

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET UG-120790
TRANSPORTATION	)	
COMMISSION,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF;
AVISTA CORPORATION,	)	ALLOWING RATES ON A
	)	TEMPORARY BASIS, SUBJECT TO
Respondent.	)	REVISION
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On May 31, 2012 and again on June 5, 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 First Revision Sheet No. 190 – Supplemental Schedule 191, Public Purposes Rider Adjustment.
- 2     The purpose of the filing is to decrease the Gas Public Purposes Rider Adjustment (Gas Rider) charges to reflect actual costs and collections over the past year for conservation programs. The stated effective date is August 1, 2012.
- 3     In this filing, Avista proposes to decrease charges and rates for service by approximately \$1.9 million or 1.3 percent of overall billed rates. Due to dockets UG-121026 and UG-121119 pending before the Commission and in order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, Commission Staff requests more time to investigate Avista’s books, accounts, practices and activities. Commission Staff also recommends that the Commission suspend the tariff filing and hold public hearings, if necessary in order to determine rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. Because Avista proposes a decrease in rates, Commission Staff recommends that the rates become effective on August 1, 2012, on a temporary basis, subject to revision.

**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) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 27, 2012.
- 7 (4) The tariff revisions Avista filed on June 5, 2012, would decrease charges and rates for service provided by Avista, and such decreases pending Commission Staff review are in the public interest.
- 8 (5) Although Avista has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revision would ultimately result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, the Commission finds it reasonable to allow the rates to become effective, on a temporary basis, subject to revision.
- 9 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130 and RCW 80.04.220, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate this tariff filing, which will involve an investigation of Avista's books, accounts, practices and activities, and to investigate and appraise various phases of Avista's operations.
- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Avista bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed decreases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. Nothing in this Order is intended to limit the issues as to the fairness, justness, reasonableness and sufficiency of the proposed decreases.
- 11 (8) In addition, the Commission invokes the rights, remedies and procedures contained in the reparations statute; RCW 80.04.220, to the extent the Commission finds that any rate subject to this investigation is excessive or exorbitant.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 12 (1) The tariff Avista Corporation filed on June 5, 2012, is suspended.
- 13 (2) The rate decrease sought by Avista Corporation should be allowed to become effective on August 1, 2012, on a temporary basis, subject to revision.
- 14 (3) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 15 (4) Avista Corporation must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 16 (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of Avista Corporation's books, accounts, practices, activities and operations as described in this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 27, 2012.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner