

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UE-100467
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	DOCKET UG-100468
)	<i>(Consolidated)</i>
Complainant,)	
)	ORDER 01
v.)	
)	
AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
AVISTA UTILITIES,)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
)	AND ORDER OF
Respondent.)	CONSOLIDATION
)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 23, 2010, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-28, Electric Service in Docket UE-100467, and revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-29, Gas Service in Docket UG-100468, as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The stated effective date of the proposed tariff revisions is April 23, 2010. The purpose of the filings is to increase the Company’s rates and charges for its electric service and natural gas service to customers in Washington. The Company requests an electric rate increase of \$55.3 million, or 13.4 percent, and a gas rate increase of \$8.5 million, or 6.0 percent.

- 2 Avista requested immediate entry of a Commission complaint and order suspending the tariff pages filed on March 23, 2010.

- 3 The Commission finds that the filings would increase charges and rates for service provided by Avista. Because these increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Avista has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filings

and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

4 Avista requested that the Commission schedule a prehearing conference at the earliest possible date, in accordance with WAC 480-07-440(1)(a). Although Avista did not explicitly ask that discovery be authorized now, we note that the matter is one that qualifies for discovery, and, in order to expedite matters, the Commission's discovery rules, WAC 480-07-400 through 425, are invoked. The Commission urges the parties to work cooperatively together to avoid having to bring discovery disagreements forward for formal resolution.

5 The matters in the two dockets appear to involve related facts and principles of law. It is appropriate that they be consolidated for hearing and determination pursuant to WAC 480-07-320.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including electric companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.28, RCW 80.08 and RCW 80.12.*

7 (2) Avista is an electric company and a gas company and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

8 (3) The tariff revisions Avista filed on March 23, 2010, would increase charges and rates for service the Company provides, and might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public.

9 (4) Avista has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

- 10 (5) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.20.020, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Avista's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Avista's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Avista's operations.
- 11 (6) Avista may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.
- 12 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (4), Avista bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The tariff revisions Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities filed on March 23, 2010, in Dockets UE-100467 and UG-100468 are suspended.
- 14 (2) Dockets UE-100467 and UG-100468 are consolidated for hearing and determination under WAC 480-07-320.
- 15 (3) These matters qualify for discovery, and the Commission's discovery rules, WAC 480-07-400 through 425, are invoked.
- 16 (4) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 17 (5) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities must not change or alter the tariffs filed in these dockets during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 18 (6) The Commission will institute an investigation of Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.

- 19 (7) Avista Corporation shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 5, 2010.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

Appendix

WN U-28:

8 th Revised	Sheet No. 1	Residential Service – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 11	General Service – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 21	Large General Service – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 25	Extra Large General Service – Washington
5 th Revised	Sheet No. 25A	Extra Large General Service – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 31	Pumping Service – Washington
7 th Revised	Sheet No. 41	Company Owned Street Light Service - Washington
7 th Revised	Sheet No. 42	Company Owned Street Light Service - Washington
7 th Revised	Sheet No. 44	Customer Owned Street Light Energy and Maintenance Service - Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 45	Customer Owned Street Light Energy Service - Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 46	Customer Owned Street Light Energy Service - Washington
7 th Revised	Sheet No. 47	Area Lighting – Mercury Vapor - Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 47A	Area Lighting – Mercury Vapor – Washington - continued
9 th Revised	Sheet No. 91	Public Purposes Rider Adjustment - Washington

WN U-29:

8 th Revised	Sheet No. 101	General Service – Firm – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 111	Large General Service – Firm – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 112	Large General Service – Firm – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 121	High Annual Load Factor Large General Service – Firm – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 122	High Annual Load Factor Large General Service – Firm - Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 131	Interruptible Service – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 132	Interruptible Service – Washington
8 th Revised	Sheet No. 146	Transportation Service For Customer-Owned Gas – Washington
16 th Revised	Sheet No. 156	Purchase Gas Cost Adjustment - Washington