

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	DOCKET UE-210545
AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA UTILITIES,	ORDER 01
Petitioner,	APPROVING AVISTA'S RECOMMENDED INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR
For an Order Approving Its Recommended Independent Evaluator	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 9, 2021, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a Petition for approval of the recommended independent evaluator (IE) under WAC 480-107-023(2) (Petition). Avista submits that it developed a proposed scope of work for an IE and, after receiving proposals from three companies, Avista selected Sapere Consulting (Sapere) to provide IE services. Avista provides Sapere's proposal with resumes as Attachment B to the Petition.
- 2 Earlier, on April 1, 2021, the Company filed its 2021 Electric Integrated Resource Plan in Docket UE-200301 showing a resource need in 2025. On July 29, 2021, the Commission approved a petition in Docket UE-210486 to extend the filing date of the resulting request for proposals (RFP) until November 1, 2021.
- 3 Commission staff (Staff) recommends that the Commission grant the Petition. Staff submits that Avista's choice of IE is reasonable and should be approved.

DISCUSSION

- 4 Pursuant to WAC 480-107-023(1), a utility must engage the services of an IE to assess and report on the solicitation process when the utility is considering repowering existing resources to meet its resource need or when the utility "intends to retain the option to procure resources that will result in the utility owning or having a purchase option in the resource over its expected useful life." The utility must then recommend the IE for

approval by the Commission.¹ Here, Avista intends to submit a proposal to repower its existing resources and seeks to retain the option to purchase a selected resource in the future. As a result, Avista must secure the services of an IE. We agree with the Company and Staff that Avista's choice of an IE is reasonable and should be approved.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 6 (2) Avista is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) WAC 480-107-023(2), requires companies to petition the Commission for approval of a recommended IE.
- 8 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 12, 2021.
- 9 (5) After reviewing Avista's Petition and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission concludes that Avista's Petition should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 (1) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities' Petition for approval of its recommended Independent Evaluator is granted.
- 11 (2) This Order shall not affect the Commission's authority over rates, services, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determination of costs, on any matters that may come before it.

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

¹ WAC 480-107-023(2).

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective August 12, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary