

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a
AVISTA UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-200900 and
UG-200901 (*Consolidated*)

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL
PREHEARING CONFERENCE

**(Set for December 14, 2020,
at 1:30 p.m.)**

- 1 On October 30, 2020, Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities, (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions in Docket UE-200900 to its currently effective electric service tariff, Tariff WN U-28, and in Docket UE-200901 to its natural gas service tariff, Tariff WN U-29 designed to effect a general rate increase for electric and natural gas service.
- 2 In its filing, Avista proposed an overall increase in electric base revenues of \$44.2 million, or 8.3 percent, and an overall increase in natural gas base revenues of \$12.8 million, or 12.2 percent, effective October 1, 2021. The Company's proposal is based on a common equity ratio of 50.0 percent, a 9.9 percent return on equity, and an overall rate of return of 7.43 percent. Avista proposed a Tax Customer Credit, through its Tax Accounting Petition filed with this case, which offsets the proposed increases from its tariff revisions on a billed revenue basis to 0.0 percent for both its electric and natural gas service. The Commission suspended operation of the tariffs and consolidated the dockets for hearing by Order 01, entered on November 25, 2020.
- 3 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over these matters under Title 80 RCW, and has legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of electric and gas utilities. The statutes that apply to these matters include Chapters 80.01 RCW, 80.04 RCW, and 80.28 RCW relating to rates, including but not limited to RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04.020, RCW 80.28.020, RCW 80.28.030, RCW 80.28.070, RCW 80.28.090, and RCW 80.28.100. The rules that apply to these matters include those within Chapters 480-80 WAC, 480-90 WAC, and 480-100 WAC.

- 4 The Commission will hear these matters 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 these proceedings 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 these proceedings.
- 5 The Commission finds there is good cause to hear these matters on shortened notice. *See* WAC 480-07-440(1)(a) and RCW 34.05.434.
- 6 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a virtual prehearing conference in these matters at 1:30 p.m., on December 14, 2020. To participate by phone, call (253) 372-2181 and enter the Conference ID: 702 017 388#. To participate via Microsoft Teams, use the following link: [Click here to join the meeting](#).**
- 7 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider requests for intervention, resolve scheduling matters including establishing dates for distributing evidence, identify the issues in the proceedings, and determine other matters to assist the Commission in resolving the matters, as listed in WAC 480-07-430. **Parties are encouraged to consult informally prior to the prehearing conference to develop a proposed schedule for the Commission's consideration, including the filing of an issues matrix.**
- 8 **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). Any party or witness in need of an interpreter or other assistance 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.
- 9 **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 these proceedings, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440 and WAC 480-07-450.**

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

Complainant: Washington Utilities and
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(360) 664-1160

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Respondent: Avista Corporation
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Representative: David J. Meyer, Esq.
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- 11 The Attorney General has designated Lisa W. Gafken, Nina M. Suetake, and Ann Paisner from the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office (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 Commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and Administrative Law Judge Andrew J. O'Connell, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during these proceedings.¹

¹ Judge O'Connell can be reached at (360) 664-1285 or andrew.j.oconnell@utc.wa.gov.

- 13 The Commission will give parties notice of any other procedural phase of the proceedings in writing or on the record, as appropriate during these proceedings.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 3, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Executive Director and Secretary
Washington State Utilities and
Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

- or - Public Counsel Unit
Office of the Attorney General
800 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-3188
(206) 464-7744

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 and return this form to:

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Attention: Mark L. Johnson
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 (_____) _____