

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

In re Commission Investigation of the Gas
Pipeline System of Avista Utilities

DOCKET PG-070013

ORDER 01

ORDER ACCEPTING
AGREEMENT AND CLOSING
INVESTIGATION

- 1 This docket involves an inspection by the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) of the natural gas pipeline system owned and operated by Avista Utilities (Avista) in Spokane and Ritzville. Commission Staff conducted the inspection. As a result of the inspection, Commission Staff believes an appropriate way to address certain issues in this docket is through an agreement under which Avista agrees to take specific steps to improve its system and practices.
- 2 On October 1, 2007, Commission Staff and Avista filed a “Stipulated Agreement to Close Docket.”
- 3 The Agreement states that it is not effective until approved by the Commission. According to the Agreement, its effective date is the date the Commission approves it.
- 4 The Commission has reviewed the Agreement and has determined that it provides an appropriate basis for concluding this docket, and is consistent with the public interest. Therefore, the Commission approves the Agreement, and closes the investigations.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 5 (1) Avista Utilities operates a gas pipeline distribution system serving the public.
- 6 (2) Commission Staff conducted an inspection of Avista’s gas distribution system in its Spokane and Ritzville districts, Docket PG-070013.
- 7 (3) Commission Staff and Avista have entered into the Agreement as an appropriate resolution of the issues raised by the inspection in Docket PG-070013.

- 8 (4) The Commission has reviewed the Agreement. The Agreement is an appropriate resolution of the issues raised by the inspection in Docket PG-070013.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 9 (1) The Commission has jurisdiction under RCW 80.28 to regulate the safety of the gas plant owned and operated by Avista Utilities.
- 10 (2) The Agreement entered into between Avista and Commission Staff represents an appropriate resolution of the issues raised by the inspection in this docket. The Agreement is in the public interest. The Agreement should be approved, and this docket should be closed.
- 11 (3) The effective date of the Agreement is the date of this Order.

ORDER

- 12 It is hereby ordered that the Agreement filed October 1, 2007, is approved, and the investigation in this docket is closed. The Commission retains jurisdiction to effectuate the terms of this Order, including enforcement of the Agreement, if necessary.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective October ____, 2007.

**WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

PATRICK OSHIE, Commissioner