

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of	)	DOCKET UG-120195
	)	
AVISTA CORPORATION,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
For Less Than Statutory Notice in	)	STATUTORY NOTICE; ALLOWING
Connection with Tariff Revisions	)	TARIFF REVISIONS
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On February 13, 2012, Avista Corporation, (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to its currently effective Tariff WN U-29, designated as Eleventh Revision of Sheet 150-Schedules 101, 111, 121 and 131. This filing reflects the Company’s proposed out of period Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment (PGA) to pass through to customers changes in the estimated cost of natural gas for the forthcoming eight months of March 2012 through October 2012.
- 2     RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require thirty days’ notice to customers prior to the effective date of the tariff. The Company requests, however, less than statutory notice as permitted by WAC 480-80-122, and that the revision become effective March 1, 2012. Avista requests less than statutory notice because wholesale natural gas costs have continued to fall since the last PGA and Avista would like to pass the reduced rates on to customers as soon as possible.
- 3     WAC 480-90-194 requires notice to customers or publication of the decrease sought in this filing. Granting Avista’s less than statutory notice request also requires an exemption from WAC 480-90-194. For the same reason(s) Avista identified for seeking less than statutory notice, the Company seeks an exemption from the notice requirements. Avista proposes to notify customers through a media release.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 4     (1)    The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated

interests of public service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.*

- 5 (2) Avista is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) Avista is subject to RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121, which require gas companies to file changes in any rate, charge or service with thirty days' notice. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may allow changes without requiring thirty days' notice by order specifying the changes to be made and the time when it shall take effect. *RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-122.*
- 7 (4) Staff has reviewed Avista's request in Docket UG-120195 and recommends the Commission grant the Company's request for less than statutory notice. Staff further recommends the Commission grant an exemption from WAC 480-90-194 and require the Company to notify customers through a media release.
- 8 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 23, 2012.
- 9 (6) After reviewing Avista's proposed tariff revision filed on February 13, 2012, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed tariff revision should become effective March 1, 2012.
- 10 (7) The Commission also finds Avista should be granted an exemption from the customer notice requirements in WAC 480-90-194.

## **ORDER**

### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 11 (1) Avista Corporation's request for less than statutory notice is granted.
- 12 (2) After the effective date of this Order, Avista Corporation is granted an exemption from WAC 480-90-194, which requires a 30-day notice to customers of proposed

changes to charges or restricted access in service. Avista Corporation must provide notice to customers through a media release.

- 13 (3) The tariff revisions Avista Corporation filed on February 13, 2012, will be effective on March 1, 2012.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 23, 2012.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary