Service Date: February 13, 2025

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of

DOCKET UE-250024

AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA UTILITIES,

ORDER 01

Petitioner,

APPROVING RECOMMENDED INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR

For an Order Approving Its Recommended Independent Evaluator

BACKGROUND

- On January 13, 2025, 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 Procure Power, LLC (Procure Power) to provide IE services. Avista provides Procure Power's proposal with resumes as Attachment B to the Petition.
- Earlier, on December 30, 2024, the Company filed its 2025 Electric Integrated Resource Plan in Docket UE-230793 showing a resource need beginning in 2026.
- Commission Staff (Staff) recommends that the Commission grant the Petition. Staff finds that Avista's choice of IE has extensive experience in this area and was involved in the Company's 2022 request for proposals. Staff submits that Avista's choice of IE is reasonable and should be approved.

DISCUSSION

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. Here, Avista is evaluating a self-build option as a part of the upcoming request for proposal (RFP) process. As a result, Avista must secure the services of an IE. We agree with the Company and Staff that Avista's choice of this IE is reasonable and should be approved.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 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 February 13, 2025.
- 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.
- 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.

¹ WAC 480-107-023(2).

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 February 13, 2025.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFF KILLIP Executive Director and Secretary