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UG-210589

VIA – UTC Web Portal

September 29, 2021

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

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UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

RE: Docket UG-210589 – Avista Utilities Tariff WN U-29, Schedule 192, Low Income Rate Assistance Program

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

On July 30, 2021 Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities (Avista or “the Company”) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission or UTC) proposed revisions to its natural gas tariff WN U-29, to update Schedule 192, “Low Income Rate Assistance Program (LIRAP) funding in compliance with Order No. 09, in Docket UG-190335. On September 27, 2021 the Commission issued its final Order in Docket UG-200901 extending the LIRAP funding mechanism and granting a residential base rate increase of 6.4%. Under the approved LIRAP funding mechanism the LIRAP funding increase is the greater of 2 times the residential base rate increase or 7.0%. The Company is making this supplemental filing to comply with the 2 times the residential base rate increase provision by increasing LIRAP funding by 12.8% (6.4% x 2). In compliance with Final Order 08/05 the Company has offset the incremental LIRAP funding change, within its compliance filing in Docket UG-200901, with Tax Customer Credit dollars so that no customers will receive a billing increase on October 1, 2021.

Avista requests the Commission approve the proposed increase in rates and charges in Schedule 192 with an effective date of October 1, 2021. The estimated annual revenue change associated with this filing is an increase of approximately \$0.6 million, or an increase of 0.4% in overall billed rates. The proposed rate increase will have an average monthly bill impact of \$0.22

for residential natural gas customers using 66 therms, or 0.4%. The LIRAP billing change will be fully offset by Tax Customer Credit dollars resulting in no change to a present average customer bill of \$57.16.

In support of these proposed changes, the Company has provided a substitute tariff sheet and workpapers supporting the changes. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to Joe Miller at (509) 495-4546.

Sincerely,

/s/ Patrick Ehrbar

Patrick Ehrbar
Director of Regulatory Affairs