



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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February 23, 2017

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO PRESENT KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT INDUSTRIAL
CUSTOMERS OF NORTHWEST UTILITIES QUARTERLY MEETING**

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Avista Corporation, Docket Nos.
UE-160228 and UG-160229*

TO ALL PARTIES:

On February 19, 2016, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-28, Electric Service in Docket UE-160228 and revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-29, Natural Gas Service in Docket UG-160229 designed to effect a general rate increase for electric and natural gas service.

On March 7, 2016, the Commission entered Order 01, Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions; Order of Consolidation. These dockets, accordingly, are “adjudicative proceedings” within the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 34.05 RCW, Part IV, and under the Commission’s procedural rules, WAC 480-07-300 – 885. The Commissioners of the Utilities and Transportation Commission are the presiding officers in this proceeding.

Earlier this year, Commissioner Ann Rendahl accepted an invitation from the Executive Director of the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU), a party to this proceeding, to present a keynote address at the organization’s quarterly meeting in March of this year. She has discussed with ICNU’s Executive Director that it would not be appropriate for her to discuss any aspect of the pending adjudication with ICNU’s members, or for any participant in ICNU’s quarterly meeting to attempt to engage her in conversation concerning the case. Commissioner Rendahl is confident that no inappropriate communication will occur.

Nevertheless, because Commissioner Rendahl is fully aware of the importance of maintaining the appearance of fairness and avoiding any *ex parte* communication in the context of the pending adjudication, she has directed that formal Notice be given to the parties to Dockets UE-160228 and UG-160229 (consolidated) that she has accepted ICNU’s invitation to speak on

subject matter that does not implicate the pending proceeding. Any party that objects to Commissioner Rendahl's participation should so indicate by filing with the Commission a brief statement to that effect. Any party having questions concerning this Notice may contact Greg Kopta, Director, Administrative Law Division, by telephone at (360) 664-1355 or by email addressed to gkopta@utc.wa.gov.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That Commissioner Ann Rendahl, a presiding officer in *WUTC v. Avista Corporation*, Dockets UE-160228 and UG-160229 (consolidated), Avista's 2016 general rate case, has accepted an invitation to give a keynote address during the March quarterly meeting of the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities, a party to this proceeding. Any party that objects to Commissioner Rendahl's intention to speak at this event must state its objection in writing filed with the Commission within seven days following the date of this Notice.

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge