



# Business Spotlight

## 2005 Clean Air Award

### Avista Corporation Receives 2005 Clean Air Award

Avista Corporation is the recipient of the 2005 Clean Air Award, presented by SCAPCA at a January ceremony in Spokane.

“Avista Corporation is recognized for their recent air pollution control system upgrades to their Northeast Combustion Turbine facility, located in north Spokane and for their partnership in developing two programs, the effect of which has been to repair or replace over 950 of Spokane’s highest emitting motor vehicles, resulting in a reduction of approximately 235 tons of air emissions to date,” said Eric Skelton, SCAPCA Director.

The Northeast Combustion Turbine facility has been operated by Avista since 1978. Until 2000, it was only used sporadically to help meet peak electricity demand. However, in 2000, when an energy crisis hit the Western U.S., Avista needed to temporarily operate the turbines as base-load power generation units. SCAPCA and Avista entered into an agreement, allowing Avista to operate the turbines extended hours during the energy crisis. In exchange, Avista agreed to upgrade the air pollution control system on the turbines and to implement a project to offset the excess emissions, resulting from extend operation.



*Front Row: Pam Kish and Thomas C. Dempsey, Avista Corporation. Back Row: Doug Pottratz, Avista; Eric Skelton, SCAPCA Director; Hank Nelson, Avista.*

In 2001, Avista installed oxidation catalysts on the turbines, which reduced carbon monoxide emissions by 95%. Other design changes reduced nitrogen oxide emissions from the turbines by over 25%.

In order to offset the excess emissions that occurred during the energy crisis, Avista implemented a number of environmental offset projects.

Avista formulated a partnership with SCAPCA, the Washington State Department of Ecology, Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs, and approximately 20 local auto repair shops to develop and implement two programs:

The Vehicle Emission Repair Program (VERP) and the Voluntary Accelerated Vehicle Replacement program (VAVR).

Recently, the VERP program received national recognition by the Ash Institute, which selected it as one of the “Top 50” programs in the 2005 Innovations in American Government Awards competition. These fifty programs represent the top 5% of the initial applicant pool.

“The Clean Air Award is presented to publicly express our appreciation for innovation and to encourage others to follow suit,” added Skelton.

Congratulations to Avista Corporation, the 2005 Clean Air Award recipient, for your hard work and dedication to improve air quality in our community! ■