2015, the Company adopted ASU No. 2015-07, "Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities That Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent)," which removed from the fair value hierarchy, investments for which the practical expedient is used to measure fair value at net asset value (NAV). In prior years, the Company held investments fair valued using NAV and these amounts were included as level 3 items. This ASU was adopted retrospectively; therefore, the 2014 amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 2015 presentation. Also, since these amounts are no longer included in the fair value hierarchy as level 3 items, the level 3 reconciliations are no longer applicable and have been excluded from this footnote.

The following table discloses by level within the fair value hierarchy (see Note 16 for a description of the fair value hierarchy) of the pension plan's assets measured and reported as of December 31, 2015 at fair value (dollars in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash equivalents	$ 86	$ 10,641	$ —	$ 10,727
Fixed income securities:				
U.S. government issues	—	47,845	—	47,845
Corporate issues	—	187,308	—	187,308
International issues	—	34,458	—	34,458
Municipal issues	—	22,416	—	22,416
Mutual funds:				
U.S. equity securities	87,678	—	—	87,678
International equity securities	40,343	—	—	40,343
Absolute return (1)	13,996	—	—	13,996
Plan assets measured at NAV (not subject to hierarchy disclosure)				
Common/collective trusts:				
Real estate	—	—	—	24,147
Partnership/closely held investments:				
Absolute return (1)	—	—	—	38,302
Private equity funds (2)	—	—	—	73
Real estate	—	—	—	9,941
Total	$ 142,103	$ 302,668	$ —	$ 517,234

The following table discloses by level within the fair value hierarchy (see Note 16 for a description of the fair value hierarchy) of the pension plan's assets measured and reported as of December 31, 2014 at fair value (dollars in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash equivalents	$ —	$ 3,138	$ —	$ 3,138
Fixed income securities:				
U.S. government issues	19,681	—	—	19,681
Corporate issues	104,959	—	—	104,959
International issues	19,935	—	—	19,935
Municipal issues	2,762	7,788	—	10,550
Mutual funds:				
Fixed income securities	157,415	8	—	157,423
U.S. equity securities	103,203	—	—	103,203
International equity securities	40,838	—	—	40,838
Absolute return (1)	15,334	—	—	15,334
Plan assets measured at NAV (not subject to hierarchy disclosure)				
Common/collective trusts:				
Real estate	—	—	—	21,303
Partnership/closely held investments:				
Absolute return (1)	—	—	—	36,114
Private equity funds (2)	—	—	—	73
Real estate	—	—	—	6,760
Total	$ 464,127	$ 10,934	$ —	$ 539,311

(1) This category invests in multiple strategies to diversify risk and reduce volatility. The strategies include: (a) event driven, relative value, convertible, and fixed income arbitrage, (b) distressed investments, (c) long/short equity and fixed income, and (d) market neutral strategies.

(2) This category includes private equity funds that invest primarily in U.S. companies.

The fair value of other postretirement plan assets invested in debt and equity securities was based primarily on market prices. The fair value of investment securities traded on a national securities exchange is determined based on the last reported sales price; securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued at the last reported bid price. Investment securities for which market prices are not readily available or for which market prices do not represent the value at the time of pricing, are fair-valued by the investment manager based upon other inputs (including valuations of securities that are comparable in coupon, rating, maturity and industry). The target asset allocation was 60 percent equity securities and 40 percent debt securities in both 2015 and 2014.

The fair value of other postretirement plan assets was determined as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

The following table discloses by level within the fair value hierarchy (see Note 16 for a description of the fair value hierarchy) of other postretirement plan assets measured and reported as of December 31, 2015 at fair value (dollars in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash equivalents	$ —	$ 9	$ —	$ 9
Mutual funds:				
Fixed income securities	12,000	—	—	12,000
U.S. equity securities	13,224	—	—	13,224
International equity securities	5,635	—	—	5,635
Total	$ 30,859	$ 9	$ —	$ 30,868

The following table discloses by level within the fair value hierarchy (see Note 16 for a description of the fair value hierarchy) of other postretirement plan assets measured and reported as of December 31, 2014 at fair value (dollars in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash equivalents	$ —	$ 3	$ —	$ 3
Mutual funds:				
Fixed income securities	11,968	—	—	11,968
U.S. equity securities	13,210	—	—	13,210
International equity securities	6,131	—	—	6,131
Total	$ 31,309	$ 3	$ —	$ 31,312

Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the health care plans. A one-percentage-point increase in the assumed health care cost trend rate for each year would increase the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation as of December 31, 2015 by $9.7 million and the service and interest cost by $0.5 million. A one-percentage-point decrease in the assumed health care cost trend rate for each year would decrease the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation as of December 31, 2015 by $7.5 million and the service and interest cost by $0.4 million.

401(k) Plans and Executive Deferral Plan

Avista Utilities and METALfx have salary deferral 401(k) plans that are defined contribution plans and cover substantially all employees. Employees can make contributions to their respective accounts in the plans on a pre-tax basis up to the maximum amount permitted by law. The respective company matches a portion of the salary deferred by each participant according to the schedule in the respective plan.

Employer matching contributions were as follows for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Employer 401(k) matching contributions	$ 8,011	$ 6,862	$ 6,279

The Company has an Executive Deferral Plan. This plan allows executive officers and other key employees the opportunity to defer until the earlier of their retirement, termination, disability or death, up to 75 percent of their base salary and/or up to 100 percent of their incentive payments. Deferred compensation funds are held by the Company in a Rabbi Trust.

There were deferred compensation assets included in other property and investments-net and corresponding deferred compensation liabilities included in other non-current liabilities and deferred credits on the Consolidated Balance Sheets of the following amounts as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Deferred compensation assets and liabilities	$ 8,093	$ 8,677

NOTE 11. ACCOUNTING FOR INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense consisted of the following for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Current income tax expense (benefit)	$ 12,212	$ (67,059)	$ 37,743
Deferred income tax expense	55,237	139,299	20,271
Total income tax expense	$ 67,449	$ 72,240	$ 58,014

State income taxes do not represent a significant portion of total income tax expense on the Consolidated Statements of Income for any periods presented.

A reconciliation of federal income taxes derived from statutory federal tax rates (35 percent in 2015, 2014 and 2013) applied to income before income taxes as set forth in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income is as follows for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015		2014		2013	
Federal income taxes at statutory rates	$ 64,967	35.0 %	$ 67,237	35.0 %	$ 56,821	35.0 %
Increase (decrease) in tax resulting from:						
Tax effect of regulatory treatment of utility plant differences	4,358	2.3	4,008	2.1	3,532	2.2
State income tax expense	1,012	0.5	506	0.2	1,553	1.0
Settlement of prior year tax returns and adjustment of tax reserves	(992)	(0.5)	1,104	0.6	(1,104)	(0.7)
Manufacturing deduction	(1,198)	(0.6)	(169)	(0.1)	(2,033)	(1.3)
Other	(698)	(0.4)	(446)	(0.2)	(755)	(0.5)
Total income tax expense	$ 67,449	36.3 %	$ 72,240	37.6 %	$ 58,014	35.7 %

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes and tax credit carryforwards. The total net deferred income tax liability consisted of the following as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Deferred income tax assets:		
Unfunded benefit obligation	$ 75,716	$ 72,324
Derivatives	47,009	46,903
Tax credits	15,011	15,080
Power and natural gas deferrals	12,866	3,811
Deferred compensation	10,354	10,796
Other	29,471	20,583
Total gross deferred income tax assets	190,427	169,497
Valuation allowances for deferred tax assets	(2,862)	(8,145)
Total deferred income tax assets after valuation allowances	187,565	161,352
Deferred income tax liabilities:		
Differences between book and tax basis of utility plant	723,661	654,321
Regulatory asset on utility, property plant and equipment	36,917	36,504
Regulatory asset for pensions and other postretirement benefits	82,253	82,515
Utility energy commodity derivatives	47,010	46,906
Long-term debt and borrowing costs	14,027	11,484
Settlement with Coeur d'Alene Tribe	12,084	12,458
Other regulatory assets	11,691	9,691
Other	7,399	3,021
Total deferred income tax liabilities	935,042	856,900
Net deferred income tax liability	$ 747,477	$ 695,548
Consolidated balance sheet classification of net deferred income taxes:		
Current deferred income tax asset (1)	$ —	$ 14,794
Long-term deferred income tax liability (1)	747,477	710,342
Net deferred income tax liability	$ 747,477	$ 695,548

(1) Effective December 31, 2015, the Company adopted ASU 2015-17 “Income Taxes (Topic 740) - Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes,” which requires entities to present DTAs and DTLs as noncurrent in a classified balance sheet versus the previous accounting guidance which required separate presentation of current and noncurrent DTAs and DTLs. The Company has elected to adopt this standard on a prospective basis; therefore, the Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014 has not been adjusted to match the current period presentation. See "Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for further discussion of this ASU.

The realization of deferred income tax assets is dependent upon the ability to generate taxable income in future periods. The Company evaluated available evidence supporting the realization of its deferred income tax assets and determined it is more likely than not that deferred income tax assets will be realized.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had $15.3 million of state tax credit carryforwards of which it is expected $2.9 million will expire unused; the Company has reflected the net amount of $12.4 million as an asset at December 31, 2015. State tax credits expire from 2019 to 2028.

The Company and its eligible subsidiaries file consolidated federal income tax returns. The Company also files state income tax returns in certain jurisdictions, including Idaho, Oregon and Montana. Subsidiaries are charged or credited with the tax effects of their operations on a stand-alone basis. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has completed its examination of all tax years through 2011 and all issues were resolved related to these years. The IRS has not completed an examination of the Company’s 2012 and 2014 federal income tax returns. The Company believes that any open tax years for federal or state income taxes will not result in adjustments that would be significant to the consolidated financial statements.

The Company had net regulatory assets related to the probable recovery of certain deferred income tax liabilities from customers through future rates as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Regulatory assets for deferred income taxes	$ 101,240	$ 100,412
Regulatory liabilities for deferred income taxes	17,609	14,534

NOTE 12. ENERGY PURCHASE CONTRACTS

The below discussion only relates to Avista Utilities. The sole energy purchase contract at AEL&P is a PPA for the Snettisham hydroelectric project and it is accounted for as a capital lease. AEL&P does not have any other significant operating agreements or contractual obligations. See Note 14 for further discussion of the Snettisham PPA.

Avista Utilities has contracts for the purchase of fuel for thermal generation, natural gas for resale and various agreements for the purchase or exchange of electric energy with other entities. The termination dates of the contracts range from one month to the year 2042. Total expenses for power purchased, natural gas purchased, fuel for generation and other fuel costs, which are included in utility resource costs in the Consolidated Statements of Income, were as follows for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Utility power resources	$ 511,937	$ 556,915	$ 524,810

The following table details Avista Utilities' future contractual commitments for power resources (including transmission contracts) and natural gas resources (including transportation contracts) (dollars in thousands):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Thereafter	Total
Power resources	$ 261,560	$ 168,831	$ 149,375	$ 145,074	$ 104,688	$ 838,536	$ 1,668,064
Natural gas resources	79,335	64,400	65,144	57,105	45,446	427,435	738,865
Total	$ 340,895	$ 233,231	$ 214,519	$ 202,179	$ 150,134	$ 1,265,971	$ 2,406,929

These energy purchase contracts were entered into as part of Avista Utilities' obligation to serve its retail electric and natural gas customers' energy requirements, including contracts entered into for resource optimization. As a result, these costs are recovered either through base retail rates or adjustments to retail rates as part of the power and natural gas cost deferral and recovery mechanisms.

The above future contractual commitments for power resources include fixed contractual amounts related to the Company's contracts with certain PUDs to purchase portions of the output of certain generating facilities. Although Avista Utilities has no investment in the PUD generating facilities, the fixed contracts obligate Avista Utilities to pay certain minimum amounts whether or not the facilities are operating. The cost of power obtained under the contracts, including payments made when a facility is not operating, is included in utility resource costs in the Consolidated Statements of Income. The contractual amounts included above consist of Avista Utilities' share of existing debt service cost and its proportionate share of the variable operating expenses of these projects. The minimum amounts payable under these contracts are based in part on the proportionate share of the debt service requirements of the PUD's revenue bonds for which the Company is indirectly responsible. The Company's total future debt service obligation associated with the revenue bonds outstanding at December 31, 2015 (principal and interest) was $72.0 million.

In addition, Avista Utilities has operating agreements, settlements and other contractual obligations related to its generating facilities and transmission and distribution services. The expenses associated with these agreements are reflected as other operating expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Income. The following table details future contractual commitments under these agreements (dollars in thousands):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Thereafter	Total
Contractual obligations	$ 33,694	$ 31,134	$ 26,405	$ 31,117	$ 31,811	$ 192,295	$ 346,456

NOTE 13. COMMITTED LINES OF CREDIT

Avista Corp.

Avista Corp. has a committed line of credit with various financial institutions in the total amount of $400.0 million that expires in April 2019. The Company has the option to request an extension for an additional one or two years beyond April 2019, provided, 1) that no event of default has occurred and is continuing prior to the requested extension and 2) the remaining term of agreement, including the requested extension period, does not exceed five years. The committed line of credit is secured by non-transferable first mortgage bonds of the Company issued to the agent bank that would only become due and payable in the event, and then only to the extent, that the Company defaults on its obligations under the committed line of credit.

The committed line of credit agreement contains customary covenants and default provisions. The credit agreement has a covenant which does not permit the ratio of "consolidated total debt" to "consolidated total capitalization" of Avista Corp. to be greater than 65 percent at any time. As of December 31, 2015, the Company was in compliance with this covenant.

Balances outstanding and interest rates of borrowings (excluding letters of credit) under the Company's revolving committed lines of credit were as follows as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Balance outstanding at end of period	$ 105,000	$ 105,000
Letters of credit outstanding at end of period	$ 44,595	$ 32,579
Average interest rate at end of period	1.18%	0.93%

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the borrowings outstanding under Avista Corp.'s committed line of credit were classified as short-term borrowings on the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

AEL&P

AEL&P has a committed line of credit in the amount of $25.0 million that expires in November 2019. As of December 31, 2015, there were no borrowings or letters of credit outstanding under this committed line of credit.

The committed line of credit is secured by non-transferable first mortgage bonds of AEL&P issued to the agent bank that would only become due and payable in the event, and then only to the extent, that AEL&P defaults on its obligations under the committed line of credit.

The committed line of credit agreement contains customary covenants and default provisions. The credit agreement has a covenant which does not permit the ratio of "consolidated total debt at AEL&P" to "consolidated total capitalization at AEL&P," including the impact of the Snettisham bonds to be greater than 67.5 percent at any time. As of December 31, 2015, the Company was in compliance with this covenant.

NOTE 14. LONG-TERM DEBT AND CAPITAL LEASES

The following details long-term debt outstanding as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

Maturity Year	Description	Interest Rate	2015	2014
Avista Corp. Secured Long-Term Debt				
2016	First Mortgage Bonds	0.84%	$ 90,000	$ 90,000
2018	First Mortgage Bonds	5.95%	250,000	250,000
2018	Secured Medium-Term Notes	7.39%-7.45%	22,500	22,500
2019	First Mortgage Bonds	5.45%	90,000	90,000
2020	First Mortgage Bonds	3.89%	52,000	52,000
2022	First Mortgage Bonds	5.13%	250,000	250,000
2023	Secured Medium-Term Notes	7.18%-7.54%	13,500	13,500
2028	Secured Medium-Term Notes	6.37%	25,000	25,000
2032	Secured Pollution Control Bonds (1)	(1)	66,700	66,700
2034	Secured Pollution Control Bonds (1)	(1)	17,000	17,000
2035	First Mortgage Bonds	6.25%	150,000	150,000
2037	First Mortgage Bonds	5.70%	150,000	150,000
2040	First Mortgage Bonds	5.55%	35,000	35,000
2041	First Mortgage Bonds	4.45%	85,000	85,000
2044	First Mortgage Bonds	4.11%	60,000	60,000
2045	First Mortgage Bonds (2)	4.37%	100,000	—
2047	First Mortgage Bonds	4.23%	80,000	80,000
	Total Avista Corp. secured long-term debt		1,536,700	1,436,700
AEL&P Secured Long-Term Debt				
2044	First Mortgage Bonds	4.54%	75,000	75,000
	Total secured long-term debt		1,611,700	1,511,700
AERC Unsecured Long-Term Debt				
2019	Unsecured Term Loan	3.85%	15,000	15,000
	Total secured and unsecured long-term debt		1,626,700	1,526,700
Other Long-Term Debt Components				
	Capital lease obligations		68,601	74,149
	Settled interest rate swaps (3)		(26,515)	(17,541)
	Unamortized debt discount		(956)	(1,122)
	Unamortized long-term debt issuance costs		(10,852)	(11,360)
	Total		1,656,978	1,570,826
	Secured Pollution Control Bonds held by Avista Corporation (1)		(83,700)	(83,700)
	Current portion of long-term debt and capital leases		(93,167)	(6,424)
	Total long-term debt and capital leases		$ 1,480,111	$ 1,480,702

(1) In December 2010, $66.7 million and $17.0 million of the City of Forsyth, Montana Pollution Control Revenue Refunding Bonds (Avista Corporation Colstrip Project) due in 2032 and 2034, respectively, which had been held by Avista Corp. since 2008 and 2009, respectively, were refunded by new bond issues (Series 2010A and Series 2010B). The new bonds were not offered to the public and were purchased by Avista Corp. due to market conditions. The Company expects that at a later date, subject to market conditions, these bonds may be remarketed to unaffiliated investors. So long as Avista Corp. is the holder of these bonds, the bonds will not be reflected as an asset or a liability on Avista Corp.'s Consolidated Balance Sheets.

(2) In December 2015, Avista Corp. issued $100.0 million of first mortgage bonds to five institutional investors in a private placement transaction. The first mortgage bonds bear an interest rate of 4.37 percent and mature in 2045. The total net proceeds from the sale of the new bonds were used to repay a portion of the borrowings outstanding under the Company's $400.0 million committed line of credit and for general corporate purposes.

(3) Upon settlement of interest rate swaps, these are recorded as a regulatory asset or liability and included as part of long-term debt above. They are amortized as a component of interest expense over the life of the associated debt and included as a part of the Company's cost of debt calculation for ratemaking purposes.

The following table details future long-term debt maturities including long-term debt to affiliated trusts (see Note 15) (dollars in thousands):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Thereafter	Total
Debt maturities	$ 90,000	$ —	$ 272,500	$ 105,000	$ 52,000	$ 1,075,047	$ 1,594,547

Substantially all Avista Utilities' and AEL&P's owned properties are subject to the lien of their respective mortgage indentures. Under the Mortgages and Deeds of Trust (Mortgages) securing their first mortgage bonds (including secured medium-term notes), Avista Utilities and AEL&P may each issue additional first mortgage bonds under their specific mortgage in an aggregate principal amount equal to the sum of: 1) 66-2/3 percent of the cost or fair value (whichever is lower) of property additions at each entity which have not previously been made the basis of any application under the Mortgages, or 2) an equal principal amount of retired first mortgage bonds at each entity which have not previously been made the basis of any application under the Mortgages, or 3) deposit of cash. However, Avista Utilities and AEL&P may not individually issue any additional first mortgage bonds (with certain exceptions in the case of bonds issued on the basis of retired bonds) unless the particular entity issuing the bonds has "net earnings" (as defined in the Mortgages) for any period of 12 consecutive calendar months out of the preceding 18 calendar months that were at least twice the annual interest requirements on all mortgage securities at the time outstanding, including the first mortgage bonds to be issued, and on all indebtedness of prior rank. As of December 31, 2015, property additions and retired bonds would have allowed, and the net earnings test would not have prohibited, the issuance of $1.1 billion in aggregate principal amount of additional first mortgage bonds at Avista Utilities and $5.0 million at AEL&P.

See Note 13 for information regarding first mortgage bonds issued to secure the Company's obligations under its committed line of credit agreement.

Snettisham Capital Lease Obligation

Included in long-term capital leases above is a power purchase agreement between AEL&P and AIDEA, an agency of the State of Alaska, under which AEL&P has a take-or-pay obligation, expiring in December 2038, to purchase all the output of the 78 MW Snettisham hydroelectric project. For accounting purposes, this power purchase agreement is treated as a capital lease.

The balances related to the Snettisham capital lease obligation as of December 31 were as follows (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Capital lease obligation (1)	$ 64,455	$ 69,955
Capital lease asset (2)	71,007	71,007
Accumulated amortization of capital lease asset (2)	5,462	1,821

(1) The capital lease obligation amount is equal to the amount of AIDEA's revenue bonds outstanding.
(2) These amounts are included in utility plant in service on the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Interest on the capital lease obligation and amortization of the capital lease asset are included in utility resource costs in the Consolidated Statements of Income and totaled the following amounts for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015	2014
Interest on capital lease obligation	$ 3,587	$ 1,908
Amortization of capital lease asset	3,641	1,821

AIDEA issued $100.0 million of revenue bonds in 1998 to finance its acquisition of the project and the payments by AEL&P were designed to be more than sufficient to enable the AIDEA to pay the principal of and interest on its revenue bonds, which bore interest at rates ranging from 4.9 percent to 6.0 percent and were set to mature in January 2034.

In August 2015, AIDEA issued $65.7 million of new revenue bonds for the purpose of refunding all of the remaining outstanding revenue bonds for the Snettisham Hydroelectric Project. The new revenue bonds have interest rates ranging from 4.0 percent to 5.0 percent and mature in January 2034. The capital lease obligation on Avista Corp.'s Consolidated Balance Sheet at any given time is equal to the amount of revenue bonds outstanding at that time. AEL&P is scheduled to make its last capital lease payment to AIDEA in December 2033. The payments by AEL&P under the PPA between AEL&P and AIDEA are unconditional, notwithstanding any suspension, reduction or curtailment of the operation of the project. The bonds are payable solely out of AIDEA's receipts under the power purchase agreement. AEL&P is also obligated to operate, maintain and insure the project. The PPA did not change as a result of the refunding and the lower capital lease payments that resulted from the refunding will be passed through to AEL&P. As a result of the refunding, AEL&P recognized a gain of $3.3 million, which was recorded as a regulatory liability. The benefits from the refunding will eventually be passed through to customers in future periods via lower purchased power costs, after a new general rate case is filed. AEL&P's new payments for power under the agreement are approximately $10.4 million per year, while the capital lease principal and interest is approximately $5.5 million per year, which is included in the $10.4 million total cost of power.

Snettisham Electric Company, a non-operating subsidiary of AERC, has the option to purchase the Snettisham project with certain conditions at any time for the principal amount of the bonds outstanding at that time.

While the power purchase agreement is treated as a capital lease for accounting purposes, for ratemaking purposes this agreement is treated as an operating lease with a constant level of annual rental expense (straight line expense). Because of this regulatory treatment, any difference between the operating lease expense for ratemaking purposes and the expenses recognized under capital lease treatment (interest and depreciation of the capital lease asset) is recorded as a regulatory asset and amortized during the later years of the lease when the capital lease expense is less than the operating lease expense included in base rates.

The Company evaluated this agreement to determine if it has a variable interest which must be consolidated. Based on this evaluation, AIDEA will not be consolidated under ASC 810 "Consolidation" because AIDEA is a government agency and ASC 810 has a specific scope exception which does not allow for the consolidation of government organizations.

The following table details future capital lease obligations, including interest, under the Snettisham power purchase agreement (dollars in thousands):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Thereafter	Total
Principal	$ 2,295	$ 2,415	$ 2,535	$ 2,660	$ 2,800	$ 51,750	$ 64,455
Interest	3,157	3,042	2,921	2,795	2,662	19,195	33,772
Total	$ 5,452	$ 5,457	$ 5,456	$ 5,455	$ 5,462	$ 70,945	$ 98,227

Nonrecourse Long-Term Debt

Nonrecourse long-term debt represented the long-term debt of Spokane Energy. To provide funding to acquire a long-term fixed rate electric capacity contract from Avista Corp., Spokane Energy borrowed $145.0 million from a funding trust in December 1998. The long-term debt had scheduled monthly installments and interest at a fixed rate of 8.45 percent and the final payment was made in January 2015. Spokane Energy bore full recourse risk for the debt, which was secured by the fixed rate electric capacity contract and $1.6 million of funds held in a trust account. As of December 31, 2015, there is no obligation remaining.

NOTE 15. LONG-TERM DEBT TO AFFILIATED TRUSTS

In 1997, the Company issued Floating Rate Junior Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures, Series B, with a principal amount of $51.5 million to Avista Capital II, an affiliated business trust formed by the Company. Avista Capital II issued $50.0 million of Preferred Trust Securities with a floating distribution rate of LIBOR plus 0.875 percent, calculated and reset quarterly. The distribution rates paid were as follows during the years ended December 31:

	2015	2014	2013
Low distribution rate	1.11%	1.10%	1.11%
High distribution rate	1.29%	1.11%	1.19%
Distribution rate at the end of the year	1.29%	1.11%	1.11%

Concurrent with the issuance of the Preferred Trust Securities, Avista Capital II issued $1.5 million of Common Trust Securities to the Company. These debt securities may be redeemed at the option of Avista Capital II at any time and mature on June 1, 2037. In December 2000, the Company purchased $10.0 million of these Preferred Trust Securities.

The Company owns 100 percent of Avista Capital II and has solely and unconditionally guaranteed the payment of distributions on, and redemption price and liquidation amount for, the Preferred Trust Securities to the extent that Avista Capital II has funds available for such payments from the respective debt securities. Upon maturity or prior redemption of such debt securities, the Preferred Trust Securities will be mandatorily redeemed. The Company does not include these capital trusts in its consolidated financial statements as Avista Corp. is not the primary beneficiary. As such, the sole assets of the capital trusts are $51.5 million of junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures of Avista Corp., which are reflected on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Interest expense to affiliated trusts in the Consolidated Statements of Income represents interest expense on these debentures.

NOTE 16. FAIR VALUE

The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, accounts and notes receivable, accounts payable and short-term borrowings are reasonable estimates of their fair values. Long-term debt (including current portion and material capital leases), nonrecourse long-term debt and long-term debt to affiliated trusts are reported at carrying value on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurement) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurement).

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined as follows:

Level 1 – Quoted prices are available in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Active markets are those in which transactions for the asset or liability occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

Level 2 – Pricing inputs are other than quoted prices in active markets included in Level 1, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date. Level 2 includes those financial instruments that are valued using models or other valuation methodologies. These models are primarily industry-standard models that consider various assumptions, including quoted forward prices for commodities, time value, volatility factors, and current market and contractual prices for the underlying instruments, as well as other relevant economic measures. Substantially all of these assumptions are observable in the marketplace throughout the full term of the instrument, can be derived from observable data or are supported by observable levels at which transactions are executed in the marketplace.

Level 3 – Pricing inputs include significant inputs that are generally unobservable from objective sources. These inputs may be used with internally developed methodologies that result in management's best estimate of fair value.

Financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment, and may affect the valuation of fair value assets and liabilities and their placement within the fair value hierarchy levels. The determination of the fair values incorporates various factors that not only include the credit standing of the counterparties involved and the impact of credit enhancements (such as cash deposits and letters of credit), but also the impact of Avista Corp.'s nonperformance risk on its liabilities.

The following table sets forth the carrying value and estimated fair value of the Company's financial instruments not reported at estimated fair value on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	2015		2014	
	Carrying Value	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Value	Estimated Fair Value
Long-term debt (Level 2)	$ 951,000	$ 1,055,797	$ 951,000	$ 1,118,972
Long-term debt (Level 3)	592,000	595,018	492,000	527,663
Snettisham capital lease obligation (Level 3)	64,455	63,150	69,955	79,290
Nonrecourse long-term debt (Level 3)	—	—	1,431	1,440
Long-term debt to affiliated trusts (Level 3)	51,547	36,083	51,547	38,582

These estimates of fair value of long-term debt and long-term debt to affiliated trusts were primarily based on available market information, which generally consists of estimated market prices from third party brokers for debt with similar risk and terms. The price ranges obtained from the third party brokers consisted of par values of 70.00 to 119.70, where a par value of 100.00 represents the carrying value recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Level 2 long-term debt represents publicly issued bonds with quoted market prices; however, due to their limited trading activity, they are classified as level 2 because brokers must generate quotes and make estimates if there is no trading activity near a period end. Level 3 long-term debt consists of private placement bonds and debt to affiliated trusts, which typically have no secondary trading activity. Fair values in Level 3 are estimated based on market prices from third party brokers using secondary market quotes for debt with similar risk and terms to generate quotes for Avista Corp. bonds. Due to the unique nature of the Snettisham capital lease obligation, the estimated fair value of these items was determined based on a discounted cash flow model using available market information. The Snettisham capital lease obligation was discounted to present value using the Moody's Aaa Corporate discount rate as published by the Federal Reserve on December 31, 2015.

The following table discloses by level within the fair value hierarchy the Company’s assets and liabilities measured and reported on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 at fair value on a recurring basis (dollars in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Counterparty and Cash Collateral Netting (1)	Total
December 31, 2015					
Assets:					
Energy commodity derivatives	$ —	$ 74,637	$ —	$ (73,954)	$ 683
Level 3 energy commodity derivatives:					
Natural gas exchange agreements	—	—	678	(678)	—
Foreign currency derivatives	—	2	—	(2)	—
Interest rate swaps	—	1,548	—	—	1,548
Deferred compensation assets:					
Fixed income securities (2)	1,727	—	—	—	1,727
Equity securities (2)	5,761	—	—	—	5,761
Total	$ 7,488	$ 76,187	$ 678	$ (74,634)	$ 9,719
Liabilities:					
Energy commodity derivatives	$ —	$ 97,193	$ —	$ (88,480)	$ 8,713
Level 3 energy commodity derivatives:					
Natural gas exchange agreement	—	—	5,717	(678)	5,039
Power exchange agreement	—	—	21,961	—	21,961
Power option agreement	—	—	124	—	124
Interest rate swaps	—	85,498	—	—	85,498
Foreign currency derivatives	—	19	—	(2)	17
Total	$ —	$ 182,710	$ 27,802	$ (89,160)	$ 121,352

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Counterparty and Cash Collateral Netting (1)	Total
December 31, 2014					
Assets:					
Energy commodity derivatives	$ —	$ 96,729	$ —	$ (95,204)	$ 1,525
Level 3 energy commodity derivatives:					
Natural gas exchange agreement	—	—	1,349	(1,349)	—
Foreign currency derivatives	—	1	—	(1)	—
Interest rate swaps	—	966	—	(506)	460
Funds held in trust account of Spokane Energy	1,600	—	—	—	1,600
Deferred compensation assets:					
Fixed income securities (2)	1,793	—	—	—	1,793
Equity securities (2)	6,074	—	—	—	6,074
Total	$ 9,467	$ 97,696	$ 1,349	$ (97,060)	$ 11,452
Liabilities:					
Energy commodity derivatives	$ —	$ 127,094	$ —	$ (110,714)	$ 16,380
Level 3 energy commodity derivatives:					
Natural gas exchange agreement	—	—	1,384	(1,349)	35
Power exchange agreement	—	—	23,299	—	23,299
Power option agreement	—	—	424	—	424
Foreign currency derivatives	—	21	—	(1)	20
Interest rate swaps	—	77,568	—	(29,386)	48,182
Total	$ —	$ 204,683	$ 25,107	$ (141,450)	$ 88,340

(1) The Company is permitted to net derivative assets and derivative liabilities with the same counterparty when a legally enforceable master netting agreement exists. In addition, the Company nets derivative assets and derivative liabilities against any payables and receivables for cash collateral held or placed with these same counterparties.

(2) These assets are trading securities and are included in other property and investments-net on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Avista Corp. enters into forward contracts to purchase or sell a specified amount of energy at a specified time, or during a specified period, in the future. These contracts are entered into as part of Avista Corp.'s management of loads and resources and certain contracts are considered derivative instruments. The difference between the amount of derivative assets and liabilities disclosed in respective levels and the amount of derivative assets and liabilities disclosed on the Consolidated Balance Sheets is due to netting arrangements with certain counterparties. The Company uses quoted market prices and forward price curves to estimate the fair value of utility derivative commodity instruments included in Level 2. In particular, electric derivative valuations are performed using market quotes, adjusted for periods in between quotable periods. Natural gas derivative valuations are estimated using New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) pricing for similar instruments, adjusted for basin differences, using market quotes. Where observable inputs are available for substantially the full term of the contract, the derivative asset or liability is included in Level 2.

To establish fair values for interest rate swaps, the Company uses forward market curves for interest rates for the term of the swaps and discounts the cash flows back to present value using an appropriate discount rate. The discount rate is calculated by third party brokers according to the terms of the swap agreements and evaluated by the Company for reasonableness, with consideration given to the potential non-performance risk by the Company. Future cash flows of the interest rate swaps are equal to the fixed interest rate in the swap compared to the floating market interest rate multiplied by the notional amount for each period.

To establish fair value for foreign currency derivatives, the Company uses forward market curves for Canadian dollars against the US dollar and multiplies the difference between the locked-in price and the market price by the notional amount of the derivative. Forward foreign currency market curves are provided by third party brokers. The Company's credit spread is factored into the locked-in price of the foreign exchange contracts.

Deferred compensation assets and liabilities represent funds held by the Company in a Rabbi Trust for an executive deferral plan. These funds consist of actively traded equity and bond funds with quoted prices in active markets. The balance disclosed in the table above excludes cash and cash equivalents of $0.6 million as of December 31, 2015 and $0.8 million as of December 31, 2014.

Level 3 Fair Value

Under the power exchange agreement the Company purchases power at a price that is based on the on the average operating and maintenance (O&M) charges from three surrogate nuclear power plants around the country. To estimate the fair value of this agreement the Company estimates the difference between the purchase price based on the future O&M charges and forward prices for energy.

The Company compares the Level 2 brokered quotes and forward price curves described above to an internally developed forward price which is based on the average O&M charges from the three surrogate nuclear power plants for the current year. Because the nuclear power plant O&M charges are only known for one year, all forward years are estimated assuming an annual escalation. In addition to the forward price being estimated using unobservable inputs, the Company also estimates the volumes of the transactions that will take place in the future based on historical average transaction volumes per delivery year (November to April). Significant increases or decreases in any of these inputs in isolation would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement. Generally, a change in the current year O&M charges for the surrogate plants is accompanied by a directionally similar change in O&M charges in future years. There is generally not a correlation between external market prices and the O&M charges used to develop the internal forward price.

For the power commodity option agreement, the Company uses the Black-Scholes-Merton valuation model to estimate the fair value, and this model includes significant inputs not observable or corroborated in the market. These inputs include: 1) the strike price (which is an internally derived price based on a combination of generation plant heat rate factors, natural gas market pricing, delivery and other O&M charges), 2) estimated delivery volumes, and 3) volatility rates for periods beyond January 2018. Significant increases or decreases in any of these inputs in isolation would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement. Generally, changes in overall commodity market prices and volatility rates are accompanied by directionally similar changes in the strike price and volatility assumptions used in the calculation.

For the natural gas commodity exchange agreement, the Company uses the same Level 2 brokered quotes described above; however, the Company also estimates the purchase and sales volumes (within contractual limits) as well as the timing of those transactions. Changing the timing of volume estimates changes the timing of purchases and sales, impacting which brokered quote is used. Because the brokered quotes can vary significantly from period to period, the unobservable estimates of the timing and volume of transactions can have a significant impact on the calculated fair value. The Company currently estimates volumes and timing of transactions based on a most likely scenario using historical data. Historically, the timing and volume of transactions have not been highly correlated with market prices and market volatility.

The following table presents the quantitative information which was used to estimate the fair values of the Level 3 assets and liabilities above as of December 31, 2015 (dollars in thousands):

	Fair Value (Net) at December 31, 2015	Valuation Technique	Unobservable Input	Range
Power exchange agreement	$ (21,961)	Surrogate facility pricing	O&M charges	$33.52-$43.65/MWh (1)
			Escalation factor	3% - 2016 to 2019
			Transaction volumes	233,054 - 397,030 MWhs
Power option agreement	(124)	Black-Scholes-Merton	Strike price	$35.43/MWh - 2016
				$48.78/MWh - 2019
			Delivery volumes	157,517 - 285,979 MWhs
			Volatility rates	0.20 (2)
Natural gas exchange agreement	(5,039)	Internally derived weighted average cost of gas	Forward purchase prices	$1.67 - $2.84/mmBTU
			Forward sales prices	$1.88 - $3.68/mmBTU
			Purchase volumes	115,000 - 310,000 mmBTUs
			Sales volumes	30,000 - 310,000 mmBTUs

(1) The average O&M charges for the delivery year beginning in November 2015 were $39.27 per MWh. For ratemaking purposes the average O&M charges to be included for recovery in retail rates vary slightly between regulatory jurisdictions. The average O&M charges for the delivery year beginning in 2015 are $43.52 for Washington and $39.27 for Idaho.
(2) The estimated volatility rate of 0.20 is compared to actual quoted volatility rates of 0.37 for 2016 to 0.24 in January 2018.

Avista Corp.'s risk management department and accounting department are responsible for developing the valuation methods described above and both groups report to the Chief Financial Officer. The valuation methods, significant inputs and resulting fair values described above are reviewed on at least a quarterly basis by the risk management department and the accounting department to ensure they provide a reasonable estimate of fair value each reporting period.

The following table presents activity for energy commodity derivative assets (liabilities) measured at fair value using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the years ended December 31 (dollars in thousands):

	Natural Gas Exchange Agreement	Power Exchange Agreement	Power Option Agreement	Total
Year ended December 31, 2015:				
Balance as of January 1, 2015	$ (35)	$ (23,299)	$ (424)	$ (23,758)
Total gains or losses (realized/unrealized):				
Included in regulatory assets/liabilities (1)	(6,008)	(6,198)	300	(11,906)
Settlements	1,004	7,536	—	8,540
Ending balance as of December 31, 2015 (2)	$ (5,039)	$ (21,961)	$ (124)	$ (27,124)
Year ended December 31, 2014:				
Balance as of January 1, 2014	$ (1,219)	$ (14,441)	$ (775)	$ (16,435)
Total gains or losses (realized/unrealized):				
Included in regulatory assets/liabilities (1)	3,873	(10,002)	351	(5,778)
Settlements	(2,689)	1,144	—	(1,545)
Ending balance as of December 31, 2014 (2)	$ (35)	$ (23,299)	$ (424)	$ (23,758)
Year ended December 31, 2013:				
Balance as of January 1, 2013	$ (2,379)	$ (18,692)	$ (1,480)	$ (22,551)
Total gains or losses (realized/unrealized):				
Included in regulatory assets/liabilities (1)	2,298	1,017	705	4,020
Settlements	(1,138)	3,234	—	2,096
Ending balance as of December 31, 2013 (2)	$ (1,219)	$ (14,441)	$ (775)	$ (16,435)

(1) All gains and losses are included in other regulatory assets and liabilities. There were no gains and losses included in either net income or other comprehensive income during any of the periods presented in the table above.
(2) There were no purchases, issuances or transfers from other categories of any derivatives instruments during the periods presented in the table above.

NOTE 17. COMMON STOCK

The Company had a Direct Stock Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan under which the Company’s shareholders could automatically reinvest their dividends and make optional cash payments for the purchase of the Company’s common stock at current market value. This plan was terminated by the Company in 2014. Shares issued under this plan in 2014 and 2013 are disclosed in the Consolidated Statements of Equity and Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests.

The payment of dividends on common stock could be limited by:

- certain covenants applicable to preferred stock (when outstanding) contained in the Company’s Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended (currently there are no preferred shares outstanding),
- certain covenants applicable to the Company's outstanding long-term debt and committed line of credit agreements,
- the hydroelectric licensing requirements of section 10(d) of the FPA (see Note 1), and.

- certain requirements under the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC) approval of the AERC acquisition. As of July 1, 2015 (one year following the acquisition date), the OPUC does not permit one-time or special dividends from AERC to Avista Corp. and does not permit Avista Utilities' total equity to total capitalization to be less than 40 percent, without approval from the OPUC. However, the OPUC approval does allow for regular distributions of AERC earnings to Avista Corp. as long as AERC remains sufficiently capitalized and insured.

The Company declared the following dividends for the year ended December 31:

	2015	2014	2013
Dividends paid per common share	$ 1.32	$ 1.27	$ 1.22

Under the covenant applicable to the Company's committed line of credit agreement, which does not permit the ratio of “consolidated total debt” to “consolidated total capitalization” to be greater than 65 percent at any time, the amount of retained earnings available for dividends at December 31, 2015 was limited to approximately $385.3 million.

Under the requirements of the OPUC approval of the AERC acquisition as outlined above, the amount available for dividends at December 31, 2015 was limited to approximately $231.0 million.

The Company has 10 million authorized shares of preferred stock. The Company did not have any preferred stock outstanding as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

Stock Repurchase Programs

During 2014, Avista Corp.'s Board of Directors approved a program to repurchase up to 4 million shares of the Company’s outstanding common stock (2014 program). Repurchases of common stock under this program began on July 7, 2014 and the program expired on December 31, 2014. Repurchases were made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. Under the 2014 program the Company repurchased 2,529,615 shares at a total cost of $79.9 million and an average cost of $31.57 per share. The Company did not make any repurchases under this program subsequent to October 2014.

Avista Corp. initiated a second stock repurchase program on January 2, 2015 that expired on March 31, 2015 for the repurchase of up to 800,000 shares of the Company's outstanding common stock (first quarter 2015 program). The number of shares repurchased through the first quarter 2015 program was in addition to the number of shares repurchased under the 2014 program, which expired on December 31, 2014. Under the first quarter 2015 program, the Company repurchased 89,400 shares at a total cost of $2.9 million and an average cost of $32.66 per share. All repurchased shares under the 2014 program and the first quarter 2015 program reverted to the status of authorized but unissued shares.

NOTE 18. EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO AVISTA CORPORATION SHAREHOLDERS

The following table presents the computation of basic and diluted earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders for the years ended December 31 (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	2015	2014	2013
Numerator:			
Net income from continuing operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	$ 118,080	$ 119,817	$ 104,273
Net income from discontinued operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	5,147	72,224	6,804
Subsidiary earnings adjustment for dilutive securities (discontinued operations)	—	5	(229)
Adjusted net income from discontinued operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders for computation of diluted earnings per common share	$ 5,147	$ 72,229	$ 6,575
Denominator:			
Weighted-average number of common shares outstanding-basic	62,301	61,632	59,960
Effect of dilutive securities:			
Performance and restricted stock awards	407	255	37
Weighted-average number of common shares outstanding-diluted	62,708	61,887	59,997
Earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, basic:			
Earnings per common share from continuing operations	$ 1.90	$ 1.94	$ 1.74
Earnings per common share from discontinued operations	$ 0.08	$ 1.18	$ 0.11
Total earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, basic	$ 1.98	$ 3.12	$ 1.85
Earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted:			
Earnings per common share from continuing operations	$ 1.89	$ 1.93	$ 1.74
Earnings per common share from discontinued operations	$ 0.08	$ 1.17	$ 0.11
Total earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted	$ 1.97	$ 3.10	$ 1.85

There were no shares excluded from the calculation because they were antidilutive. All stock options had exercise prices which were less than the average market price of Avista Corp. common stock during the respective period.

NOTE 19. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

In the course of its business, the Company becomes involved in various claims, controversies, disputes and other contingent matters, including the items described in this Note. Some of these claims, controversies, disputes and other contingent matters involve litigation or other contested proceedings. For all such matters, the Company intends to vigorously protect and defend its interests and pursue its rights. However, no assurance can be given as to the ultimate outcome of any particular matter because litigation and other contested proceedings are inherently subject to numerous uncertainties. For matters that affect Avista Utilities' or AEL&P's operations, the Company intends to seek, to the extent appropriate, recovery of incurred costs through the ratemaking process.

California Refund Proceeding

Recently, APX, a market maker in these proceedings in whose markets Avista Energy participated in the summer of 2000, has asserted that Avista Energy and its other customer/participants may be responsible for a share of the disgorgement penalty APX may be found to owe to the California parties. The penalty arises as a result of the FERC finding that APX committed violations in the California market in the summer of 2000. APX is making these assertions despite Avista Energy having been dismissed in FERC Opinion No. 536 from the on-going administrative proceeding at the FERC regarding potential wrongdoing in the California markets in the summer of 2000. APX has identified Avista Energy's share of APX's exposure to be as much as $16.0 million even though no wrongdoing allegations are specifically attributable to Avista Energy. Avista Energy believes its settlement insulates it from any such liability and that as a dismissed party it cannot be drawn back into the litigation. Avista Energy intends to vigorously dispute APX's assertions of indirect liability, but cannot at this time predict the eventual outcome.

Pacific Northwest Refund Proceeding

In July 2001, the FERC initiated a preliminary evidentiary hearing to develop a factual record as to whether prices for spot market sales of wholesale energy in the Pacific Northwest between December 25, 2000 and June 20, 2001 were just and reasonable. In June 2003, the FERC terminated the Pacific Northwest refund proceedings, after finding that the equities do not justify the imposition of refunds. In August 2007, the Ninth Circuit found that the FERC had failed to take into account new evidence of market manipulation and that such failure was arbitrary and capricious and, accordingly, remanded the case to the FERC, stating that the FERC's findings must be reevaluated in light of the new evidence. The Ninth Circuit expressly declined to direct the FERC to grant refunds. On October 3, 2011, the FERC issued an Order on Remand. On April 5, 2013, the FERC issued an Order on Rehearing expanding the temporal scope of the proceeding to permit parties to submit evidence on transactions during the period from January 1, 2000 through and including June 20, 2001. The Order on Remand established an evidentiary, trial-type hearing before an ALJ, and reopened the record to permit parties to present evidence of unlawful market activity. The Order on Remand stated that parties seeking refunds must submit evidence demonstrating that specific unlawful market activity occurred, and must demonstrate that such activity directly affected negotiations with respect to the specific contract rate about which they complain. Simply alleging a general link between the dysfunctional spot market in California and the Pacific Northwest spot market would not be sufficient to establish a causal connection between a particular seller's alleged unlawful activities and the specific contract negotiations at issue. The hearing was conducted in August through October 2013.

On July 11, 2012 and March 28, 2013, Avista Energy and Avista Utilities filed settlements of all issues in this docket with regard to the claims made by the City of Tacoma and the California AG (on behalf of CERS). The FERC has approved the settlements and they are final. The remaining direct claimant against Avista Utilities and Avista Energy in this proceeding is the City of Seattle, Washington (Seattle).

With regard to the Seattle claims, on March 28, 2014, the Presiding ALJ issued her Initial Decision finding that: 1) Seattle failed to demonstrate that either Avista Utilities or Avista Energy engaged in unlawful market activity and also failed to identify any specific contracts at issue; 2) Seattle failed to demonstrate that contracts with either Avista Utilities or Avista Energy imposed an excessive burden on consumers or seriously harmed the public interest; and that 3) Seattle failed to demonstrate that either Avista Utilities or Avista Energy engaged in any specific violations of substantive provisions of the FPA or any filed tariffs or rate schedules. Accordingly, the ALJ denied all of Seattle’s claims under both section 206 and section 309 of the FPA. On May 22, 2015, the FERC issued its Order on Initial Decision in which it upheld the ALJ’s Initial Decision denying all of Seattle’s claims against Avista Utilities and Avista Energy. Seattle filed a Request for Rehearing of the FERC’s Order on Initial Decision which was denied on December 31, 2015. The Company does not expect that this matter will have a material adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Sierra Club and Montana Environmental Information Center Complaint Against the Owners of Colstrip

On March 6, 2013, the Sierra Club and Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) (collectively "Plaintiffs"), filed a Complaint in the United States District Court for the District of Montana, Billings Division, against the Owners of the Colstrip Generating Project ("Colstrip"). Avista Corp. owns a 15 percent interest in Units 3 & 4 of Colstrip. The other Colstrip co-Owners are Talen (formerly PPL Montana), Puget Sound Energy, Portland General Electric Company, NorthWestern Energy and PacifiCorp. The Complaint alleges certain violations of the Clean Air Act, including the New Source Review, Title V and opacity requirements.

On September 27, 2013, the Plaintiffs filed an Amended Complaint. The Amended Complaint withdrew from the original Complaint fifteen claims related to seven pre-January 1, 2001 Colstrip maintenance projects, upgrade projects and work projects and claims alleging violations of Title V and opacity requirements. The Amended Complaint alleges certain violations of the Clean Air Act and the New Source Review and adds claims with respect to post-January 1, 2001 Colstrip projects.

On August 27, 2014, the Plaintiffs filed a Second Amended Complaint. The Second Amended Complaint withdraws from the Amended Complaint five claims and adds one new claim. The Second Amended Complaint alleges certain violations of the Clean Air Act and the New Source Review. The Plaintiffs request that the Court grant injunctive and declaratory relief, order remediation of alleged environmental damages, impose civil penalties, require a beneficial environmental project in the areas affected by the alleged air pollution and require payment of Plaintiffs’ costs of litigation and attorney fees. The Plaintiffs have since indicated that they do not intend to pursue two of the seven projects, leaving a total of five projects remaining. A number of motions for summary judgment were filed by both the Plaintiffs and the defendants. The Court issued its rulings on these motions and, as a result, only two projects remain for trial. The Plaintiffs have filed objections to the order.

The case has been bifurcated into separate liability and remedy trials. The Court has set the liability trial date for May 31, 2016. No date has been set for the remedy trial.

Management believes that it is reasonably possible that this matter could result in a loss to the Company. However, due to uncertainties concerning this matter, Avista Corp. cannot predict the outcome or determine whether it would have a material impact on the Company.

Cabinet Gorge Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan

Dissolved atmospheric gas levels (referred to as "TDG") in the Clark Fork River exceed state of Idaho and federal water quality numeric standards downstream of Cabinet Gorge during periods when excess river flows must be diverted over the spillway. Under the terms of the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement as incorporated in Avista Corp.'s FERC license for the Clark Fork Project, Avista Corp. has worked in consultation with agencies, tribes and other stakeholders to address this issue. Under the terms of a gas supersaturation mitigation plan, Avista is reducing TDG by constructing spill crest modifications on spill gates at the dam, and the Company expects to continue spill crest modifications over the next several years, in ongoing consultation with key stakeholders. Avista Corp. cannot at this time predict the outcome or estimate a range of costs associated with this contingency; however, the Company will continue to seek recovery, through the ratemaking process, of all operating and capitalized costs related to this issue.

Fish Passage at Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids

In 1999, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed bull trout as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In 2010, the USFWS issued a revised designation of critical habitat for bull trout, which includes the lower Clark Fork River. The USFWS issued a final recovery plan in October 2015.

The Clark Fork Settlement Agreement describes programs intended to help restore bull trout populations in the project area. Using the concept of adaptive management and working closely with the USFWS, the Company evaluated the feasibility of fish passage at Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids. The results of these studies led, in part, to the decision to move forward with development of permanent facilities, among other bull trout enhancement efforts. Fishway designs for Cabinet Gorge have been completed, and the Company is developing construction cost estimates currently. The Company believes its ongoing efforts through the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement continue to effectively address issues related to bull trout. Avista Corp. cannot at this time predict the outcome or estimate a range of costs associated with this contingency; however, the Company will continue to seek recovery, through the ratemaking process, of all operating and capitalized costs related to fish passage at Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids.

Collective Bargaining Agreements

The Company’s collective bargaining agreements with the IBEW represents approximately 45 percent of all of Avista Utilities’ employees. The agreement with the local union in Washington and Idaho representing the majority (approximately 90 percent) of the Avista Utilities' bargaining unit employees expires in March 2016. In October 2015, a new collective bargaining agreement concerning wages over the three-year period 2016 through 2018 was approved by the local IBEW in Washington and Idaho. The new collective bargaining agreement will be effective in March 2016.

A three-year agreement in Oregon, which covers approximately 50 employees, expires in March 2017.

A collective bargaining agreement with the local union of the IBEW in Alaska expires in March 2017. The collective bargaining agreement with the IBEW in Alaska represents approximately 54 percent of all AERC employees. The remainder of AERC's employees are non-union.

There is a risk that if collective bargaining agreements expire and new agreements are not reached in each of our jurisdictions, employees could strike. Given the magnitude of employees that are covered by collective bargaining agreements, this could result in disruptions of our operations. However, the Company believes that the possibility of this occurring is remote.

Customer Information and Work Management Systems Project Cost Recovery

Over the past four years, Avista Corp. has invested significant capital into Project Compass. Project Compass was completed and went into service during the first quarter of 2015. As part of the Washington electric and natural gas general rate cases filed in February 2015 and the Oregon natural gas general rate case filed in May 2015, Avista Utilities requested the full recovery of the Washington and Oregon share of the costs associated with this project.

On July 27, 2015, the UTC Staff in the Company's electric and natural gas general rate cases filed responsive testimony. Included in their testimony was a recommendation to disallow $12.7 million (Washington's share) of Project Compass costs primarily related to the delay in the completion of the project. In a UTC order received in January 2016, the UTC approved the full recovery of Washington's share of Project Compass costs with no disallowances.

In October 2015, the OPUC staff filed testimony in the Company's natural gas general rate case which included a recommendation to disallow $1.2 million (Oregon's share) of Project Compass costs, similar to the initial recommendation in Washington. In January 2016, following the January 2016 UTC order approving the full recovery of Washington's share of Project Compass costs, the OPUC staff withdrew its proposal for a disallowance, with the exception of an inconsequential amount which is still open for discussion.

Other Contingencies

In the normal course of business, the Company has various other legal claims and contingent matters outstanding. The Company believes that any ultimate liability arising from these actions will not have a material impact on its financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. It is possible that a change could occur in the Company's estimates of the probability or amount of a liability being incurred. Such a change, should it occur, could be significant.

The Company routinely assesses, based on studies, expert analyses and legal reviews, its contingencies, obligations and commitments for remediation of contaminated sites, including assessments of ranges and probabilities of recoveries from other responsible parties who either have or have not agreed to a settlement as well as recoveries from insurance carriers. The Company's policy is to accrue and charge to current expense identified exposures related to environmental remediation sites based on estimates of investigation, cleanup and monitoring costs to be incurred. For matters that affect Avista Utilities' or AEL&P's operations, the Company seeks, to the extent appropriate, recovery of incurred costs through the ratemaking process.

The Company has potential liabilities under the Endangered Species Act for species of fish, plants and wildlife that have either already been added to the endangered species list, listed as "threatened" or petitioned for listing. Thus far, measures adopted and implemented have had minimal impact on the Company. However, the Company will continue to seek recovery, through the ratemaking process, of all operating and capitalized costs related to these issues.

Under the federal licenses for its hydroelectric projects, the Company is obligated to protect its property rights, including water rights. In addition, the company holds additional non-hydro water rights. The state of Montana is examining the status of all water right claims within state boundaries through a general adjudication. Claims within the Clark Fork River basin could adversely affect the energy production of the Company's Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids hydroelectric facilities. The state of Idaho has initiated adjudication in northern Idaho, which will ultimately include the lower Clark Fork River, the Spokane River and the Coeur d'Alene basin. The Company is and will continue to be a participant in these and any other relevant adjudication processes. The complexity of such adjudications makes each unlikely to be concluded in the foreseeable future. As such, it is not possible for the Company to estimate the impact of any outcome at this time. The Company will continue to seek recovery, through the ratemaking process, of all operating and capitalized costs related to this issue.

NOTE 20. REGULATORY MATTERS

Regulatory Assets and Liabilities

The following table presents the Company's regulatory assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2015 (dollars in thousands):

	Remaining Amortization Period	Receiving Regulatory Treatment (1) Earning A Return	Receiving Regulatory Treatment Not Earning A Return	(2) Expected Recovery or Refund	Total 2015	Total 2014
Regulatory Assets:						
Investment in exchange power-net	2019	$ 8,983	$ —	$ —	$ 8,983	$ 11,433
Regulatory assets for deferred income tax	(3)	101,240	—	—	101,240	100,412
Regulatory assets for pensions and other postretirement benefit plans	(4)	—	235,009	—	235,009	235,758
Current regulatory asset for utility derivatives	(5)	—	17,260	—	17,260	29,640
Unamortized debt repurchase costs	(6)	15,520	—	—	15,520	17,357
Regulatory asset for settlement with Coeur d'Alene Tribe	2059	46,576	—	—	46,576	47,887
Demand side management programs	(3)	—	3,168	—	3,168	4,603
Montana lease payments	(3)	947	—	—	947	1,984
Lancaster Plant 2010 net costs	2015	—	—	—	—	1,247
Deferred maintenance costs	2017	—	4,823	—	4,823	5,804
Decoupling	2017	13,312	—	—	13,312	—
Power deferrals	(3)	933	—	—	933	8,291
Regulatory asset for interest rate swaps	(7)	—	83,973	—	83,973	77,063
Non-current regulatory asset for utility derivatives	(5)	—	32,420	—	32,420	24,483
Other regulatory assets	(3)	3,132	7,412	4,924	15,468	13,038
Total regulatory assets		$ 190,643	$ 384,065	$ 4,924	$ 579,632	$ 579,000
Regulatory Liabilities:						
Natural gas deferrals	(3)	$ 17,880	$ —	$ —	$ 17,880	$ 3,921
Power deferrals	(3)	18,747	—	—	18,747	14,186
Regulatory liability for utility plant retirement costs	(8)	261,594	—	—	261,594	254,140
Income tax related liabilities	(3)	—	17,609	—	17,609	14,534
Regulatory liability for Spokane Energy	(9)	—	—	—	—	29,028
Regulatory liability for rate refunds	(3)	—	8,814	3,423	12,237	10,131
Decoupling	2017	2,373	—	—	2,373	—
Other regulatory liabilities	(3)	2,395	1,048	—	3,443	7,688
Total regulatory liabilities		$ 302,989	$ 27,471	$ 3,423	$ 333,883	$ 333,628

(1) Earning a return includes either interest on the regulatory asset/liability or a return on the investment as a component of rate base at the allowed rate of return.
(2) Expected recovery is pending regulatory treatment including regulatory assets and liabilities with prior regulatory precedence.
(3) Remaining amortization period varies depending on timing of underlying transactions.
(4) As the Company has historically recovered and currently recovers its pension and other postretirement benefit costs related to its regulated operations in retail rates, the Company records a regulatory asset for that portion of its pension and other postretirement benefit funding deficiency.

(5) The UTC and the IPUC issued accounting orders authorizing Avista Corp. to offset commodity derivative assets or liabilities with a regulatory asset or liability. This accounting treatment is intended to defer the recognition of mark-to-market gains and losses on energy commodity transactions until the period of settlement. The orders provide for Avista Corp. to not recognize the unrealized gain or loss on utility derivative commodity instruments in the Consolidated Statements of Income. Realized gains or losses are recognized in the period of settlement, subject to approval for recovery through retail rates. Realized gains and losses, subject to regulatory approval, result in adjustments to retail rates through purchased gas cost adjustments, the ERM in Washington, the PCA mechanism in Idaho, and periodic general rates cases.

(6) For the Company's Washington jurisdiction and for any debt repurchases beginning in 2007 in all jurisdictions, premiums paid to repurchase debt are amortized over the remaining life of the original debt that was repurchased or, if new debt is issued in connection with the repurchase, these costs are amortized over the life of the new debt. In the Company's other regulatory jurisdictions, premiums paid to repurchase debt prior to 2007 are being amortized over the average remaining maturity of outstanding debt when no new debt was issued in connection with the debt repurchase. These costs are recovered through retail rates as a component of interest expense.

(7) For interest rate swap agreements, each period Avista Utilities records all mark-to-market gains and losses as assets and liabilities and records offsetting regulatory assets and liabilities, such that there is no income statement impact. This is similar to the treatment of energy commodity derivatives described above. Upon settlement of interest rate swaps, the regulatory asset or liability (included as part of long-term debt) is amortized as a component of interest expense over the term of the associated debt.

(8) This amount is dependent upon the cost of removal of underlying utility plant assets and the life of utility plant.

(9) Consists of a regulatory liability recorded for the cumulative retained earnings of Spokane Energy that the Company will flow through regulatory accounting mechanisms in future periods. During 2015, Spokane Energy was dissolved and the fixed rate electric capacity contract that was held at Spokane Energy was transferred to Avista Corp.

Power Cost Deferrals and Recovery Mechanisms

Deferred power supply costs are recorded as a deferred charge on the Consolidated Balance Sheets for future prudence review and recovery through retail rates. The power supply costs deferred include certain differences between actual net power supply costs incurred by Avista Utilities and the costs included in base retail rates. This difference in net power supply costs primarily results from changes in:

- short-term wholesale market prices and sales and purchase volumes,
- the level and availability of hydroelectric generation,
- the level and availability of thermal generation (including changes in fuel prices), and
- retail loads.

In Washington, the ERM allows Avista Utilities to periodically increase or decrease electric rates with UTC approval to reflect changes in power supply costs. The ERM is an accounting method used to track certain differences between actual power supply costs, net of wholesale sales and sales of fuel, and the amount included in base retail rates for Washington customers. Total net deferred power costs under the ERM were a liability of $18.0 million as of December 31, 2015 compared to a liability of $14.2 million as of December 31, 2014, and these deferred power cost balances represent amounts due to customers.

Avista Utilities has a PCA mechanism in Idaho that allows it to modify electric rates on October 1 of each year with IPUC approval. Under the PCA mechanism, Avista Utilities defers 90 percent of the difference between certain actual net power supply expenses and the amount included in base retail rates for its Idaho customers. These annual October 1 rate adjustments recover or rebate power costs deferred during the preceding July-June twelve-month period. Total net power supply costs deferred under the PCA mechanism were a regulatory asset of $0.2 million as of December 31, 2015 compared to a regulatory asset of $8.3 million as of December 31, 2014.

Natural Gas Cost Deferrals and Recovery Mechanisms

Avista Utilities files a PGA in all three states it serves to adjust natural gas rates for: 1) estimated commodity and pipeline transportation costs to serve natural gas customers for the coming year, and 2) the difference between actual and estimated commodity and transportation costs for the prior year. Total net deferred natural gas costs to be refunded to customers were a liability of $17.9 million as of December 31, 2015 compared to a liability of $3.9 million as of December 31, 2014.

Decoupling and Earnings Sharing Mechanisms

Decoupling is a mechanism designed to sever the link between a utility's revenues and consumers' energy usage. The Company's actual revenue, based on kilowatt hour and therm sales will vary, up or down, from the level included in a general rate case, which could be caused by changes in weather, energy conservation or the economy. Generally, the Company's electric and natural gas revenues will be adjusted each month to be based on the number of customers, rather than kilowatt hour and therm sales. The difference between revenues based on sales and revenues based on the number of customers will be deferred and either surcharged or rebated to customers beginning in the following year.

Washington Decoupling and Earnings Sharing

In Washington, the UTC approved the Company's decoupling mechanisms for electric and natural gas for a five-year period that commenced January 1, 2015. Electric and natural gas decoupling surcharge rate adjustments to customers are limited to 3 percent on an annual basis, with any remaining surcharge balance carried forward for recovery in a future period. There is no limit on the level of rebate rate adjustments.

The decoupling mechanisms each include an after-the-fact earnings test. At the end of each calendar year, separate electric and natural gas earnings calculations will be made for the prior calendar year. These earnings tests will reflect actual decoupled revenues, normalized power supply costs and other normalizing adjustments.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had a total net decoupling surcharge (asset) of $10.9 million for Washington electric and natural gas customers and a liability (rebate to customers) for earnings sharing of $3.4 million for Washington electric customers.

Idaho Fixed Cost Adjustment (FCA) and Earnings Sharing Mechanisms

In Idaho, the IPUC approved the implementation of FCAs for electric and natural gas (similar in operation and effect to the Washington decoupling mechanisms) for an initial term of three years, commencing on January 1, 2016.

For the period 2013 through 2015, the Company had an after-the-fact earnings test, such that if Avista Corp., on a consolidated basis for electric and natural gas operations in Idaho, earned more than a 9.8 percent ROE, the Company was required to share with customers 50 percent of any earnings above the 9.8 percent. There was no provision for a surcharge to customers if the Company's ROE was less than 9.8 percent. This after-the-fact earnings test was discontinued as part of the settlement of the Company's 2015 Idaho electric and natural gas general rates cases. As of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the Company had total cumulative earnings sharing liabilities (rebates to customers) of $8.8 million and $10.1 million, respectively for electric and natural gas customers.

NOTE 21. INFORMATION BY BUSINESS SEGMENTS

The business segment presentation reflects the basis used by the Company's management to analyze performance and determine the allocation of resources. The Company's management evaluates performance based on income (loss) from operations before income taxes as well as net income (loss) attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders. The accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies. Avista Utilities' business is managed based on the total regulated utility operation; therefore, it is considered one segment. AEL&P (acquired in the AERC acquisition on July 1, 2014) is a separate reportable business segment as it has separate financial reports that are reviewed in detail by the Chief Operating Decision Maker and its operations and risks are sufficiently different from Avista Utilities and the other businesses at AERC that it cannot be aggregated with any other operating segments. All goodwill associated with the AERC acquisition was assigned to the AEL&P reportable business segment. The Other category, which is not a reportable segment, includes Spokane Energy, which was dissolved during the third quarter of 2015, other investments and operations of various subsidiaries, as well as certain other operations of Avista Capital.

Ecova is a provider of facility information and cost management services for multi-site customers throughout North America. The Ecova business segment was disposed of as of June 30, 2014. All income statement amounts were reclassified to discontinued operations on the Consolidated Statements of Income for all periods presented.

The following table presents information for each of the Company’s business segments (dollars in thousands):

	Avista Utilities	Alaska Electric Light and Power Company	Total Utility	Other	Intersegment Eliminations (1)	Total
For the year ended December 31, 2015:						
Operating revenues	$ 1,411,863	$ 44,778	$ 1,456,641	$ 28,685	$ (550)	$ 1,484,776
Resource costs	644,991	11,973	656,964	—	—	656,964
Other operating expenses	292,096	11,125	303,221	30,076	(550)	332,747
Depreciation and amortization	138,236	5,263	143,499	695	—	144,194
Income (loss) from operations	241,228	14,072	255,300	(2,086)	—	253,214
Interest expense (2)	76,405	3,558	79,963	610	(132)	80,441
Income taxes	64,489	4,202	68,691	(1,242)	—	67,449
Net income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	113,360	6,641	120,001	(1,921)	—	118,080
Capital expenditures (3)	381,174	12,251	393,425	885	—	394,310
For the year ended December 31, 2014:						
Operating revenues	$ 1,413,499	$ 21,644	$ 1,435,143	$ 39,219	$ (1,800)	$ 1,472,562
Resource costs	672,344	5,900	678,244	—	—	678,244
Other operating expenses	280,964	5,868	286,832	32,218	(1,800)	317,250
Depreciation and amortization	126,987	2,583	129,570	610	—	130,180
Income from operations	239,976	6,221	246,197	6,391	—	252,588
Interest expense (2)	73,750	1,382	75,132	1,004	(384)	75,752
Income taxes	67,634	1,816	69,450	2,790	—	72,240
Net income from continuing operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	113,263	3,152	116,415	3,236	166	119,817
Capital expenditures (3)	323,931	1,585	325,516	406	—	325,922
For the year ended December 31, 2013:						
Operating revenues	$ 1,403,995	$ —	$ 1,403,995	$ 39,549	$ (1,800)	$ 1,441,744
Resource costs	689,586	—	689,586	—	—	689,586
Other operating expenses	276,228	—	276,228	40,451	(1,800)	314,879
Depreciation and amortization	117,174	—	117,174	581	—	117,755
Income (loss) from operations	232,572	—	232,572	(1,483)	—	231,089
Interest expense (2)	75,663	—	75,663	2,247	(325)	77,585
Income taxes	60,472	—	60,472	(2,458)	—	58,014
Net income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	108,598	—	108,598	(4,650)	325	104,273
Capital expenditures (3)	294,363	—	294,363	371	—	294,734
Total Assets:						
As of December 31, 2015	$ 4,601,708	$ 265,735	$ 4,867,443	$ 39,206	$ —	$ 4,906,649
As of December 31, 2014 (4)	$ 4,357,760	$ 263,070	$ 4,620,830	$ 80,141	$ —	$ 4,700,971
As of December 31, 2013 (4) (5)	$ 3,930,251	$ —	$ 3,930,251	$ 81,282	$ —	$ 4,011,533

(1) Intersegment eliminations reported as operating revenues and resource costs represent intercompany purchases and sales of electric capacity and energy between Avista Utilities and Spokane Energy (included in other). Intersegment eliminations reported as interest expense and net income (loss) attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders represent intercompany interest.

(2) Including interest expense to affiliated trusts.

(3) The capital expenditures for the other businesses are included as other capital expenditures on the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. The remainder of the balance included in other capital expenditures on the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for 2014 and 2013 are related to Ecova.
(4) The total assets balances as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 were updated to reflect the adoption of FASB ASU No. 2015-03, "Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs" as of December 31, 2015, which resulted in the reclassification of long-term debt issuance costs from an asset to a reduction of long-term debt. See Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of the adoption of this ASU.
(5) The total assets as of December 31, 2013 exclude the total assets associated with Ecova of $339.6 million.

NOTE 22. SELECTED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (Unaudited)

The Company’s energy operations are significantly affected by weather conditions. Consequently, there can be large variances in revenues, expenses and net income between quarters based on seasonal factors such as, but not limited to, temperatures and streamflow conditions. During the second quarter of 2014, Avista Corp. reported Ecova as discontinued operations (see Note 5). Accordingly, periods prior to the second quarter of 2014 were restated to reflect Ecova as discontinued operations.

A summary of quarterly operations (in thousands, except per share amounts) for 2015 and 2014 follows:

	Three Months Ended			
	March 31	June 30	September 30	December 31
2015				
Operating revenues from continuing operations	$ 446,490	$ 337,332	$ 313,649	$ 387,305
Operating expenses from continuing operations	356,915	279,972	277,737	316,938
Income from continuing operations	$ 89,575	$ 57,360	$ 35,912	$ 70,367
Net income from continuing operations	$ 46,462	$ 25,078	$ 12,754	$ 33,876
Net income from discontinued operations	—	196	289	4,662
Net income	46,462	25,274	13,043	38,538
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(13)	(28)	(32)	(17)
Net income attributable to Avista Corporation shareholders	$ 46,449	$ 25,246	$ 13,011	$ 38,521
Amounts attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders:				
Net income from continuing operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	$ 46,449	$ 25,050	$ 12,722	$ 33,859
Net income from discontinued operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	—	196	289	4,662
Net income attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	$ 46,449	$ 25,246	$ 13,011	$ 38,521
Outstanding common stock:				
Weighted average, basic	62,318	62,281	62,299	62,308
Weighted average, diluted	62,889	62,600	62,688	62,758
Earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted:				
Earnings per common share from continuing operations	$ 0.74	$ 0.40	$ 0.21	$ 0.54
Earnings per common share from discontinued operations	—	—	—	0.07
Total earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted	$ 0.74	$ 0.40	$ 0.21	$ 0.61

	Three Months Ended			
	March 31	June 30	September 30	December 31
2014				
Operating revenues from continuing operations	$ 446,578	$ 312,580	$ 301,558	$ 411,846
Operating expenses from continuing operations	356,236	249,849	268,796	345,093
Income from continuing operations	$ 90,342	$ 62,731	$ 32,762	$ 66,753
Net income from continuing operations	$ 47,466	$ 31,270	$ 10,526	$ 30,604
Net income (loss) from discontinued operations	1,515	69,312	(55)	1,639
Net income	48,981	100,582	10,471	32,243
Net loss (income) attributable to noncontrolling interests	(482)	289	(20)	(23)
Net income attributable to Avista Corporation shareholders	$ 48,499	$ 100,871	$ 10,451	$ 32,220
Amounts attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders:				
Net income from continuing operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	$ 47,476	$ 31,254	$ 10,506	$ 30,581
Net income (loss) from discontinued operations attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	1,023	69,617	(55)	1,639
Net income attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders	$ 48,499	$ 100,871	$ 10,451	$ 32,220
Outstanding common stock:				
Weighted average, basic	60,122	60,184	63,934	62,290
Weighted average, diluted	60,168	60,463	64,244	62,671
Earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted:				
Earnings per common share from continuing operations	$ 0.79	$ 0.52	$ 0.16	$ 0.48
Earnings per common share from discontinued operations	0.02	1.15	—	0.03
Total earnings per common share attributable to Avista Corp. shareholders, diluted	$ 0.81	$ 1.67	$ 0.16	$ 0.51

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

Not applicable.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company has disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (Act) that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports it files or submits under the Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported on a timely basis. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Act is accumulated and communicated to the Company’s management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. With the participation of the Company’s principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the Company's management evaluated its disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. There are inherent limitations to the effectiveness of any system of disclosure controls and procedures, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of the controls and procedures. Accordingly, even effective disclosure controls and procedures can only provide reasonable assurance of achieving their control objectives. Based upon this evaluation, the Company’s principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures are effective at a reasonable assurance level as of December 31, 2015.

Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

The Company’s management, together with its consolidated subsidiaries, is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). The Company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed under the supervision of the Company’s principal executive officer and principal financial officer to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the Company's financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Company's internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect transactions and dispositions of assets; provide reasonable assurances that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and the directors of the Company; and provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the Company's financial statements.

Under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the Company conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on the framework established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, management determined that the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015 is effective at a reasonable assurance level.

The Company's independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, has issued an attest report on the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Avista Corporation
Spokane, Washington

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Avista Corporation and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2015, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying *Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015 of the Company and our report dated February 23, 2016 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Seattle, Washington
February 23, 2016

Item 9B. Other Information

None.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

The information required by this Item (other than the information regarding executive officers and the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics set forth below) is omitted pursuant to General Instruction G to Form 10-K. Such information is incorporated herein by reference as follows:

- on and after the date of filing with the SEC the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on May 12, 2016, from such Proxy Statement; and
- prior to such date, from the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement, dated March 27, 2015, relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on May 7, 2015.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

Name	Age	Business Experience
Scott L. Morris	58	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer effective January 1, 2008. Director since February 9, 2007; President and Chief Operating Officer May 2006 – December 2007; Senior Vice President February 2002 – May 2006; Vice President November 2000 – February 2002; President – Avista Utilities August 2000 – December 2008; General Manager – Avista Utilities for the Oregon and California operations October 1991 – August 2000; various other management and staff positions with the Company since 1981.
Mark T. Thies	52	Treasurer since January 2013; Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) since September 2008; prior to employment with the Company held the following positions with Black Hills Corporation: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer March 2003 to January 2008; Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer March 2000 to March 2003; Controller May 1997 to March 2000.
Marian M. Durkin	62	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer since November 2005; Senior Vice President and General Counsel August 2005 – November 2005; prior to employment with the Company: held several legal positions with United Air Lines, Inc. from 1995 to August 2005, most recently served as Vice President Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary.
Karen S. Feltes	60	Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Secretary since November 2005; Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Secretary March 2003 – November 2005; Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Services February 2002 – March 2003; various human resources positions with the Company April 1998 – February 2002.
Dennis P. Vermillion	54	Senior Vice President since January 2010; Vice President July 2007- December 2009; President – Avista Utilities since January 2009; Vice President of Energy Resources and Optimization – Avista Utilities July 2007 – December 2008; President and Chief Operating Officer of Avista Energy February 2001 – July 2007; various other management and staff positions with the Company since 1985.
Jason R. Thackston	45	Senior Vice President since January 2014; Vice President of Energy Resources since December 2012; Vice President of Customer Solutions – Avista Utilities June 2012 - December 2012; Vice President of Energy Delivery April 2011 – December 2012; Vice President of Finance June 2009 – April 2011; various other management and staff positions with the Company since 1996.
Ryan L. Krasselt	46	Vice President, Controller and Principal Accounting Officer since October 2015; various other management and staff positions with the Company since 2001.
Kevin J. Christie	48	Vice President of Customer Solutions since February 2015; various other management and staff positions with the Company since 2005.
James M. Kensok	57	Vice President and Chief Information Officer since January 2007; Chief Information Officer February 2001 – December 2006; various other management and staff positions with the Company since 1996.
David J. Meyer	62	Vice President and Chief Counsel for Regulatory and Governmental Affairs since February 2004; Senior Vice President and General Counsel September 1998 – February 2004.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

Name	Age	Business Experience
Kelly O. Norwood	57	Vice President since November 2000; Vice President of State and Federal Regulation – Avista Utilities since March 2002; Vice President and General Manager of Energy Resources - Avista Utilities August 2000 – March 2002; various other management and staff positions with the Company since 1981.
Heather L. Rosentrater	38	Vice President of Energy Delivery and Customer Service since December 2015; various other management and staff positions with the Company since 1996.
Ed D. Schlect	55	Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer since September 2015; prior to employment with the Company was the Executive Vice President of Corporate Development at Ecova, Inc.
Roger D. Woodworth	59	President of Avista Development since December 2015; Vice President November 1998 – November 2015; Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer April 2011 – September 2015; Vice President, Sustainable Energy Solutions Avista Utilities February 2007 – April 2011; Vice President, Customer Solutions for Avista Utilities March 2003 – February 2007; Vice President of Utility Operations of Avista Utilities September 2001 – March 2003; Vice President – Corporate Development November 1998 – September 2001; various other management and staff positions with the Company since 1979.

All of the Company’s executive officers, with the exception of James M. Kensok, David J. Meyer, Kelly O. Norwood, Kevin J. Christie and Heather L. Rosentrater were officers or directors of one or more of the Company’s subsidiaries in 2015. The Company’s executive officers are elected annually by the Board of Directors.

