

*Critical experiment*: a fissionable system that has been experimentally determined to be critical (with  $k_{\text{eff}} \approx 1$ ).

*Margin of safety*: the difference between the actual value of a parameter and the value of the parameter at which the system is expected to be critical with critical defined as  $k_{\text{eff}} = 1 - \text{bias} - \text{bias uncertainty}$ .

*Margin of Subcriticality (MoS)*: the difference between the actual value of  $k_{\text{eff}}$  and the value of  $k_{\text{eff}}$  at which the system is expected to be critical with critical defined as  $k_{\text{eff}} = 1 - \text{bias} - \text{bias uncertainty}$ .

*Minimum Margin of Subcriticality (MMS)*: a minimum allowed margin of subcriticality, which is an allowance for any unknown uncertainties in calculating  $k_{\text{eff}}$ .

*Subcritical limit*: the maximum allowed value of a controlled parameter under normal case conditions.

*Upper Subcritical Limit (USL)*: the maximum allowed value of  $k_{\text{eff}}$  (including uncertainty in  $k_{\text{eff}}$ ), under both normal and credible abnormal conditions, including allowance for the bias, the bias uncertainty, and a minimum margin of subcriticality.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon written request, copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension: Rules 17Ad-6 and 17Ad-7, SEC File No. 270-151, OMB Control No. 3235-0291.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

### Rules 17Ad-6 and 17Ad-7: Recordkeeping Requirements for Transfer Agents

Rule 17Ad-6 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78b *et seq.*) requires every registered transfer agent to make and keep current records about a variety of information, such as: (1) Specific operational data regarding the time taken to perform transfer agent activities (to ensure compliance with the minimum performance standards in Rule 17Ad-2 (17 CFR 240.17Ad-2)); (2) written inquiries and requests by shareholders and broker-dealers and

response time thereto; (3) resolutions, contracts or other supporting documents concerning the appointment or termination of the transfer agent; (4) stop orders or notices of adverse claims to the securities; and (5) all canceled registered securities certificates.

Rule 17Ad-7 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78b *et seq.*) requires each registered transfer agent to retain the records specified in Rule 17Ad-6 in an easily accessible place for a period of six months to six years, depending on the type of record or document. Rule 17Ad-7 also specifies the manner in which records may be maintained using electronic, microfilm, and microfiche storage methods.

These recordkeeping requirements ensure that all registered transfer agents are maintaining the records necessary to monitor and keep control over their own performance and for the Commission to adequately examine registered transfer agents on an historical basis for compliance with applicable rules.

We estimate that approximately 785 registered transfer agents will spend a total of 392,500 hours per year complying with Rules 17Ad-6 and 17Ad-7. Based on average cost per hour of \$50, the total cost of compliance with Rule 17Ad-6 is \$19,625,000.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: March 13, 2006.

**Nancy M. Morris,**

*Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[File No. 1-03701]

### Issuer Delisting; Notice of Application of Avista Corporation To Withdraw Its Common Stock, No Par Value, Together With the Preferred Share Purchase Rights Appurtenant Thereto, From Listing and Registration on the Pacific Exchange, Inc.

March 14, 2006.

On March, 2006, Avista Corporation, a Washington corporation ("Issuer"), filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 12d2-2(d) thereunder,<sup>2</sup> to withdraw its common stock, no par value, together with the preferred share purchase rights appurtenant thereto (collectively "Securities"), from listing and registration on the Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX").

The Board of Directors ("Board") of the Issuer adopted resolutions on February 10, 2006 to withdraw the Securities from listing and registration on PCX. The Issuer stated that the Board determined the benefits of remaining listed on PCX do not justify the associated expense and administrative burdens. The Issuer stated that the Securities are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE") and will remain listed on NYSE.

The Issuer stated in its application that it has complied with applicable rules of PCX by providing PCX with the required documents governing the withdrawal of securities from listing and registration on PCX. The Issuer also stated that withdrawal of the Securities from PCX will not violate any law of the State of Washington, the state in which the Issuer is incorporated.

The Issuer's application relates solely to the withdrawal of the Securities from listing on PCX and shall not affect their continued listing on NYSE or their obligation to be registered under section 12(b) of the Act.<sup>3</sup>

Any interested person may, on or before April 7, 2006, comment on the facts bearing upon whether the application has been made in accordance with the rules of PCX, and what terms, if any, should be imposed by the Commission for the protection of investors. All comment letters may be submitted by either of the following methods:

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78j(d).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.12d2-2(d).

<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78j(b).