



**Avista Corp.**

1411 East Mission P.O. Box 3727  
Spokane, Washington 99220-0500  
Telephone 509-489-0500  
Toll Free 800-727-9170

January 21, 2019

***VIA – Commission Web-Portal***

Mark L. Johnson  
Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S. W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Attached for filing with the Commission is an electronic copy of Avista Corporation's dba Avista Utilities ("Avista" or "the Company") proposed modifications to its Tariff Schedule 80 "Meter Reading and Billing Practices." The proposed additions are included in the following tariff sheets, WN U-28:

**First Revision Sheet 80a**  
**First Revision Sheet 80c**

**Canceling**  
**Canceling**

**Substitute Original Sheet 80a**  
**Original Sheet 80c**

**I. BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this filing is to clarify in the tariff that a net meter customer is not eligible for opt out of a non-communicating meter. Net metering is a billing mechanism that credits distributed energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid. For example, if a residential customer has a PV system on the home's rooftop, it may generate more electricity than the home uses during daylight hours. If the home is net-metered, the electricity meter will run backwards to provide a credit against what electricity is consumed at night or other periods where the home's electricity use exceeds the system's output. Customers are billed for their "net" energy

use on a monthly basis. Avista's opt-out, however, provides for a manual meter read on a quarterly basis. This difference in meter reading schedules is on its face problematic, and therefore we have modified our tariff to reflect that net meter customers are not eligible to receive a non-communicating meter.

Avista requests the tariff conditions proposed herein become effective March 1, 2019. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to me at 509-495-4975.

Sincerely,

*/s/Linda Gervais*

Sr. Manager, Regulatory Policy  
Regulatory Affairs  
[linda.gervais@avistacorp.com](mailto:linda.gervais@avistacorp.com)  
509-495-4975  
Avista Utilities

AVISTA CORPORATION  
dba Avista Utilities

SCHEDULE 80A - CONTINUED

**Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Non-Communicating Digital Meter - Pilot**

**AVAILABILITY:**

1. The services described herein are available to single-family residential homes, including multi-plexes up to four units, for the purpose of a customer's choice to have a non-communicating digital meter. AMI meters, sometimes referred to as "smart meters," are digital meters equipped with wireless communication capabilities. Customers that request to have a non-communicating digital meter must meet the requirements and responsibilities for service outlined in this tariff schedule. Customers who net meter are not eligible for a non-communicating digital meter.

(N)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

1. The Company shall not initiate the process to provide non-communicating digital meter service before it has received the Customer's signed, written request in the Application Form set forth in this Schedule, Customer Choice for a Non-Communicating Digital Meter ("Application Form").
2. Customer will be required to pay the ongoing administrative and operational costs associated with the manual reading of the non-communicating digital meter, and other fees and charges associated with the non-communicating metering service that may be assessed for each eligible meter, as noted in the Fees Section of this tariff.
3. Customer may be required to pay a One-Time fee if they call in after installation of the new AMI meter requesting a non-communicating digital meter. This fee is to cover the costs of the labor and transportation associated with the installation. The One-Time Fee is noted in the Fees Section of this tariff.
4. Customer account with a non-communicating meter will be billed monthly based upon estimated monthly reads.
5. The Company is under no obligation to physically read the meter more frequently than once a quarter.
6. The Company may refuse or revoke the installation of a non-communicating digital meter at the Customer's premises for the following conditions, but not limited to:
  - a. when safe access is not available for the Company's personnel and standard equipment;
  - b. current or past incidents of Customer meter tampering; or
  - c. current or past incidents of the Customer impeding the Company's access to the meter to obtain meter reads, perform maintenance or to disconnect meter for non-payment of electric service.

Issued January 21, 2019

Effective March 1, 2019

Issued by Avista Corporation  
By

Patrick Ehrbar, Director of Regulatory Affairs



AVISTA CORPORATION  
dba Avista Utilities

SCHEDULE 80C - CONTINUED

**Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Non-Communicating Digital Meter - Pilot**

Application Form, Customer Choice for a Non-Communicating Digital Meter:



**Non-Communicating Digital Meter Application**

*Terms & Conditions, Customer Application*

I represent and warrant that I am the named financially responsible person on the customer account number provided. I further represent and warrant that I am either the legal owner of the premise or a tenant at the premise who has obtained permission from the legal owner as represented by their signature below, and legal owner understands that they will also be assessed the monthly fee if there is an open between tenants agreement.

By signing this form, I am indicating that I do not want a Smart Meter. By signing this form, I acknowledge that a non-communicating digital meter shall be installed at the premise listed on this form in lieu of a Smart Meter.

I understand that, in accordance with Avista Utilities Tariff Schedule 80, my account will be assessed an

ongoing meter reading fee for each billing cycle once the service transitions to automated reading.

I also understand that I could be assessed a meter installation fee if this application is not returned prior to the scheduled installation of an advanced meter, or within 30 days of the actual installation of an advanced meter.

I understand that I am only eligible to take service under Avista Residential Rate Schedule 1 and will not be able to receive any other enhanced benefits that the Advanced Metering system provides.

Customers who net-meter are not eligible for opt-out of a Smart Meter.

I agree that I will maintain clear and direct access to my meter(s) allowing Avista employees to manually read the meter(s) on a quarterly basis each year.

(N)

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Name on Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner Signature (if different than Customer): \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For your convenience, there are multiple ways to submit this Application to us:

- Scan or take a photo of it and email it to [optout@avistacorp.com](mailto:optout@avistacorp.com)
- Mail it to Avista at 1411 E. Mission, Attn: Opt Out, Spokane, WA 99202
- FAX it to Avista at 509-777-9650.

Please contact us at 1-800-227-9187 or visit [myavista.com/smartmeters](http://myavista.com/smartmeters) for more information.

Issued January 21, 2019

Effective March 1, 2019

Issued by Avista Corporation  
By

Patrick Ehrbar, Director of Regulatory Affairs