The Company has adopted a Code of Conduct for directors, officers (including the principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer), and employees. The Code of Conduct is available on the Company’s Web site at www.avistacorp.com and will also be provided to any shareholder without charge upon written request to:

Avista Corp.
General Counsel
P.O. Box 3727 MSC-12
Spokane, Washington 99220-3727

Any changes to or waivers for executive officers and directors of the Company’s Code of Conduct will be posted on the Company’s Web site.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information required by this Item is omitted pursuant to General Instruction G to Form 10-K. Such information is incorporated herein by reference as follows:

- on and after the date of filing with the SEC the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on May 12, 2016, from such Proxy Statement; and
- prior to such date, from the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement, dated March 27, 2015, relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on May 7, 2015.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

(a) Security ownership of certain beneficial owners (owning 5 percent or more of Registrant’s voting securities):

Information regarding security ownership of certain beneficial owners (owning 5 percent or more of Registrant’s voting securities) has been omitted pursuant to General Instruction G to Form 10-K. Such information is incorporated herein by reference as follows:

- on and after the date of filing with the SEC the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on May 12, 2016, from such Proxy Statement; and
- prior to such date, from the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement, dated March 27, 2015, relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on May 7, 2015; reference also being made to Schedules 13G, as amended, in file with the SEC with respect to the Registrant's voting securities (the information contained in such schedules 13G, as amended, not being incorporated herein by reference).

(b) Security ownership of management:

The information required by this Item regarding the security ownership of management is omitted pursuant to General Instruction G to Form 10-K. Such information is incorporated herein by reference as follows:

- on and after the date of filing with the SEC the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on May 12, 2016, from such Proxy Statement; and
- prior to such date, from the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement, dated March 27, 2015, relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on May 7, 2015.

(c) Changes in control:

None.

(d) Securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2015:

Plan category	(a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	(b) Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	(c) Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
	(1)		
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders (2)	—	$ —	398,571

(1) Excludes unvested restricted shares and performance share awards granted under Avista Corp.’s Long Term Incentive Plan. At December 31, 2015, 106,091 Restricted Share awards were outstanding. Performance and market-based share awards may be paid out at zero shares at a minimum achievement level; 335,584 shares at target level; or 671,168 shares at a maximum level. Because there is no exercise price associated with restricted shares or performance and market-based share awards, such shares are not included in the weighted-average price calculation.

(2) Includes the Long-Term Incentive Plan approved by shareholders in 1998 and the Non-Employee Director Stock Plan approved by shareholders in 1996. In February 2005, the Board of Directors elected to terminate the Non-Employee Director Stock Plan.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

The information required by this Item is omitted pursuant to General Instruction G to Form 10-K. Such information is incorporated herein by reference as follows:

- on and after the date of filing with the SEC the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on May 12, 2016, from such Proxy Statement; and
- prior to such date, from the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement, dated March 27, 2015, relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on May 7, 2015.

Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services

The information required by this Item is omitted pursuant to General Instruction G to Form 10-K. Such information is incorporated herein by reference as follows:

- on and after the date of filing with the SEC the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on May 12, 2016, from such Proxy Statement; and
- prior to such date, from the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement, dated March 27, 2015, relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on May 7, 2015.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules

(a) 1. Financial Statements (Included in Part II of this report):

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Consolidated Statements of Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2015 and 2014

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Consolidated Statements of Equity and Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(a) 2. Financial Statement Schedules:

None

(a) 3. Exhibits:

Reference is made to the Exhibit Index commencing on page 148. The Exhibits include the management contracts and compensatory plans or arrangements required to be filed as exhibits to this Form 10-K pursuant to Item 15(b).

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AVISTA CORPORATION

February 23, 2016	By	/s/ Scott L. Morris
Date		Scott L. Morris
		Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Scott L. Morris Scott L. Morris Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer	Principal Executive Officer	February 23, 2016
/s/ Mark T. Thies Mark T. Thies (Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer)	Principal Financial Officer	February 23, 2016
/s/ Ryan L. Krasselt Ryan L. Krasselt (Vice President, Controller and Principal Accounting Officer)	Principal Accounting Officer	February 23, 2016
/s/ Erik J. Anderson Erik J. Anderson	Director	February 23, 2016
/s/ Kristianne Blake Kristianne Blake	Director	February 23, 2016
/s/ Donald C. Burke Donald C. Burke	Director	February 23, 2016
/s/ John F. Kelly John F. Kelly	Director	February 23, 2016
/s/ Rebecca A. Klein Rebecca A. Klein	Director	February 23, 2016
/s/ Marc F. Racicot Marc F. Racicot	Director	February 23, 2016

/s/ Heidi B. Stanley Heidi B. Stanley	Director	February 23, 2016
/s/ R. John Taylor R. John Taylor	Director	February 23, 2016
/s/ Janet D. Widmann Janet D. Widmann	Director	February 23, 2016

EXHIBIT INDEX

	Previously Filed (1)		
Exhibit	With Registration Number	As Exhibit	
3.1	(with June 30, 2012 Form 10-Q)	3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation of Avista Corporation, as amended and restated June 6, 2012.
3.2	(with Form 8-K filed as of November 14, 2014)	3.2	Bylaws of Avista Corporation, as amended November 14, 2014.
4.1	2-4077	B-3	Mortgage and Deed of Trust, dated as of June 1, 1939.
4.2	2-9812	4(c)	First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 1, 1952.
4.3	2-60728	2(b)-2	Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 1, 1953.
4.4	2-13421	4(b)-3	Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 1955.
4.5	2-13421	4(b)-4	Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 15, 1967.
4.6	2-60728	2(b)-5	Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of July 1, 1957.
4.7	2-60728	2(b)-6	Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of January 1, 1958.
4.8	2-60728	2(b)-7	Seventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 1, 1958.
4.9	2-60728	2(b)-8	Eighth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of January 1, 1959.
4.10	2-60728	2(b)-9	Ninth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of January 1, 1960.
4.11	2-60728	2(b)-10	Tenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 1, 1964.
4.12	2-60728	2(b)-11	Eleventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 1, 1965.
4.13	2-60728	2(b)-12	Twelfth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 1, 1966.
4.14	2-60728	2(b)-13	Thirteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 1, 1966.
4.15	2-60728	2(b)-14	Fourteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 1, 1970.
4.16	2-60728	2(b)-15	Fifteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 1, 1973.
4.17	2-60728	2(b)-16	Sixteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 1, 1975.
4.18	2-60728	2(b)-17	Seventeenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 1, 1976.
4.19	2-69080	2(b)-18	Eighteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of June 1, 1980.
4.20	(with 1980 Form 10-K)	4(a)-20	Nineteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of January 1, 1981.
4.21	2-79571	4(a)-21	Twentieth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 1, 1982.
4.22	(with Form 8-K dated September 20, 1983)	4(a)-22	Twenty-First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of September 1, 1983.
4.23	2-94816	4(a)-23	Twenty-Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 1, 1984.

Exhibit	Previously Filed (1) With Registration Number	As Exhibit	
4.24	(with 1986 Form 10-K)	4(a)-24	Twenty-Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 1986.
4.25	(with 1987 Form 10-K)	4(a)-25	Twenty-Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of January 1, 1988.
4.26	(with 1989 Form 10-K)	4(a)-26	Twenty-Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 1, 1989.
4.27	33-51669	4(a)-27	Twenty-Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 1, 1993.
4.28	(with 1993 Form 10-K)	4(a)-28	Twenty-Seventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of January 1, 1994.
4.29	(with 2001 Form 10-K)	4(a)-29	Twenty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of September 1, 2001.
4.30	333-82502	4(b)	Twenty-Ninth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2001.
4.31	(with June 30, 2002 Form 10-Q)	4(f)	Thirtieth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 1, 2002.
4.32	333-39551	4(b)	Thirty-First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 1, 2003.
4.33	(with September 30, 2003 Form 10-Q)	4(f)	Thirty-Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of September 1, 2003.
4.34	333-64652	4(a)33	Thirty-Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 1, 2004.
4.35	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2004)	4.1	Thirty-Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 1, 2004.
4.36	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2004)	4.2	Thirty-Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2004.
4.37	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2004)	4.3	Thirty-Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2004.
4.38	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2004)	4.4	Thirty-Seventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2004.
4.39	(with Form 8-K dated as of May 12, 2005)	4.1	Thirty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 1, 2005.
4.40	(with Form 8-K dated as of November 17, 2005)	4.1	Thirty-Ninth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 1, 2005.
4.41	(with Form 8-K dated as of April 6, 2006)	4.1	Fortieth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 1, 2006.
4.42	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2006)	4.1	Forty-First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2006.
4.43	(with Form 8-K dated as of April 3, 2008)	4.1	Forty-Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 1, 2008.
4.44	(with Form 8-K dated as of November 26, 2008)	4.1	Forty-Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 1, 2008.
4.45	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 16, 2008)	4.1	Forty-Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2008.
4.46	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 30, 2008)	4.3	Forty-Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2008.
4.47	(with Form 8-K dated as of September 15, 2009)	4.1	Forty-Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of September 1, 2009.
4.48	(with Form 8-K dated as of November 25, 2009)	4.1	Forty-Seventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 1, 2009.
4.49	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2010)	4.5	Forty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2010.
4.50	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 20, 2010)	4.1	Forty-Ninth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2010.

Exhibit	Previously Filed (1) With Registration Number	As Exhibit	
4.51	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 30, 2010)	4.1	Fiftieth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2010.
4.52	(with Form 8-K dated as of February 11, 2011)	4.1	Fifty-First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 1, 2011.
4.53	(with Form 8-K dated as of August 16, 2011)	4.1	Fifty-Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 1, 2011.
4.54	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 14, 2011)	4.1	Fifty-Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2011.
4.55	(with Form 8-K dated as of November 30, 2012)	4.1	Fifty-Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 1, 2012.
4.56	(with Form 8-K dated as of August 14, 2013)	4.1	Fifty-Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 1, 2013.
4.57	(with Form 8-K dated as of April 18, 2014)	4.1	Fifty-Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 1, 2014.
4.58	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 18, 2014)	4.1	Fifty-Seventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2014.
4.59	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 16, 2015)	4.1	Fifty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2015.
4.60	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2004)	4.5	Supplemental Indenture No. 1, dated as of December 1, 2004 to the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1998 between Avista Corporation and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
4.61	333-82165	4(a)	Indenture dated as of April 1, 1998 between Avista Corporation and The Bank of New York, as Successor Trustee.
4.62	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2010)	4.1	Loan Agreement between City of Forsyth, Montana and Avista Corporation $66,700,000 City of Forsyth, Montana Pollution Control Revenue Refunding Bonds (Avista Corporation Colstrip Project) Series 2010A dated as of December 1, 2010.
4.63	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2010)	4.3	Trust Indenture between City of Forsyth, and the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee, $66,700,000 City of Forsyth, Montana Pollution Control Revenue Refunding Bonds (Avista Corporation Colstrip Project) Series 2010A, dated as of December 1, 2010.
4.64	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2010)	4.2	Loan Agreement between City of Forsyth, Montana and Avista Corporation $17,000,000 City of Forsyth, Montana Pollution Control Revenue Refunding Bonds (Avista Corporation Colstrip Project) Series 2010B dated as of December 1, 2010.
4.65	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 15, 2010)	4.4	Trust Indenture between City of Forsyth, and the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee, $17,000,000 City of Forsyth, Montana Pollution Control Revenue Refunding Bonds (Avista Corporation Colstrip Project) Series 2010B, dated as of December 1, 2010.
4.66	(with June 30, 2012 Form 10-Q)	3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation of Avista Corporation, as amended and restated June 6, 2012 (see Exhibit 3.1 herein).
4.67	(with Form 8-K filed as of November 14, 2014)	3.2	Bylaws of Avista Corporation, as amended November 14, 2014 (see Exhibit 3.2 herein).
4.68	(Form 10/A)	N/A	Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 on Form 10/A, filed February 26, 2015, to Registration Statement on Form 10, filed September 1952.
10.1	(with Form 8-K dated as of February 11, 2011)	10.1	Credit Agreement, dated as of February 11, 2011, among Avista Corporation, the Banks Party hereto, The Bank of New York Mellon, Keybank National Association, and U.S. Bank National Association, as Co-Documentation Agents, Wells Fargo Bank National Association as Syndication Agent and an Issuing Bank, and Union Bank N.A. as Administrative Agent and an Issuing Bank.
10.2	(with Form 8-K dated as of February 11, 2011)	10.2	Bond Delivery Agreement, dated as of February 11, 2011, between Avista Corporation and Union Bank, N.A.

	Previously Filed (1)		
Exhibit	With Registration Number	As Exhibit	
10.3	(with Form 8-K dated as of April 18, 2014)	10.1	Second Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of April 18, 2014, among Avista Corporation, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as an Issuing Bank, Union Bank, N.A. as Administrative Agent and an Issuing Bank, and the financial institutions identified hereof as Continuing Lenders and Exiting Lender.
10.4	(with Form 8-K dated as of April 18, 2014)	10.2	Bond Delivery Agreement, dated as of April 18, 2014, between Avista Corporation and Union Bank, N.A.
10.5	(with Form 8-K dated as of August 14, 2013)	10.1	Term Loan Agreement, dated as of August 14, 2013, among Avista Corporation, the Lenders Party hereto and Union Bank N.A. as Administrative Agent.
10.6	(with Form 8-K dated as of August 14, 2013)	10.2	Bond Delivery Agreement, dated as of August 14, 2013, between Avista Corporation and Union Bank, N.A.
10.7	(with Form 8-K dated as of December 14, 2011)	10.1	First Amendment and Waiver Thereunder, dated as of December 14, 2011, to the Credit Agreement dated as of February 11, 2011, among Avista Corporation, the Banks Party hereto, Wells Fargo Bank National Association as an Issuing Bank, and Union Bank N.A. as Administrative Agent and an Issuing Bank.
10.8	(with 2002 Form 10-K)	10(b)-3	Priest Rapids Project Product Sales Contract executed by Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington and Avista Corporation dated December 12, 2001 (effective November 1, 2005 for the Priest Rapids Development and November 1, 2009 for the Wanapum Development).
10.9	(with 2002 Form 10-K)	10(b)-4	Priest Rapids Project Reasonable Portion Power Sales Contract executed by Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington and Avista Corporation dated December 12, 2001 (effective November 1, 2005 for the Priest Rapids Development and November 1, 2009 for the Wanapum Development).
10.10	(with 2002 Form 10-K)	10(b)-5	Additional Product Sales Agreement (Priest Rapids Project) executed by Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington and Avista Corporation dated December 12, 2001 (effective November 1, 2005 for the Priest Rapids Development and November 1, 2009 for the Wanapum Development).
10.11	2-60728	5(g)	Power Sales Contract (Wells Project) with Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, dated as of September 18, 1963.
10.12	2-60728	5(g)-1	Amendment to Power Sales Contract (Wells Project) with Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, dated as of February 9, 1965.
10.13	2-60728	5(h)	Reserved Share Power Sales Contract (Wells Project) with Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, dated as of September 18, 1963.
10.14	2-60728	5(h)-1	Amendment to Reserved Share Power Sales Contract (Wells Project) with Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, dated as of February 9, 1965.
10.15	(with September 30, 1985 Form 10-Q)	1	Settlement Agreement and Covenant Not to Sue executed by the United States Department of Energy acting by and through the Bonneville Power Administration and the Company, dated as of September 17, 1985, describing the settlement of Project 3 litigation.
10.16	(with 1981 Form 10-K)	10(s)-7	Ownership and Operation Agreement for Colstrip Units No. 3 and 4, dated as of May 6, 1981.
10.17	(with 1992 Form 10-K)	10(s)-1	Agreements for Purchase and Sale of Firm Capacity between the Company and Portland General Electric Company dated March and June 1992.
10.18	(with 2011 Form 10-K)	10.15	Avista Corporation Executive Deferral Plan. (3)
10.19	(with 2011 Form 10-K)	10.16	Avista Corporation Executive Deferral Plan. (3)(8)

Exhibit	Previously Filed (1) With Registration Number	As Exhibit	
10.20	(with 2011 Form 10-K)	10.17	Avista Corporation Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan. (3)(8)
10.21	(with 2011 Form 10-K)	10.18	Avista Corporation Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan. (3)(8)
10.22	(with 1992 Form 10-K)	10(t)-11	The Company's Unfunded Supplemental Executive Disability Plan. (3)
10.23	(with 2007 Form 10-K)	10.34	Income Continuation Plan of the Company. (3)
10.24	(with 2010 Definitive Proxy Statement filed March 31, 2010)	Appendix A	Avista Corporation Long-Term Incentive Plan. (3)
10.25	(with 2010 Form 10-K)	10.23	Avista Corporation Performance Award Plan Summary. (3)
10.26	(with 2010 Form 10-K)	10.24	Avista Corporation Performance Award Agreement 2010. (3)
10.27	(with 2011 Form 10-K)	10.24	Avista Corporation Performance Award Agreement 2011. (3)
10.28	(with 2012 Form 10-K)	10.25	Avista Corporation Performance Award Agreement 2012. (3)
10.29	(with 2013 Form 10-K)	10.27	Avista Corporation Performance Award Agreement 2013. (3)
10.30	(with 2014 Form 10-K)	10.30	Avista Corporation Performance Award Agreement 2014. (3)
10.31	(2)		Avista Corporation Performance Award Agreement 2015. (3)
10.32	(with Form 8-K dated June 21, 2005)	10.1	Employment Agreement between the Company and Marian Durkin in the form of a Letter of Employment. (3)
10.33	(with Form 8-K dated August 13, 2008)	10.1	Employment Agreement between the Company and Mark T. Thies in the form of a Letter of Employment. (3)
10.34	333-47290	99.1	Non-Officer Employee Long-Term Incentive Plan.
10.35	(with 2010 Form 10-K)		Form of Change of Control Agreement between the Company and its Executive Officers. (3)(5)
10.36	(with 2010 Form 10-K)		Form of Change of Control Agreement between the Company and its Executive Officers. (3)(6)
10.37	(with 2010 Form 10-K)		Form of Change of Control Agreement between the Company and its Executive Officers. (3)(7)
10.38	(with 2010 Form 10-K)		Form of Change of Control Agreement between the Company and its Executive Officers. (3)(7)
10.39	(2)		Avista Corporation Non-Employee Director Compensation.
12	(2)		Statement Re: computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.
21	(2)		Subsidiaries of Registrant.
23	(2)		Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
31.1	(2)		Certification of Chief Executive Officer (Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).
31.2	(2)		Certification of Chief Financial Officer (Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).
32	(4)		Certification of Corporate Officers (Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).

	Previously Filed (1)		
Exhibit	With Registration Number	As Exhibit	
101	(2)		The following financial information from the Annual Report on Form 10 K for the period ended December 31, 2015, formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language) and filed electronically herewith: (i) the Consolidated Statements of Income; (ii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income; (iii) the Consolidated Balance Sheets; (iv) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; (v) the Consolidated Statements of Equity and Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests; and (vi) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

(1) Incorporated herein by reference.
(2) Filed herewith.
(3) Management contracts or compensatory plans filed as exhibits to this Form 10-K pursuant to Item 15(b).
(4) Furnished herewith.
(5) Applies to James M. Kensok, David J. Meyer, Kelly O. Norwood, Jason R. Thackston, Dennis P. Vermillion and Roger D. Woodworth.
(6) Applies to Marian M. Durkin, Karen S. Feltes, Scott L. Morris, and Mark T. Thies.
(7) Applies to executive officers appointed after October 1, 2010. This applies to Kevin J. Christie, Ryan L. Krasselt, Ed D. Schlect and Heather L. Rosentrater.
(8) Applies to executive officers appointed after February 4, 2011. This applies to Kevin J. Christie, Ryan L. Krasselt, Ed D. Schlect and Heather L. Rosentrater.

AVISTA CORPORATION PERFORMANCE AWARD AGREEMENT

This Performance Award Agreement (the “Agreement”) is made by and between Avista Corporation, a Washington Corporation (the “Company”) and the individual named in section 1 (the “Participant”) as designated by the Avista Corporation Compensation and Organization Committee (the “Plan Administrator”).

WHEREAS, Performance Awards are granted under the May 13, 2010 amended and restated Avista Corporation Long-Term Incentive Plan (the “Plan”). The terms and conditions of the Performance Awards are set forth below and in the Plan, which is incorporated into this Agreement by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises contained herein and in the Plan, it is agreed as follows:

1. **Terms of Performance Awards**. The terms of the Performance Awards are set forth as follows:

   (a) The "Participant" is **(Participant’s name)**

   (b) The "Grant Date” is February 5, 2015.

   (c) The total target number of eligible "Performance Awards" shall be **(# of)** units. “Performance Awards” granted under this Agreement are units that will be reflected in a book account maintained by the Company or a third party administrator during the Performance Cycle, and that will be settled in cash or shares of Avista Corporation Common Stock (“Common Stock”) to the extent provided in this Agreement and the Plan.

   (d) The "Performance Cycle" is the period beginning on January 1, 2015 and ending on December 31, 2017.

2. **Conditions to Award**. Pursuant to this Award, the number of Performance Awards earned will depend upon the Company’s performance against specific performance metrics. The performance metrics are (i) Relative Total Shareholder Return, which accounts for **(# of)** units of the total target award as set forth in section 1(c), and (ii) Cumulative Earnings Per Share (“CEPS”) which accounts for **(# of)** units of the total target award set forth in section 1(c). The total number of shares of Stock that will be issued in the settlement of this Award, based upon the Company’s satisfaction of the metrics, will be determined by multiplying the Target Number of units allocated for each metric set forth in this section 2 by the applicable Payout Factor in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2, which is attached to and forms a part of this Agreement.

3. **Settlement of Performance Awards**. The Company shall deliver to the Participant one share of Common Stock (or cash equal to the Fair Market Value of one share of Common Stock) for each Performance Award earned by the Participant, as determined in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2, which is attached to and forms a part of this Agreement. The earned Performance Award payable to the Participant shall be paid in shares of Common Stock or in cash (based on the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock as of the date the Plan Administrator certifies the attainment of the

performance goals), or in a combination of the two, as determined by the Plan Administrator in its sole discretion, except that cash may be distributed in lieu of any fractional share of Common Stock.

All Performance Awards and any Dividend Equivalents (as described in Section 5 below) earned by a Participant under this Agreement are subject to the Recoupment Policy adopted by the Company's Board of Directors as amended from time to time ("Recoupment Policy"). If a Participant becomes subject to the Recoupment Policy any Performance Award and associated Dividend Equivalent may be forfeited in whole or in part and all or part of any distribution payable to a Participant or his or her beneficiary under this Agreement may be recovered by the Company pursuant to the Recoupment Policy.

4. **Time of Payment**. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, payment of Performance Awards earned will be delivered as soon as feasible after the end of the Performance Cycle and after the Plan Administrator certifies the attainment of the performance goals.

5. **Dividend Equivalent Rights**. Any Performance Awards may, in the Plan Administrator's discretion, earn Dividend Equivalent Rights. In respect of any Performance Award that is outstanding on the dividend record date for Common Stock, the Participant may be credited with an amount equal to the cash distributions that would have been paid on the shares of Common Stock covered by such Award had such covered shares been issued and outstanding on such dividend record date. Dividend Equivalent Rights are to be paid in cash based on the total number of Performance Awards earned at the end of the Performance Cycle and delivered as soon as feasible after the Performance Cycle and after the Plan Administrator certifies the attainment of the performance goals. Dividend Equivalent Rights are subject to all applicable taxes, which are the responsibility of the Participant. The Dividend Equivalent Rights in respect of any Performance Awards that are not earned as of the end of a Performance Cycle, shall be forfeited as of the end of the Performance Cycle.

6. **Termination of Employment during Performance Cycle**. Except as otherwise provided in section 7, this section 6 shall apply if the Participant's employment terminates during a Performance Cycle. If the Participant's employment with the Company and/or Subsidiaries terminates during the Performance Cycle because of Retirement, Disability, or Death, the Participant shall be entitled to a prorated value of the Performance Award earned in accordance with Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2, determined at the end of the Performance Cycle, and based on the ratio of the number of whole months the Participant was employed during the Performance Cycle to the total number of months in the Performance Cycle (36). If a Participant's employment or services with the Company and/or Subsidiaries terminate on or as of the last day of a Performance Cycle, such Participant will be deemed to have terminated after the end of such Performance Cycle. If the Participant's employment with the Company and/or Subsidiaries terminates during the Performance Cycle for any reason other than Retirement, Disability, or Death, the Performance Award granted under this Agreement will be forfeited on the Date of Termination (as defined in section 9(b)); provided, however, that in such circumstances, the Plan Administrator, in its sole discretion, may determine that the Participant will be entitled to receive a prorated or other portion of the Performance Award. In case of termination for Cause, the Performance Award granted shall automatically terminate upon first notification to the Participant of such termination, unless the Plan Administrator determines otherwise. If a Participant's employment with the Company is suspended pending an investigation of whether the Participant shall be terminated for Cause, all the Participant's rights under any Award likewise shall be suspended during the period of investigation. The effect of a Company-approved leave of absence on the terms and conditions of an Award shall be determined by the Plan Administrator, in its sole discretion.

7. **Change in Control**. If a Change in Control occurs during the Performance Cycle, and the Participant's Date of Termination (as defined in section 9(b)) does not occur before the Change in Control date, the Participant shall be entitled to a prorated value of the Performance Award that would have been earned by the Participant in accordance with Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2, determined as of the date of the Change in Control, prorated based on the ratio of the number of whole months the Participant is employed during the Performance Cycle through the date of the Change in Control, to the total number of months in the Performance Cycle; provided, however, that a Payout Factor of at least 100% as set forth

in Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 for the Performance Cycle shall be deemed to have been achieved as of the date of the Change in Control. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 3 (with the exception of the application of the Recoupment Policy), 4, and 5, the value of the Performance Award, and any Dividend Equivalent Right, earned in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this section shall be delivered to the Participant in a lump sum cash payment as soon as feasible after the occurrence of a Change in Control, with the value of a Performance Award equal to the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock determined under the provision of section 3 as of the date of the Change in Control. Distributions to the Participant under sections 3 and 5 shall not be affected by payments under this section, except that the number of Performance Awards and Dividend Equivalent Rights earned by and payable to the Participant shall be reduced by the number of Performance Awards and Dividend Equivalent Rights with respect to which payment was made to the Participant under this section.

8. **Taxes**. The Participant is liable for any and all taxes, including withholding taxes, arising out of the grant, vesting, payment or settlement of any Performance Awards and Dividend Equivalent Rights. The Company shall have the right to require the Participant to remit to the Company, or to withhold awarded shares of Common Stock, or from any Dividend Equivalent Rights or other amounts due to the Participant, as compensation or otherwise, an amount sufficient to satisfy all federal, state and local withholding tax requirements.

9. **Definitions**. For purposes of this Agreement, the terms used in this Agreement shall be subject to the following:

(a) Change in Control. The term "Change in Control" is defined in section 2.4 of the amended and restated Avista Corp. Long Term Incentive Plan.

(b) Date of Termination. The Participant’s "Date of Termination" shall be the first day occurring on or after the Grant Date on which the Participant is not employed by the Company or any Subsidiary, regardless of the reason for the termination of employment; provided that a termination of employment shall not be deemed to occur by reason of a transfer of the Participant between the Company and a Subsidiary or between two Subsidiaries; and further provided that the Participant’s employment shall not be considered terminated while the Participant is on a leave of absence from the Company or a Subsidiary approved by the Participant’s employer. If, as a result of a sale or other transaction, the Participant’s employer ceases to be a Subsidiary (and the Participant’s employer is or becomes an entity that is separate from the Company), and the Participant is not, at the end of the 30-day period following the transaction, employed by the Company or an entity that is then a Subsidiary, then the occurrence of such transaction shall be treated as the Participant’s Date of Termination caused by the Participant being discharged by the employer.

(c) Disability. ‘‘Disability’’ means ‘‘disability’’ as that term is defined for purposes of the Company’s Long Term Disability Plan or other similar successor plan applicable to employees.

(d) Retirement. "Retirement" of the Participant shall mean retirement as of the individual’s retirement date under the Retirement Plan for Employees of Avista Corporation or other similar successor plan applicable to employees.

10. **Assignability**. No Performance Award or Dividend Equivalent Right granted or awarded under the Plan may be assigned or transferred by the Participant other than by will or by the applicable laws of descent and distribution, and, during the Participant’s lifetime, settlements of such Awards may be payable only to the Participant or a permitted assignee or transferee of the Participant (as provided below). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Plan Administrator, in its sole discretion, may permit such assignment or transfer and may permit a Participant of such Performance Awards or Dividend Equivalent Rights to designate a beneficiary who may receive compensation settlement under the Performance

Award after the Participant's death; provided, however, that any amount so assigned or transferred shall be subject to all the same terms and conditions contained in this Agreement.

11. **General**

11.1 **Award Agreements**. Performance Awards granted under the Plan shall be evidenced by a written agreement that shall contain such terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions as the Plan Administrator shall deem advisable and that are not inconsistent with the Plan.

11.2 **Continued Employment or Services; Rights in Awards**. Nothing contained in this Agreement, the Plan, or any action of the Plan Administrator taken under the Plan or this Agreement shall be construed as giving any Participant or employee of the Company any right to be retained in the employ of the Company or any Subsidiary or to limit the Company's or any Subsidiary's right to terminate the employment or services of the Participant.

11.3 **Registration**. At the present time, the Company has an effective registration statement with respect to the shares. The Company intends to maintain this registration but has no obligation to do so. In the event that such registration ceases to be effective, the Participant will not receive a Performance Award settlement or payment unless exemptions from registration under federal and state securities laws are available; such exemptions from registration are very limited and might be unavailable. **By accepting the Agreement, the Participant hereby acknowledges that he/she has read the section of the Plan and this Agreement entitled Registration.**

11.4 **No Rights as a Shareholder**. No Award under this Agreement shall entitle the Participant to any dividends (except to the extent provided in an award of Dividend Equivalent Rights), voting or any other right of a shareholder unless and until the date of issuance under the Plan of the shares that are the subject of such Performance Award, are free of all applicable restrictions.

11.5 **Compliance with Laws and Regulations**. Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, the Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may bifurcate the Plan so as to restrict, limit or condition the use of any provision of the Plan to Participants who are officers or directors subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act without so restricting, limiting or conditioning the Plan with respect to other Participants.

11.6 **Severability**. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity and enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement. If any provision of the Agreement is determined to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, or as to any person, or would disqualify any Performance Award under any law deemed applicable by the Plan Administrator, such provision shall be construed or deemed amended by the Plan Administrator to conform to applicable laws, or, if the Plan Administrator determines that the provision cannot be so construed or deemed amended without materially altering the intent of the Plan or the Performance Award, such provision shall be stricken as to such jurisdiction, person or Performance Award, and the remainder of the Agreement and any such Performance Award shall remain in full force and effect.

12. **Administration**. The authority to manage and control the operation and administration of this Agreement shall be vested in the Plan Administrator, and the Plan Administrator shall have all powers with respect to this Agreement as it has with respect to the Plan. Any interpretation of the Agreement by the Plan Administrator and any decision made by it with respect to the Agreement are final and binding.

13. **Construction**. This Agreement is subject to and shall be construed in accordance with the Plan, the terms of which are explicitly made applicable hereto. Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms in this Agreement shall have the same definitions as set forth in the Plan. In the event of any conflict between the provisions hereof and those of the Plan, the provisions of the Plan shall govern.

14. **Amendment**. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of the Participant and the Company, without the consent of any other person.

