

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	DOCKET NO. UE-011595
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a	)	CONFERENCE
AVISTA UTILITIES,	)	
	)	(December 21, 2001)
Respondent.	)	
.....	)	

1 On December 3, 2001, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista) filed with the Commission certain tariff revisions designed to effect a general rate increase in its rates for electric service in this state. It is indicated that the total effect of such tariff revisions is an increase of approximately \$53,247,000 (22.5%) annually. Also included in the filing is the Petition of Avista Corporation Seeking Interim Rate Increase requesting an increase of approximately \$29,344,000 (12.4%) “to provide Avista with current cash flows that contribute toward recovery of the ongoing costs to provide electric service to its customers, and to demonstrate to investors and lenders that Avista’s financial condition will not be permitted to deteriorate further during the time involved in processing a general rate case.” By Order of the Commission, the operation of the general and interim tariff revisions have been suspended pending hearing or hearings concerning all such changes and the justness and reasonableness thereof.

2 Hearing in this matter is being held pursuant to Part IV of chapter 34.05 RCW pertaining to adjudicative proceedings, including but not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 80 RCW, having legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of electric utilities. Statutes involved, in addition to those previously cited, include those within chapters 80.01, 80.04 and 80.28 RCW relating to rates, including but not limited to RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04.020, RCW 80.28.020, RCW 80.28.030, RCW 80.28.070, RCW 80.28.090, and RCW 80.28.100. Rules involved include those within chapters 480-09 and 480-100 WAC. The ultimate issues include whether the proposed general and interim tariff revisions are just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient and in the public interest. The ultimate issues also include whether Avista’s current rates on file and in effect with the Commission are just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient. These issues include consideration

of alternative rate design or structure. In accordance with the provisions of RCW 80.04.130, the burden of proof to show that the proposed general and interim tariff revisions are just and reasonable shall be upon the respondent.

3 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That in accordance with WAC 480-09-700(1)(a), the Commission has determined that good cause exists for this matter to be heard on shortened notice.

4 **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN That a prehearing conference in this matter will be held at 9:30 a.m., on Friday, December 21, 2001, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

5 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider formulating the issues in the proceeding with respect to both the general and interim rate filings, and to determine other matters to aid in its disposition, as specified in WAC 480-09-460. Petitions to intervene should be made in writing prior to the hearing date or made orally at the hearing. The time and place for the evidentiary hearing will be set at the prehearing conference or by later written notice. Appearances will be taken.

6 If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, please fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission.

7 NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT ANY PARTY WHO FAILS TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING SET BY THIS NOTICE, OR ANY OTHER STAGE OF THIS PROCEEDING, MAY BE HELD IN DEFAULT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 34.05.440. THE PARTIES ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE SANCTION PROVISIONS OF WAC 480-09-700(4) ARE SPECIFICALLY INVOKED.

8 The names and mailing addresses of all parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Complainant: Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
Chandler Plaza Building  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160

Representatives: Donald T. Trotter  
Senior Counsel  
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
P. O. Box 40128  
Olympia, WA 98504-0128  
(360) 664-1189

Jonathan Thompson  
Assistant Attorney General  
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
P. O. Box 40128  
Olympia, WA 98504-0128  
(360) 664-1225

Respondent: Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities  
1411 E. Mission Avenue  
P. O. Box 3727  
Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Representative: David J. Meyer  
Senior Vice President & General Counsel  
Avista Corporation  
1411 E. Mission Avenue  
P. O. Box 3727  
Spokane, WA 99220-3727  
(509) 495-4316

Public Counsel: Simon ffitich  
Office of Attorney General  
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 200  
Seattle, WA 98164-1012  
(206) 464-7744

- 9 Dennis Moss has been designated as the Administrative Law Judge from the Utilities and Transportation Commission's Administrative Law Division, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington 98504-7250 and will preside at the prehearing conference.
- 10 Notice of any other procedural phase will be given in writing or on the record as the Commission may deem appropriate during the course of this proceeding.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Executive Secretary

December 17, 2001

Inquires may be addressed to:

Executive Secretary  
Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
Chandler Plaza Building  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
P. O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160

or

Public Counsel Section  
Office of Attorney General  
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98164-1012  
(206) 464-7744