

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of	DOCKET UE-210396
AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA UTILITIES,	ORDER 01
Renewable Energy Target Progress Report under RCW 19.285.070 and WAC 480-109-210	APPROVING COMPLIANCE WITH ELIGIBLE RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2021

BACKGROUND

- 1 The Energy Independence Act (EIA or Act)¹ requires qualifying electric utilities to obtain certain percentages of their electricity from eligible renewable resources. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) enforces compliance with the EIA by investor-owned utilities.² Ultimately, the Commission must determine “whether the utility has generated, acquired or arranged to acquire enough renewable energy credits or qualifying generation to comply with its renewable resource target.”³
- 2 The Commission has implemented these requirements by establishing a two-step compliance process.⁴ Because a utility may comply with its renewable portfolio standards (RPS) obligation by using renewable energy credits (RECs) acquired in the year after the target year, ultimate compliance for 2021, for example, may be demonstrated as late as June 1, 2023. Accordingly, there will be two Commission decisions for each year’s compliance: (1) a determination that the Company has enough resources to meet the 15 percent target; and (2) the retrospective compliance decision.

¹ Chapter 19.285 RCW.

² RCW 19.285.060(6).

³ WAC 480-109-210(3)(b).

⁴ WAC 480-109-210(1) and (6).

3 The filing before the Commission is the initial resource-adequacy filing made by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) for its 2021 obligation. The Commission will consider Avista’s compliance with its 2021 target when Avista requests such a finding. Consistent with the requirements of WAC 480-109-210(6), the Company must make this request through a filing in this docket no later than June 1, 2023.

4 On June 1, 2021, Avista filed with the Commission its 2021 Annual Renewable Portfolio Standard Report (RPS Report), which identified a 2021 target of 835,093 megawatt-hours (MWh). Table 1, below, summarizes Avista’s 2021 target and the total amount of resources that the Company had acquired by January 1, 2021:

Table 1: Avista’s 2021 Renewable Resource Target and Compliance Plan

2021 Target (MWh)	Incremental Hydro (MWh)	Wind (MWh)	Biomass (MWh)	Solar (MWh)	2021 Eligible Renewable Resources (MWh)
835,093	184,710	961,631	271,970	970	1,529,322

5 Avista seeks an order from the Commission confirming that the Company has complied with the Commission’s EIA reporting requirements and accepting the Company’s calculations and eligibility of the renewable resources identified in the RPS Report for 2021.

6 On June 8, 2021, the Commission issued a Notice inviting interested persons to file written comments on Avista’s RPS Report. During the comment period, the Commission received written comments from Commission staff (Staff). No public comments were submitted.

7 Based on the information that the Company provided in its RPS Report and supplemental filing, Staff believes that Avista correctly calculated its 2021 RPS target, and that it has acquired sufficient resources to exceed that target.

8 Commission rules require the Company to document its use of renewable resources under various renewable energy programs in its annual report. This information needs to be updated for final compliance, and Staff asks the Commission to require Avista to do so, listing details about program usage in the final 2021 compliance report, allowing Staff to determine whether its resources meet EIA requirements.

9 Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order in this docket determining that:

- (1) The 2021 renewable energy target for Avista Corporation is 835,093 MWh.
- (2) Avista Corporation has demonstrated that, by January 1, 2021, it acquired 835,093 megawatt-hours of eligible renewable resources sufficient to supply 15 percent of its load for 2021.
- (3) Avista Corporation has complied with the June 1, 2021, reporting requirements pursuant to WAC 480-109-210.
- (4) Boulder Solar and Rattlesnake Flat Wind are eligible renewable facilities for RPS compliance.

DISCUSSION

10 The Commission accepts Avista's calculation of 835,093 MWh as the Company's renewable energy target for 2021 and determines that Avista has identified sufficient resources to be able to meet that target. The Commission will make its final determination about whether Avista has met its 2021 target when the Company requests such a finding, no later than June 1, 2023. To assist Staff with determining whether Avista's resources meet EIA eligibility requirements, Avista must provide details about which certificates were used for its various renewable energy programs, as required by WAC 480-109-210(2)(d)(i), in its final compliance report for 2021.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 11 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 12 (2) Avista is an electric company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 13 (3) Avista serves more than 25,000 customers within the State of Washington and is a "qualifying utility" within the meaning of RCW 19.285.030(19).
- 14 (4) Avista has properly calculated its renewable energy target for 2021 to be 835,093 MWh.

- 15 (5) By January 1, 2021, Avista had acquired sufficient eligible renewable resources to supply at least 15 percent of its load for the remainder of 2021.
- 16 (6) Avista has met the reporting requirements of RCW 19.285.070 and WAC 480-109-210. These reporting requirements include Avista's plan for meeting its RPS obligation for the remainder of 2021.
- 17 (7) Pursuant to WAC 480-109-210(4), Avista must provide a summary of its RPS Report to its customers, by bill inset or other suitable method, within 30 days of the date of this Order.
- 18 (8) Pursuant to WAC 480-109-210(6), Avista must file a report no later than June 1, 2023, that lists certificate numbers in Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System for every megawatt-hour and renewable energy credit that Avista retired to meet the January 1, 2021, target.
- 19 (9) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 12, 2021.
- 20 (10) After reviewing Avista's Petition and RPS Report and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission accepts Avista's calculation of 835,093 MWh as the Company's renewable energy target for 2021 and adopts Staff's recommendations as set forth in paragraph 9 of this Order.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 21 (1) The Commission accepts the calculation of 835,093 MWh as the 2021 renewable energy target for Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities.
- 22 (2) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities has identified eligible renewable resources sufficient to supply at least 15 percent of its load for 2021.
- 23 (3) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities has complied with the June 1, 2021, reporting requirements pursuant to WAC 480-109-210.
- 24 (4) Boulder Solar and Rattlesnake Flat Wind are eligible renewable facilities for RPS compliance.

- 25 (5) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities' final compliance report must list certificate numbers for every renewable energy credit that Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities retired in the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System and details about which certificates were used for its voluntary renewable energy programs in 2021.
- 26 (6) The Commission Secretary is authorized to accept or approve a filing that complies with the requirements of this Order.

Dated at Lacey, Washington, and effective August 12, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chair

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner