

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

|                          |   |                             |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND | ) | DOCKET UG-110877            |
| TRANSPORTATION           | ) |                             |
| COMMISSION,              | ) |                             |
|                          | ) | ORDER 01                    |
| Complainant,             | ) |                             |
|                          | ) |                             |
| v.                       | ) | COMPLAINT AND ORDER         |
|                          | ) | SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS |
| AVISTA CORPORATION,      | ) |                             |
|                          | ) |                             |
| Respondent.              | ) |                             |
| .....                    | ) |                             |

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On May 16, 2011, Avista Corporation, (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-29, designated as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The stated effective date is June 15, 2011. The purpose of this filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington.
  
- 2 In this filing, Avista would increase charges and rates for service by approximately \$6.2 million or 4 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Avista has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. Also at issue in this proceeding is whether any rates and charges for natural gas service shown on tariffs the Company does not propose to revise in this proceeding are fair, just and reasonable.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 3 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate 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](#).

- 4 (2) Avista is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 26, 2011.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions Avista filed on May 16, 2011 would increase charges and rates for service provided by Avista, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Avista has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 8 (6) Avista's rates and charges for natural gas service shown on any tariffs that Avista does not propose to revise may also be investigated to determine if they are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 9 (7) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in [RCW 80.04.130](#), the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Avista's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Avista's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Avista's operations.
- 10 (8) As required by [RCW 80.04.130 \(4\)](#), Avista bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 11 (9) Avista may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with [RCW 80.20](#).

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions Avista Corporation filed on May 16, 2011 are suspended.

- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings on the proposed tariff changes at such times and places as may be required. Such hearings may also examine the Company's rates and charges for natural gas service shown on any tariffs that PacifiCorp does not propose to revise.
- 14 (3) Avista Corporation must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Avista Corporation's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 16 (5) Avista Corporation shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with [RCW 80.20](#).

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 1, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

Appendix

WN U-29

|                                     |           |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 101  | Canceling | 8 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 101 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 111  | Canceling | 8 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 111 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 112  | Canceling | 8 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 112 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 121  | Canceling | 8 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 121 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 122  | Canceling | 8 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 122 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 131  | Canceling | 8 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 131 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 132  | Canceling | 8 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 132 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 146  | Canceling | 8 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 146 |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 150 | Canceling | 9 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 150 |