



May 22, 2001

Mr. Steve Silkworth
Relicensing Manager
Avista Utilities
1411 E. Mission MSC-1
Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Dear Steve:

As you know, Friends of the Falls is an organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing one of our community's most valuable assets: the Falls and Gorge area of the Spokane River. Our group – in partnership with numerous other organizations – is currently working towards a "Great Gorge Park," first suggested in 1908 by the famous Olmsted Brothers' landscape architecture firm.

We wish to thank you for involving concerned groups like ours in your decision to apply for a temporary waiver of spill requirements at the Monroe Street hydroelectric facility above the Lower Spokane Falls. We recognize that Avista Corporation, formerly Washington Water Power, has a long and positive history of river stewardship, balancing the need for power with the numerous, yet equally important contributions a vibrant river makes to our community.

This year, highly unusual circumstances have combined to force consideration of full-time diversion of water from the Falls, which would effectively "shut off" our city's primary landmark in favor of an additional megawatt of power. In the face of current and forecasted conditions, our Board of Directors -- and certainly the community at-large -- looks to Avista's expertise, experience, and history of responsible stewardship in making that difficult choice.

At Avista's invitation, Friends of the Falls wishes to express the following as your deliberations progress:

- We commend Avista in its ongoing conservation initiatives. Beyond simply reducing power demand, we hope these measures will also serve to underscore the truly severe conditions under which this decision to shut off flow to the Falls might be made -- and to heighten appreciation of the value of our community's water resources.

- We appreciate your company's assurance that this measure, if taken, would be a "one-time request for this summer only...with regular operations (to) resume in early November."
- Our group would like to participate in any deliberations that may occur with other organizations concerning the possibility of restoring normal "spills" for special community events during the summer.
- As expressed at our recent meeting, Friends of the Falls hopes this circumstance will be used in other ways to educate the public, and to highlight Avista's long-term stewardship of the river and falls area. The absence of the falls is likely to be remembered for many years to come, and such an event presents unique and timely opportunities.

Steve, we admire Avista Utilities for its many contributions to our community, and for its continuing efforts to exemplify the idea, supported by Washington Water Power at Expo '74, that we can indeed live "in harmony with nature." The Spokane River may generate electrical power, but it's still a river linked tightly to the heart of our city, and of our region.

We're glad you're here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Hastings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rick Hastings
President, Friends of the Falls

cc: Dr. John Moyer, Sandra Buss, Michael Edwards, Steve Franks, Jim Kolva, Greg Sweeney, Mike Terrell, Doug Siddoway