

Avista Corp.
1411 East Mission PO Box 3727
Spokane, Washington 99220-3727
Telephone 509-489-0500
Toll Free 800-727-9170



Corp.

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STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

January 15, 2004

Carole Washburn, Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Docket No. UG-031361

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Enclosed for filing with the Commission is the original and twelve copies of *Avista Corporation's Motion To Extend Prehearing Conference* in the above-cited docket.

Please direct any questions to me at (509) 4950-8706.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bruce Folsom'.

Bruce Folsom
Rates and Regulation Department

c: Don Trotter
Simon ffitich
Kippi Walker

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

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	DOCKET NO. UG-031361
Complainant,)	
)	AVISTA CORPORATION'S
vs.)	MOTION TO EXTEND PRE-
)	HEARING CONFERENCE
AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA UTILITIES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	
)	

1 Pursuant to Rule 480-07-375, Avista Corporation (hereinafter the "Company" or "Avista"), respectfully moves this Commission for an Order postponing the Prehearing Conference, originally set for January 21, 2004.

2 On August 26, 2003, Avista filed certain tariff revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-29, Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) and Deferral Amortization. The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by Avista by approximately \$11.9 million.

3 By Order of the Commission, the operation of the Tariff Revisions has been suspended pending hearings concerning all such changes and the justness and reasonableness thereof. The Commission allowed the rates to be effective on September 11, 2003, on a temporary basis, subject to later adjustment through the deferred gas cost account.

4 A Notice of Prehearing Conference issued on December 24, 2003, which set a pre-hearing conference date of January 21, 2004. (A subsequent notice issued on January 15, 2004, rescheduling the time, but not the date, of the Prehearing Conference.)

5


Based on discussions had with the Commission's Staff and Public Counsel, the Company believes that it may further the efficient processing of this case to postpone the date set for the initial Prehearing Conference in this matter (January 21, 2004) until a date not earlier than three weeks after this Commission's Order in the so-called Benchmark Case in Docket No. UG-021584. This will allow for a review of the Order and will allow the parties more time to evaluate their positions and discuss possible resolution of issues in this docket. The Company believes that this delay may ultimately lead to greater administrative efficiency, and help, at a minimum, to clarify any remaining issues prior to the rescheduled Prehearing Conference.

6

The Company has been advised that neither Mr. Donald T. Trotter (staff) nor Mr. Simon ffitch (Public Counsel) oppose this motion.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 15th day of January, 2004.

AVISTA CORPORATION

By: 
David J. Meyer
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

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**UG 031361
AVISTA PGA BENCHMARK**

SERVICE LIST

Donald T. Trotter
Assistant Attorney General
Attorney General Office
P.O. Box 40128
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-0128

Simon ffitch
Office of Attorney General
900 Fourth Avenue #2000
Seattle, WA 98164-1012