



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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October 7, 2022

NOTICE OF BENCH REQUEST NO. 3
(Due by October 14, 2022, at 5 p.m.)

NOTICE OF BENCH REQUESTS NOS. 4 – 6
(Due by October 21, 2022, at 5 p.m.)

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities*
In the Matter of the Electric Service Reliability Reporting Plan of Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities
Dockets UE-220053, UG-220054, and UE-210854 (*Consolidated*)

TO PUBLIC COUNSEL:

BENCH REQUEST NO. 3:

Please file with the Commission all written public comments received by Public Counsel and the Commission that regard these consolidated proceedings.

Please respond to this Bench Request no later than **Friday, October 14, 2022, by 5 p.m.**, by electronic filing with the Commission's Records Center. Please provide courtesy email copies to all parties and the presiding administrative law judge. If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Judge O'Connell at 360-664-1285 or via email at andrew.j.oconnell@utc.wa.gov.

TO THE SETTLING PARTIES:

BENCH REQUEST NO. 4:

In Attachment A to the Settlement Stipulation, pages 1 and 5, the "Schedule 78 and Schedule 178 Tax Rate Credit" in Column I shows \$0 being passed back to customers in Rate Year 2. Consistent with Rate Year 1, please update Columns H and I for Rate Year

2 on pages 1 and 5 to show the increase to base rates prior to the application of the tax credit.

BENCH REQUEST NO. 5:

In footnote 12, on page 12 of 49 of the Settlement Stipulation, the Settling Parties refer to Table 4 found in Andrews, Exh. EMA-1T at 31:17-22. Footnote 12 states that “[f]or purposes of the Capital Projects Review and comparison of provisional capital additions in Rate Year 1 ... and Rate Year 2..., capital additions and overall Rate Base are as filed, excluding the Colstrip Dry Ash investment.” Table 4 in Andrews, Exh. EMA-1T provides that the electric net plant after Accumulated Depreciation of Federal Income Tax (ADFIT) for Rate Year 1 is \$1,987,156,000 and for Rate Year 2 is \$2,067,662,000, prior to the exclusion of the Colstrip Dry Ash investment.

As plant balances increase or decrease over time as plant is added or removed, it is unclear to the Commission how the exclusion of the Colstrip Dry Ash investment is accounted for by the Settlement Stipulation in the electric net plant after ADFIT in each of the rate years.

- a. Please clarify how the Settling Parties exclude the Colstrip Dry Ash investment from net plant after ADFIT in each rate year. In addition to this explanation, the following subparts will add necessary clarity.
- b. Please confirm that the Settling Parties intend an amount of \$3,100,000 for Colstrip Dry Ash investment should be removed from the electric net plant after ADFIT for Rate Year 1, resulting in a final amount of electric net plant after ADFIT of \$1,984,056,000.
- c. Please confirm that the Settling Parties intend an amount of \$2,100,000 for Colstrip Dry Ash investment should be removed from the electric net plant after ADFIT for Rate Year 2, resulting in a final amount of electric net plant after ADFIT of \$2,065,562,000.
- d. Please clarify and explain why the \$3,100,000 portion of Colstrip Dry Ash investment in Rate Year 1 appears to not also be removed, cumulatively, from Rate Year 2 in addition to the \$2,100,000 portion, resulting in a final amount of electric net plant after ADFIT of \$2,062,462,000.
- e. Please provide any updates to tables or amounts provided in the Settlement Stipulation that will help clarify how the exclusion of the Colstrip Dry Ash investment is accounted for and its cumulative effects reflected in the final amount for Rate Year 2 net plant after ADFIT.

BENCH REQUEST NO. 6:

Referring to Exh. JT-1T at 18:6-8, 19:12-14, 20:14-16, and 21:10-12, the Joint Settling Parties’ testimony discusses the impacts to the average residential electric and natural gas customer for Rate Year 1 and Rate Year 2. The testimony provides the bill increase and percentage increase per month but does not provide the resulting annual average bills for each service in Rate Year 1 and Rate Year 2. Please provide the final annual average bills for both residential electric and natural gas customers resulting from the Settlement for Rate Year 1 and Rate Year 2. Please use the following format:

- a. As a result of the Settlement Stipulation, a typical residential electric customer using __ kWhs per month will pay \$__ more in Rate Year 1, for an average month bill of \$__.
- b. As a result of the Settlement Stipulation, a typical residential electric customer using __ kWhs per month will pay \$__ more in Rate Year 2, for an average month bill of \$__.
- c. As a result of the Settlement Stipulation, a typical residential natural gas customer using __ therms per month will pay \$__ more in Rate Year 1, for an average month bill of \$__.
- d. As a result of the Settlement Stipulation, a typical residential natural gas customer using __ therms per month will pay \$__ more in Rate Year 2, for an average month bill of \$__.

Please respond to these Bench Requests no later than **Friday, October 21, 2022, by 5 p.m.**, by electronic filing with the Commission's Records Center. Please provide courtesy email copies to all parties and the presiding administrative law judge. If you have any questions concerning these requests, please contact Judge O'Connell at 360-664-1285 or via email at andrew.j.oconnell@utc.wa.gov.

/s/ *Andrew J. O'Connell*
ANDREW J. O'CONNELL
Administrative Law Judge