

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET UG-060518
)	
Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista)	
Utilities)	
)	
For an Order Authorizing)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
Implementation of a Natural Gas)	CONFERENCE
Decoupling Mechanism and to Record)	(Set for Wednesday, September 6,
Accounting Entries Associated With the)	2006, at 9:30 a.m., Seattle)
Mechanism.)	
.....)	

1 Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista) on April 5, 2006, filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition for an order authorizing implementation of a natural gas decoupling mechanism and to record accounting entries associated with the mechanism.

2 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under Title 80 RCW and has legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of gas utilities. The statutes that apply to this matter include chapters 80.01, 80.04 and 80.28 RCW relating to rates, including but not limited to RCW sections 80.01.040 and 80.04.020. The rules that apply to this matter include those within chapter 480-90 WAC, relating to gas companies.

3 The Commission will hear this matter under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), particularly Part IV of chapter 34.05 RCW relating to adjudications. The provisions of the APA that relate to this proceeding include but are not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission will also follow its procedural rules in chapter 480-07 WAC in this proceeding.

4 The Commission finds there is good cause to hear this matter shortened notice. *See, WAC 480-07-440(1)(a).*

5 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a prehearing conference in this matter at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be called, on September 6, 2006, at the 24th Floor Training Room, Bank of California, 900 4th Avenue, Seattle, Washington.** All persons must check in at the receptionist desk, on the 20th floor of the Bank of California Building in order to gain access to the 24th Floor Training Room. **The prehearing conference is set at the same time as a prehearing conference in Docket U-060273.¹**

6 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider requests for interventions, resolve scheduling matters including establishing dates for distributing of evidence and work papers, to identify the issues in the proceeding and determine other matters to assist the Commission in resolving the matter, as listed in WAC 480-07-430.

7 **INTERVENTION:** Persons who wish to intervene should file a petition to intervene in writing at least three business days before the date of the prehearing conference. *See WAC 480-07-355(a).* The Commission will consider oral petitions to intervene during the conference, but strongly prefers written petitions to intervene. Party representatives must file a notice of appearance with the Commission no later than the business day before the conference. *See, WAC 480-07-345(2).* If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, they should fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission. The Commission will set the time and place for any evidentiary hearings at the prehearing conference, on the record of a later conference or hearing session, or by later written notice.

8 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440. The Commission specifically invokes the sanction provisions of WAC 480-07-450 which allow the Commission to seek penalties for a party in default.**

9 The names and mailing addresses of all known parties and their known representatives are as follows:

¹ *In the Matter of the Application of Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities For an Order Approving a Corporation Reorganization to Create a Holding Company, AVA Formation Corp.* This conference is being set at the same time and place as the restructure hearing for convenience of parties and the Commission. Matters will be called in the order of agreement of the parties or, in the absence of the agreement, as determined by the administrative law judge.

Applicant: Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities
Kelly Norwood, Vice President
State and Federal Regulation
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P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
(509) 495-4267

Representative: David J. Meyer
VP and Chief Counsel
Regulatory and Governmental Affairs
Avista Corporation
1411 E. Mission Avenue, MSC-13
P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
(509) 495-4316

Commission: Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Representative: Donald T. Trotter
Assistant Attorney General
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
(360) 664-1189

Public Counsel: Simon ffitich
Office of Attorney General
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98164-1012
(206) 389-2055

- 10 The Commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and Administrative Law Judges Bob Wallis and Patricia Clark, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during this proceeding.
- 11 The Attorney General has designated Simon ffitch of the Office of Public Counsel to represent the public. You may use the Commission's address, shown below, for contacting Public Counsel, or you may contact Public Counsel directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.
- 12 The Commission will give parties notice of any other procedural phase of the proceeding in writing or on the record, as appropriate during this proceeding.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 25, 2006.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and
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Chandler Plaza Building
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- or - Public Counsel Section
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NOTICE

Hearing facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Smoking is prohibited. If limited English-speaking, hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

If you need an interpreter, or have other special needs, please fill out this form and return it to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Carole J. Washburn, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. (PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket : _____

Case Name: _____

Hearing Date: _____ Hearing Location: _____

Primary Language: _____

Hearing Impaired (Yes) _____ (No) _____

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual _____
Tactile _____

Other type of assistance needed: _____

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: (____) _____