15. **Governing Law**. The validity, construction, interpretation and enforceability of this Agreement shall be determined and governed by the laws of the State of Washington without giving effect to the principles of conflicts of laws. For the purpose of litigating any dispute that arises under this Agreement, the parties hereby consent to exclusive jurisdiction in Washington State and agree that such litigation shall be conducted in the courts of Spokane County, Washington or the federal courts of the United States for the eastern district of Washington.

16. **Successors**. The Company shall require any successor (whether direct or indirect, by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise to all or substantially all of the business and/or assets of the Company) to agree in writing to assume the Company's obligations under this Agreement and to perform such obligations in the same manner and to the same extent that the Company is required to perform them. As used in this Agreement, "Company" shall mean the Company and any successor to its business and/or assets that assumes and agrees to perform the Company's obligations under the Agreement by operation of law or otherwise.

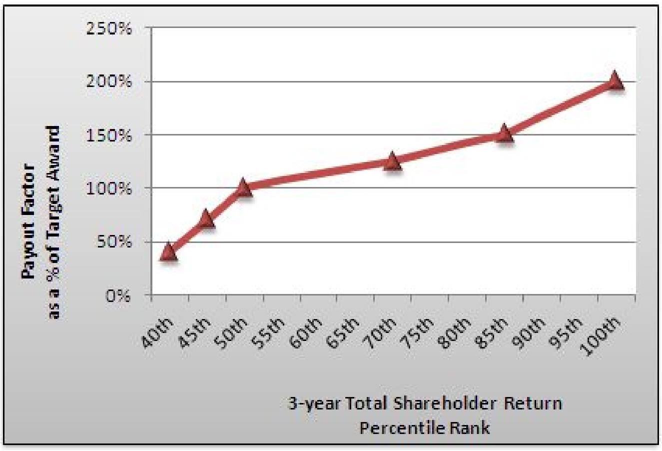
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Participant has executed this Agreement, and the Company has caused these presents to be executed in its name and on its behalf, all effective as of the Grant Date.

AVISTA CORPORATION

By: Scott L. Morris
Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer

Performance Award Plan
Relative Total Shareholder Return Metric and Goals
2015 - 2017 Performance Cycle

The following graph and table represent the relationship between the Company's relative three-year Total Shareholder Return ("TSR") commencing January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017 and the target award opportunity. The number of shares delivered at the end of the three-year Performance Cycle can range from zero to 200% of the target number of units allocated under this metric. The actual issuance of shares depends on Avista's three-year TSR performance compared to the returns of the peer companies reported in the S&P 400 Utilities Index and how we rank among them. To receive 100% of the Award allocated under this metric, Avista must perform at the 50th percentile among the companies in the S&P
400 Utilities Index. To receive 200% of the Award, Avista must rank at the 100th percentile. If Avista ranks below the 40th percentile, no stock awards or cash Dividend Equivalent Rights will be earned. Dividend
Equivalent Rights are calculated and paid out in cash when and to the extent the Performance Awards are issued. The following graph demonstrates the relationship between TSR ranking and various payout factors. Performance Awards are interpolated on a straight line for performance results between the figures shown.



	Relative TSR Percentile	Payout Factor
Maximum	100th	200%
	85th	150%
	70th	125%
Target	50th	100%
	45th	70%
Threshold	40th	40%
	<40th	No Award

TSR is calculated using S&P Research Insight and reflects share price appreciation plus the impact of dividend distributions and the reinvestment of such dividends. To compute the TSR, an adjusted price is calculated by applying a monthly return factor to the average closing share prices on the last trading day of November and December for the start and end of the Performance Cycle.

From one year to the next, if S&P drops a company out of the index and adds another, the new company will be included in the ranking and the dropped company will be excluded. When a new company is added, they will be added to the ranking as if they had been in the ranking from the beginning – provided that there is pricing and dividend data at the beginning of the cycle. When a company is dropped everything related to that company will be excluded from the ranking as if the company was never part of the ranking.

Settlement Formula Example:
Assuming that 970 Performance Award units were allocated under this metric at the beginning of the three-year Performance Cycle and Avista's TSR ranked at the 45th percentile after the three-year Performance Cycle, the Participant would receive 70% of 970 or 679 shares of Avista common stock plus
cash dividend equivalents.

Payout Factor (% of Target)		Target Number of Performance Awards Granted		Final Number of Common Stocks Issued
70%	X	970	=	679 shares plus cash dividends

Percentile Ranking Methodology:
The percentile rank is calculated using the PERCENTRANK function in MS Excel, excluding Avista from the list and rounding all results to the nearest whole percentile.

The calculation can be replicated by arranging the TSR data from highest to lowest for all peers except Avista. A percentile ranking is calculated for each data point assuming 100.0th %ile for the highest data point, 0.0 %ile for the lowest data point, and the corresponding percentile for every other data point with an equal difference in percentile ranking for each data point. The TSR for Avista is calculated by determining Avista's rank in the list and interpolating between the percentile rankings for the companies immediately above and below based on the differences in TSR. An example, based on sample data is as follows:

Company Ranking	TSR	Percentile Rank
1	201.6%	100.0%
2	135.9%	98.2%
47 (ABC Corp)	20.3%	17.8%
48 (XYZ Corp)	16.0%	16.0%
56	-3.3%	1.7%
57	-10.5%	0.0%

If a company's TSR is 18.9%, the resulting percentile ranking would be 17%, calculated as follows: 17% = 16.0% + [(18.9% - 16.0%) / (20.3% - 16.0%) * (17.8% - 16.0%)]

Total Shareholder Return (TSR) Methodology:
For purposes of this Agreement, a methodology for calculating a total return to shareholder with dividend reinvestment was established. Returns are calculated daily based on stock price changes and dividend payments and then accumulated over the Performance Cycle. Below are additional assumptions used in Avista's calculation for TSR.

General Assumptions:
The starting and ending prices are determined by averaging the closing price on the last trading day of November and the last trading day of December at the beginning and the end of the Performance Cycle.

An example, based on sample data is as follows: the stock price for the start of the Performance Cycle for Avista is $34.90, which is the average of $35.35 (12/31/2014) and $34.45 (11/28/2014). Dividends are reinvested on a daily basis. For this example, a fictional ex-date for dividends per share is used for demonstration purposes. Daily returns are calculated over the performance cycle and added together resulting in the Cumulative TSR for the performance cycle.

Date	Closing Price	Dividend	Daily TSR
11/21/2014	33.90	0	NA
11/24/2014	33.80	0	(0.2950%)
11/25/2014	34.06	0.3175	1.7086%*
11/26/2014	34.29	0	0.6753%
11/27/2014	34.29	0	0.00%
11/28/2014	34.45	0	0.4666%
Cumulative TSR 11/21/2014 to 11/28/2014			2.5555%

* [(34.06 + 0.3175) / 33.80] -1

EXHIBIT 2

Performance Award Plan
Cumulative Earnings Per Share Metric and Goals
2015 - 2017 Performance Period

The following graph and table represent the relationship between the Company's Cumulative Earnings Per Share ("CEPS") commencing January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017 and the target award opportunity. The number of shares delivered at the end of the three-year Performance Cycle can range from zero to 200% of the target number of units allocated under this metric. The actual issuance of shares depends on Avista's CEPS growth performance over the three-year Performance Cycle. To receive 100% of the Performance Award allocated under this metric, Avista must achieve CEPS compounded growth of 4.50% or $6.15 based on 2015 earnings guidance. To receive 200% of the Award, Avista must achieve CEPS compounded growth of 6.00% or $6.56. If Avista's CEPS compounded growth is less than 3.00% or below $5.75, no stock awards or cash Dividend Equivalent Rights will be earned. Dividend Equivalent Rights are calculated and paid out in cash when and to the extent the Performance Awards are issued. The following graph demonstrates the relationship between CEPS and various payout factors. Performance Awards are interpolated on a straight line for performance results between the figures shown.

	Cumulative Growth	Cumulative EPS	Payout Factor
Maximum	**6%**	**$6.56**	**200%**
	5.625%	$6.45	173%
	5.25%	$6.35	149%
	4.875%	$6.25	125%
Target	**4.5%**	**$6.15**	**100%**
	4.125%	$6.05	85%
	3.75%	$5.95	70%
	3.375%	$5.85	55%
Threshold	**3%**	**$5.75**	**40%**
	<3%	<$5.75	No Award

Performance is tracked over a three-year Performance Cycle thereby focusing on sustainability.

The performance metric CEPS provides for Performance Awards if the Company's cumulative EPS grows at a certain rate on a compounded annual basis. Cumulative EPS is fully diluted earnings per share determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and may be adjusted to remove the effects of such items as regulatory charges, income tax legislative changes and/or items of a non- routine or items of an extraordinary nature as determined by the Plan Administrator.

Settlement Formula Example:
Assuming that 485 Performance Award units were allocated under this metric at the beginning of the Performance Cycle and Avista's cumulative EPS grew 4.875% over three years or EPS was $6.25 compounded annually after the three-year performance period, the Participant would receive 125% of 485 or 607 shares of Avista common stock plus dividend equivalents in cash.

Payout Factor (% of Target)		Target Number of Performance Awards Granted		Number of Common Stocks Issued
125%	X	485	=	607 shares plus cash dividends

Using the example formulas in Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2, the Participant would receive in total 88% of 1,455 (total target # of Performance Awards granted) or 1,286 Shares of Common Stock plus cash dividend equivalents.

	Payout Factor (% of Target)		Target Number of Performance Awards Granted		Number of Common Stocks Issued
TSR	70%	X	970	=	679
CEPS	125%	X	485	=	607
Total	**88%**	**X**	**1,455**	**=**	**1,286**

ACCEPTANCE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, a resident of the state of___, accept the Performance Award described in this Agreement and in the Plan, and acknowledge that I have received a copy of this Agreement and the Plan. I have read and understand the Plan, and I hereby make the representations, warranties and acknowledgments, and undertake the indemnity and other obligations, therein specified.

Dated: ______________________

____
Social Security Number

____
Signature of Employee

____
Printed Name

Exhibit 10.39

Avista Corporation
Non-Employee Director Compensation - 2015

Prior to August 21, 2015, directors who were not employees of the Company received an annual retainer of $125,000 with $50,000 of the total retainer to be paid in stock each year. Directors had the option of taking the remaining $75,000 in cash, stock or a combination of both cash and stock. The cash portion of the retainer is paid quarterly. Directors were also paid $1,500 for each meeting of the Board or any Committee meeting of the Board. Directors who served as Board Committee Chairs received an additional $7,500 annual retainer, with the exception of the Audit Committee Chair, who received an additional $13,000 annual retainer and the Compensation Committee Chair, who received an additional $10,000 annual retainer. The Lead Director received an additional annual retainer of $20,000.

Each year, the Governance Committee reviews all components of director compensation. During 2015, the Governance Committee engaged Meridian Compensation Partners LLC ("Meridian") to assist in this review. The information provided by Meridian was used to compare the Company's current director compensation with peer companies in the utility industry and general industry companies of similar size (the "Director Peer Group"). The companies comprising the Director Peer Group are those companies in the S&P 400 Utilities Index.

At its August 21, 2015 meeting, the Board reviewed survey results from Meridian regarding current pay practices for director compensation. The Board approved an increase in the annual retainer of an additional $15,000, effective September 1, 2015. The total annual retainer is now $140,000 with $65,000 of the total retainer to be paid in stock each year. Directors will have the option of taking the remaining $75,000 in cash, stock or a combination of both cash and stock.

Each director is entitled to reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with meetings of the Board or its Committees and related activities, including director education courses and materials. These expenses include travel to and from the meetings, as well as any expenses they incur while attending the meetings.

The Company has a minimum stock ownership expectation for all Board members. Outside directors are expected to achieve a minimum investment of five times the minimum portion of their equity retainer payable in Company common stock within five years of becoming a Board member, and retain at least that level of investment during his/her tenure as a Board member. Shares previously deferred under the former Non- Employee Director Stock Plan count for purposes of determining whether a director has achieved the ownership expectation. Directors are prohibited from engaging in short-sales, pledging, or hedging the economic interest in their Company shares.

The ownership expectation illustrates the Board's philosophy of the importance of stock ownership for directors to further strengthen the commonality of interest between the Board and shareholders. The Governance Committee annually reviews director holdings to determine whether they meet ownership expectations. All directors currently comply based on their years of service completed on the Board.

There were no annual stock option grants or non-stock incentive plan compensation payments to directors for services in 2015 and none are currently contemplated under the current compensation structure. The Company also does not provide a retirement plan or deferred compensation plan to its directors.

Exhibit 12

AVISTA CORPORATION

Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges
Consolidated
(Thousands of Dollars)

	Years Ended December 31				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Fixed charges, as defined:					
Interest charges	$ 80,613	$ 74,025	$ 73,772	$ 71,843	$ 69,536
Amortization of debt expense and premium - net	3,415	3,635	3,813	3,803	4,617
Interest portion of rentals	1,287	1,187	1,146	1,294	1,139
Total fixed charges	$ 85,315	$ 78,847	$ 78,731	$ 76,940	$ 75,292
Earnings, as defined:					
Pre-tax income from continuing operations	$ 185,619	$ 192,106	$ 162,347	$ 116,567	$ 139,438
Add (deduct):					
Capitalized interest	(3,546)	(3,924)	(3,676)	(2,401)	(2,942)
Total fixed charges above	85,315	78,847	78,731	76,940	75,292
Total earnings	$ 267,388	$ 267,029	$ 237,402	$ 191,106	$ 211,788
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	3.13	3.39	3.02	2.48	2.81

Exhibit 21

AVISTA CORPORATION

SUBSIDIARIES OF REGISTRANT

Subsidiary	State or Country of Incorporation
Avista Capital, Inc.	Washington
Avista Development, Inc.	Washington
Avista Energy, Inc.	Washington
Avista Northwest Resources, LLC	Washington
Pentzer Corporation	Washington
Pentzer Venture Holding II, Inc.	Washington
Bay Area Manufacturing, Inc.	Washington
Advanced Manufacturing and Development, Inc.	California
Avista Capital II	Delaware
Steam Plant Square, LLC	Washington
Steam Plant Brew Pub, LLC	Washington
Courtyard Office Center, LLC	Washington
Alaska Energy and Resources Company	Alaska
Alaska Electric Light and Power Company	Alaska
AJT Mining Properties, Inc.	Alaska
Snettisham Electric Company	Alaska
Salix, Inc.	Washington

Exhibit 23

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement Nos. 333-33790, 333-126577 and 333-179042 on Form S-8 and in Registration Statement No. 333-187306 on Form S-3, relating to the consolidated financial statements of Avista Corporation and subsidiaries, and the effectiveness of Avista Corporation’s internal control over financial reporting, appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Avista Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2015.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Seattle, Washington

February 23, 2016

Exhibit 31.1

CERTIFICATION

I, Scott L. Morris, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this report on Form 10-K of Avista Corporation;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

    a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

    b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

    c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

    d. Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

    a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

    b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 23, 2016

/s/ Scott L. Morris

Scott L. Morris
Chairman of the Board, President
and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Exhibit 31.2

CERTIFICATION

I, Mark T. Thies, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this report on Form 10-K of Avista Corporation;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

   a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

   b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

   c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

   d. Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

   a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

   b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 23, 2016

/s/ Mark T. Thies

Mark T. Thies
Senior Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer
(Principal Financial Officer)

Exhibit 32

AVISTA CORPORATION

CERTIFICATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

(Furnished Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the

Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002)

Each of the undersigned, Scott L. Morris, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Avista Corporation (the "Company"), and Mark T. Thies, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and that the information contained therein fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: February 23, 2016

/s/ Scott L. Morris

Scott L. Morris
Chairman of the Board, President
and Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Mark T. Thies

Mark T. Thies
Senior Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer