

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

| | |
|--|---|
| In the Matter of | DOCKET UE-240421 |
| AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA UTILITIES, | ORDER 01 |
| Renewable Energy Target Progress Report under RCW 19.285.070 and WAC 480-109-210 | APPROVING COMPLIANCE WITH ELIGIBLE RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2024 |

BACKGROUND

- 1 The Energy Independence Act (EIA or Act)¹ requires qualifying electric utilities to obtain certain percentages of their electricity from eligible renewable resources. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) enforces compliance with the EIA by investor-owned utilities.² Ultimately, the Commission must determine “whether the utility has generated, acquired or arranged to acquire enough renewable energy credits or qualifying generation to comply with its renewable resource target.”³
- 2 The Commission has implemented these requirements by establishing a two-step compliance process.⁴ Because a utility may comply with its renewable portfolio standards (RPS) obligation by using renewable energy credits (RECs) acquired in the year after the target year, ultimate compliance for 2024, for example, may be demonstrated as late as June 1, 2026. Accordingly, there will be two Commission decisions for each year’s compliance: (1) a determination that the Company has enough resources to meet the 15 percent target; and (2) the retrospective compliance decision.
- 3 The filing before the Commission in this Docket is the initial resource-adequacy filing made by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) for its 2024, obligation. The Commission will consider Avista’s compliance with its 2024 target when Avista requests such a finding. Consistent with the requirements of WAC 480-109-210(6), the Company must make this request through a filing in this Docket no later than June 1, 2026.

¹ Chapter 19.285 RCW.

² RCW 19.285.060(6).

³ WAC 480-109-210(3)(b).

⁴ WAC 480-109-210(1) and (6).

4 On May 31, 2024, Avista filed with the Commission its 2024 Annual Renewable Portfolio Standard Report (RPS Report), which identified a 2024 target of 872,570 megawatt-hours (MWh). Table 1, below, summarizes Avista’s 2024 target and the total amount of resources that the Company had acquired by January 1, 2024:

Table 1: Avista’s 2024 Renewable Resource Target and Compliance Plan

| 2024 Target (MWh) | Hydro | Solar | Wind | Biomass | Total Eligible Resources (MWh) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| | RPS Compliance Resources (MWh) | | | | |
| 872,570 | 147,867 | 1,010 | 968,565 | 321,280 | 1,438,722 |

5 Avista seeks an order from the Commission confirming that the Company has complied with the Commission’s EIA reporting requirements, accepting the Company’s calculations and eligibility of the renewable resources identified in the RPS Report for 2024.

6 On June 18, 2024, the Commission issued a Notice inviting interested persons to file written comments on Avista’s RPS Report. During the comment period, no comments were received.

7 Based on the information that the Company provided in its RPS Report and supplemental filing, Commission staff (Staff) believes that Avista correctly calculated its 2024 RPS target, and that it has acquired sufficient resources to exceed that target.

8 Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order in this Docket determining that:

- (1) Avista’s 2024 renewable energy target is 872,570 MWh.
- (2) Avista has demonstrated that, by January 1, 2024, it acquired 1,438,722 MWh of eligible renewable resources sufficient to supply 15 percent of its load for 2024.
- (3) Avista has complied with the June 1, 2024, reporting requirements pursuant to WAC 480-109-210.

DISCUSSION

9 The Commission accepts Avista’s calculation of 872,570 MWh as the Company’s renewable energy target for 2024 and determines that Avista has identified sufficient resources to be able to meet that target. The Commission will make its final determination about whether Avista has met its 2024 target when the Company requests such a finding, no later than June 1, 2026. To assist Staff with determining whether Avista’s resources meet EIA eligibility requirements, Avista must provide details about which certificates were used for its various renewable energy programs, as required by WAC 480-109-210(2)(d)(i), in its final compliance report for 2024.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 10 (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.
- 11 (2) Avista is a natural gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 12 (3) Avista serves more than 25,000 customers within the State of Washington and is a “qualifying utility” within the meaning of RCW 19.285.030(19).
- 13 (4) Avista has properly calculated its renewable energy target for 2024 to be 872,570 MWh.
- 14 (5) By January 1, 2024, Avista had acquired sufficient eligible renewable resources to supply at least 15 percent of its load for the remainder of 2024.
- 15 (6) Avista has met the reporting requirements of RCW 19.285.070 and WAC 480-109-210. These reporting requirements include Avista’s plan for meeting its RPS obligation for the remainder of 2024.
- 16 (7) Pursuant to WAC 480-109-210(4), Avista must post and maintain all RPS Reports on its website, and provide a report to any person on request, within 30 days of the date of this Order.
- 17 (8) Pursuant to WAC 480-109-210(5), Avista must provide a summary of its RPS Report to its customers, by bill insert or other suitable method, within 90 days

of the date of this Order.

- 18 (9) Pursuant to WAC 480-109-210(6), Avista must file a report no later than June 1, 2026, that lists certificate numbers in Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System for every megawatt-hour and renewable energy credit that PacifiCorp retired to meet the January 1, 2024, target.
- 19 (10) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 29, 2024.
- 20 (11) After reviewing Avista's Petition and RPS Report and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission accepts Avista's calculation of 872,570 MWh as the Company's renewable energy target for 2024 and adopts Staff's recommendations as set forth in paragraph 9 of this Order.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 21 (1) The Commission accepts the calculation of 872,570 MWh as the 2024 renewable energy target for Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities.
- 22 (2) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities has identified eligible renewable resources sufficient to supply at least 15 percent of its load for 2024.
- 23 (3) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities has complied with the June 1, 2024, reporting requirements pursuant to WAC 480-109-210.
- 24 (4) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities' final compliance report must list certificate numbers for every renewable energy credit that Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities retired in the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System and details about which certificates were used for its voluntary renewable energy programs in 2024.

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

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective August 29, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Jeff Killip
Executive Director and Secretary