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August 29, 2025

Jeff Killip
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

RE: WN U-29 Natural Gas Service - Avista's Annual Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment (PGA)

Enclosed for electronic filing with the Commission is a copy of the following proposed tariff sheets:

Twenty-Ninth Revision Sheet 150 canceling Twenty-Eighth Revision Sheet 150
Twenty-Eighth Revision Sheet 155 canceling Twenty-Seventh Revision Sheet 155
Thirteenth Revision Sheet 149 canceling Twelfth Revision Sheet 149

This filing is the Company's annual Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment ("PGA") to: 1) pass through changes in the estimated cost of natural gas for the forthcoming year (Schedule 150), and 2) revise the amortization rate(s) to refund or collect the balance of deferred natural gas commodity and demand costs (Schedule 155). The Company is requesting an overall revenue decrease of \$17.2 million, or 6.1 percent, effective November 1, 2025. Below is a table summarizing the proposed rate changes reflected in this filing.

<u>Service Schedule</u>	<u>Sch.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Commodity</u> <u>Change</u> <u>per therm</u>	<u>Demand</u> <u>Change</u> <u>per therm</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Sch. 150</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Sch. 155</u> <u>Amort.</u> <u>per therm</u>	<u>Total PGA</u> <u>Rate Change</u> <u>per therm</u>
General	101	\$ (0.03095)	\$ 0.00534	\$ (0.02561)	\$ (0.07016)	\$ (0.09577)
Large General	111	\$ (0.03095)	\$ 0.02177	\$ (0.00918)	\$ (0.05051)	\$ (0.05969)
Large General	112	\$ (0.03095)	\$ 0.02177	\$ (0.00918)	-	\$ (0.00918)
Interruptible	131	\$ (0.03095)	\$ 0.00671	\$ (0.02424)	-	\$ (0.02424)
Interruptible	132	\$ (0.03095)	\$ 0.00671	\$ (0.02424)	-	\$ (0.02424)

Commodity Costs

The estimated Weighted Average Cost of Gas (“WACOG”) change is a decrease of \$0.03095 per therm. The proposed WACOG \$0.20688 per therm compared to the present WACOG of \$0.23783 per therm included in rates resulting in a decrease in revenue of approximately \$6.5 million compared to what is currently included in Schedule 150.

The past year has been relatively uneventful for the natural gas market in the Pacific Northwest. While the Central and Eastern United States had seen a couple of large demand events in January and February, those events did not extend to our region. The region’s largest supply points, Sumas and AECO, have traded at a discount to Henry Hub, the national natural gas benchmark, since the end of this last winter as supply has been plentiful to meet demand for the region, aside from some interstate pipeline maintenance. Before winter ended, Sumas was trading much more closely to Henry Hub; AECO however maintained its consistent, historical discount throughout the past year.

As we look toward the upcoming winter, the national market fundamentals show strong production that is matched by growth in demand for LNG feed-gas that is exported abroad. Currently, the national gas storage volume has exceeded the five-year average for this time of year, and some bearish price signals have appeared as supply confidence grows in strength. That bearishness has been even stronger for the Pacific Northwest as storage balances are near the top of the 5-year range and Canadian production remains strong (which provides most of the supply to the Pacific Northwest region). One new source of demand in Western Canada is LNG Canada, located in British Columbia. LNG Canada, when fully operational (projected by end of 2025), will provide the region with additional demand of nearly 2 Bcf/day. Despite this incremental demand, recent pricing for the upcoming winter has fallen, displaying the market’s perception of supply strength for the region and its ability to serve demand.

The Company’s natural gas Procurement Plan (“Plan”) uses a diversified approach to procure natural gas for the coming PGA year. While the Plan generally incorporates a more structured approach for the hedging portion of the portfolio, the Company exercises flexibility and discretion in all areas of the plan based on changes in the wholesale market. The Company typically communicates with Commission Staff semi-annually to inform it as to the state of the wholesale market and the status of the Company’s Plan. In addition, the Company communicates with Staff when it believes it makes sense to deviate from its Plan and/or opportunities arise in the market.

Avista has been hedging natural gas on both a periodic and discretionary basis throughout the previous 36 months for the forthcoming PGA year. Approximately 50% of estimated annual load requirements for the PGA year (November 2025 through October 2026) has been hedged at a fixed-price derived from the Company’s Plan. The hedge volumes for the PGA year have been executed at a weighted average price of \$2.75 per dekatherm (\$0.2745 per therm).

Available underground storage capacity at the Jackson Prairie Natural Gas Storage Facility represents approximately 17% of annual load requirements (22% of load requirements during the November to April withdrawal period). The estimated WACOG for all storage volumes is \$1.10 per dekatherm

(\$0.1102 per therm). The Company utilizes its underground storage to capture seasonal price spreads (differentials), improve the reliability of supply, increase operational flexibility and mitigate peak demand price spikes.

The Company used AECO forward prices as of July 31, 2025 (30-day average) to develop an estimated cost associated with index purchases. These index purchases represent approximately 32% of estimated annual load requirements for the coming year. The annual weighted average price for these volumes is \$2.18 per dekatherm (\$0.2176 per therm).

Demand Costs

Demand costs reflect the cost of pipeline transportation to the Company's system, as well as fixed costs associated with natural gas storage. Demand costs are expected to increase due to a combination of various factors including Canadian exchange rate, updated demand forecast, and pipeline tariff changes for the upcoming PGA year resulting in an increase in revenue of approximately \$2.3 million compared to what is currently included in Schedule 150.

Schedule 155 / Amortization Rate Change

Related to the commodity portion of the amortization, as discussed above, overall prices during the PGA year have been lower than the amounts currently in rates. Related to the demand portion of the amortization, costs are impacted by a variety of factors including the Canadian exchange rate, demand volumes, and changes in pipeline rates.

Lower costs, reflective of a combination of the previously mentioned factors, has resulted in a current deferral rebate balance of approximately \$7.0 million, and residual amortizing rebate balance of \$5.0 million, for a net deferral of \$12.0 million as of June 30, 2025. The Company included estimated amortization through October 2025 decreasing the balance for amortization to a rebate of \$11.8 million (net of Schedule 112 and 132 customer deferrals). This results in a reduction of \$13.0 million in amortization revenue compared to what Schedule 155 is currently designed to collect.

Schedule 149 / Backup and Supplemental Compressed Natural Gas Service

The Company has also included Schedule 149, "Backup and Supplemental Compressed Natural Gas Service" to reflect the new first block billing rate for Schedule 111. That rate is one of the key components to determine the Retail Rate per Gas Gallon Equivalent under that schedule. Several of the adder schedule rates incorporated in the billing rate for Schedule 111 are pending approval at this time (Schedule 150 – Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment, Schedule 155 – Gas Rate Adjustment, Schedule 162 – CCA, Schedule 166 – Insurance Balancing, and Schedule 192 – LIRAP). Should the Commission approve a rate that is different from what the Company has proposed to go into effect for any of these adder schedules, the Company will file a substitute Schedule 149 tariff to reflect the approved billing rate for Schedule 111.

Other Information

Guidance provided in Docket No. UG-132019's "Policy and Interpretive Statement on Local Distribution Companies' Natural Gas Hedging Practices" ("Policy Statement") requires that Avista shall file, by the deadline for submitting the 2025 PGA filing, an annual comprehensive hedging plan that demonstrates the integration of risk responsive strategies into the Company's overall hedging framework. That report is being filed as an attachment to this filing.

Summary

The annual revenue change reflected in this filing is a decrease of \$17.2 million in annual natural gas revenue, or 6.1%, in comparison to billing rates currently in effect. The present bill for a residential customer using 66 therms is \$95.97 while the proposed bill is \$89.65, a decrease of \$6.32 or 6.6%. The proposed rate change will vary based on a customer's usage and service schedule.

Also enclosed are the workpapers supporting the proposed rate changes and a bill insert to customers regarding the proposed increase. Please note that Attachment E and Attachment H are Confidential as they contain individual counterparty name and pricing information that is confidential. Therefore, per WAC 480-07-160, Attachment E is being provided in a confidential and redacted version. The entire content of Attachment H is confidential in nature, therefore, only a confidential version is being provided. Also, Attachment H is being provided in excel format only given the detailed and electronic nature of the information provided.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please call Derek Isaak at 509-495-7326.

Sincerely,

/s/Patrick D. Ehrbar

Patrick D. Ehrbar
Director of Regulatory Affairs

