



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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January 22, 2016

**NOTICE OF BENCH REQUESTS
AND
NOTICE OF ORDER CONFERENCE
(Responses to Bench Requests due January 26, 2016)
(Replies to Responses to Bench Requests due January 28, 2016)
(Order Conference set for Wednesday, February 3, 2016)**

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities*, Dockets UE-150204 and UG-150205 (*consolidated*)

TO ALL PARTIES:

On January 19, 2016, the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU) and the Public Counsel Division of the Washington State Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel) filed a Joint Motion for Clarification of the Commission's Order 05 (Joint Motion) in the above-referenced dockets.¹ ICNU and Public Counsel suggest that the Commission's electric attrition adjustment may have been incorrectly calculated. The Joint Motion included ICNU and Public Counsel's work papers detailing how the movants arrived at a \$19.8 million electric revenue requirement decrease for Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities (Avista or the Company) based on the rulings in Order 05.

On the same day, the Commission's regulatory staff (Staff) filed a Motion to Reconsider Order 05, claiming that the Commission miscalculated Avista's electric revenue requirement. Staff's calculations of the various electric adjustments, including attrition, result in a \$27.4 million electric revenue requirement decrease. It did not, however, include its work papers demonstrating how it arrived at this figure. Instead, Staff references a 'hidden worksheet' relating to incremental load expense which it suggests may have created a calculation error based on the ripple effect produced by the hidden worksheet.²

¹ In Order 05, the Commission authorized Avista to file electric tariff sheets that would recover \$8.1 million less in revenue.

² WAC 480-07-510(3)(c) provides that:

[p]arties must provide all electronic files supporting their witnesses' work papers. The electronic files must be fully functional and include all formulas and linked spreadsheet files...A party may file a document with locked, hidden or password protected cells **only** if necessary to protect the confidentiality of the information within the cells or proprietary information in the document.

(emphasis added).

These bench requests are directed to Staff. Please respond no later than **3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2016**. Other parties may file replies to Staff's responses as long as they do so by **3:00 p.m., Thursday, January 28, 2016**.

Bench Request No. 19: Staff shall provide all of its electronic work papers supporting its \$27.4 million calculation, and all of the cells within the work papers shall be unlocked and completely transparent (i.e., without hard coding, hidden worksheets, and with all formulas and links intact). Further, Staff will indicate in its response the party responsible for hiding work papers from the Commission within the attrition model. If the responsible party is Staff, Staff shall provide an explanation for this omission.

Bench Request No. 20: Staff shall update Mr. McGuire's Exhibit No. CRM-2 with the results of their calculations in the Motion to Reconsider. Again, the cells of the work papers shall be unlocked and completely transparent (i.e., without hard coding, hidden worksheets, and with all formulas and links intact). More specifically, any updated Exhibit No. CRM-2 must include a clearly labeled schedule reflecting changes to power cost in the model including beginning and ending balances and source of changes.

Given that ICNU, Public Counsel, and Staff have suggested corrections to the Commission's calculations, the Commission will convene an order conference to address these issues. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-840, this conference is to allow the accounting specialists of the moving parties to discuss how they arrived at their calculations.³

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE THAT it will conduct an order conference in this proceeding on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 206 of the Commission's headquarters, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington. The Commission's teleconference bridge line will not be available. Parties, in particular ICNU, Public Counsel, and Staff, should plan on their accounting specialists attending the conference and should bring all electronic work papers and spread sheets necessary for replication of their respective electric revenue requirement and attrition adjustment calculations.

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER
Administrative Law Judge

³ Danny Kermode and Steve Johnson will attend the conference to facilitate discussion. This forum is not intended as another opportunity "for discussing or challenging the evidentiary, legal, or policy decisions expressed in the order." WAC 480-07-840(1). Further, the conference will not be recorded and "does not constitute a formal interpretation of an order." WAC 480-07-840(2).