

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a
AVISTA UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-170485 and
UG-170486 (*Consolidated*)

ORDER 05

GRANTING STAFF'S MOTION
FOR LEAVE TO FILE REVISED
TESTIMONY AND EXHIBIT

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 26, 2017, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariffs for electric and natural gas services the Company provides in Washington. The effect of these filings would be to increase rates and charges for electric and natural gas service. The Commission suspended the as-filed tariffs and set the matters for hearing in Order 01 on June 2, 2017. In Order 03, the Commission established a procedural schedule including dates for parties to file Response testimony, Cross-Answering testimony, and Rebuttal testimony.
- 2 Commission staff (Staff) and other parties filed Response testimony on October 27, 2017, in accordance with the procedural schedule.
- 3 On November 6, 2017, Staff filed a Motion for Leave to File Revised Testimony and Exhibit. In its Motion, Staff explained that it discovered an error in the testimony and exhibit of Staff witness Christopher S. Hancock. The error materially impacts Staff's revenue requirement proposals for the second and third years of Staff's three-year rate plan.
- 4 Staff's proposed change to Mr. Hancock's testimony and exhibit reduces its proposed revenue requirement increases from \$11.45 million to \$9.52 million in Year Two, and from \$11.716 million to \$9.74 million in Year Three.
- 5 No other party filed a response to Staff's Motion.

DISCUSSION

- 6 WAC 480-07-460(1)(a)(i) permits parties to seek leave from the presiding officer by written motion if they wish to revise prefiled testimony or exhibits with substantive changes, and WAC 480-07-460(1)(b) requires parties to file motions to make substantive changes as soon as practicable after discovering the need to make the change. Staff explained in its Motion that an Avista witness alerted Mr. Hancock to a possible discrepancy. Mr. Hancock investigated the matter and discovered a material error related to Avista's test-year power supply expense. Mr. Hancock intended to exclude the expense, which is separately accounted for, when constructing an "escalation base" in Staff's three-year rate plan. Instead, Mr. Hancock mistakenly included the expense, which impacted Staff's proposed revenue requirement.
- 7 Staff made the necessary corrections and filed its Motion promptly after discovering the error, just 10 days after it filed responsive testimony and well in advance of the deadline for parties to file rebuttal and cross-answering testimony. In addition, no party objected to Staff's Motion. In light of these circumstances, we find good cause to grant Staff leave to file supplemental testimony.

ORDER

- 8 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS That Staff's Motion for Leave to File Revised Testimony and Exhibits is GRANTED.**

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 14, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RAYNE PEARSON
Administrative Law Judge