

Attachment A – Docket UE-190912

Proposed Conditions for 2020-2021 Avista Electric Conservation

1) **Ten-Year Potential/Biennial Conservation Target – Acceptance and Conditions.**

- a) The following conservation targets, are accepted for the Avista Corporation (Avista or Company), with conditions pursuant to RCW 19.285.040(1)(e) and WAC 480-109-120(1). This acceptance is subject to the Conditions described in Paragraphs (2) through (12) below.
 - i. *Ten-Year Potential*: 361,700 megawatt-hours.
 - ii. *Biennial EIA Target*: 72,844 megawatt-hours.
 - iii. *EIA Penalty Threshold*: 59,948 megawatt-hours.
 - iv. *Decoupling Penalty Threshold*: 3,642 megawatt-hours, pursuant to Order 5 of Docket UE-140188.
 - v. *Total Utility Conservation Goal*: 76,486 megawatt-hours.
- b) By April 15, 2020, Avista must file a petition to modify or retain the biennial EIA target, penalty threshold, decoupling penalty threshold, and ten-year potential incorporating the effects of the Clean Energy Transformation Act to the degree possible. The petition must detail how the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions has been included in evaluating conservation targets and why the methodology used is appropriate.
- c) The Commission accepts the above targets and thresholds as measured at the customer meter. All planning and reporting must include savings data as measured at the customer meter.
- d) As part of Avista's biennial conservation acquisition efforts, Avista must continue to invest in regional studies and market transformation, in collaboration with funding from other parties and with other strategic market partners in this biennium that complements Avista's energy efficiency programs, planning, services, and measures.

- 2) **Avista Retains Responsibility.** Nothing in these conditions relieves Avista of the sole responsibility for complying with RCW 19.285 and WAC 480-109. Specifically, the conditions regarding the need for a high degree of transparency, and communication and consultation with external stakeholders, diminish neither Avista's operational authority nor its ultimate responsibility.

3) **Advisory Group.**

- a) To meet the requirements of WAC 480-109-110, Avista must continue to use its Advisory Group, initially created under Dockets UE-941377 and UG-941378 and its Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Group created under WAC 480-100-238.
- b) Avista must notify Advisory Group members of all public meetings scheduled to address Avista's integrated resource plan. Avista must also coordinate a meeting with Advisory Group members and the entity conducting the conservation potential assessment (CPA) addressing the scope and design of the CPA. Such a meeting must address the assumptions and relevant information utilized in the development of Avista's integrated

resource plan as they apply to development and/or modification of the ten-year conservation potential. This meeting must be held early enough in the integrated resource plan public process to incorporate the group's advice. Avista must notify Advisory Group members of IRP advisory group meetings that present the Company's natural gas and energy price forecasts and generation resource cost assumptions used in the development of the Company's integrated resource plan, as these assumptions will inform the ten-year conservation potential.

- c) Avista must consult with the Advisory Groups starting no later than July 1, 2021, to begin to identify achievable conservation potential for 2022-2031 and to begin to set annual and biennial targets for the 2022-2023 biennium, including necessary revisions to program details. See RCW 19.285.040(1)(b); WAC 480-109-120.
 - d) Avista must inform the Advisory Group members when its projected expenditures indicate that Avista will spend more than 120 percent or less than 80 percent of its annual conservation budget.
 - e) Prior to filing the Biennial Conservation Plan, Avista must provide the following information to the Advisory Group: draft ten-year conservation potential and two-year target by August 2, 2021; draft program details, including budgets, by September 1, 2021; and draft program tariffs by October 1, 2021.
- 4) **Annual Budgets and Energy Savings.** Avista must provide its proposed budget in a detailed format with a summary page indicating the proposed budget and savings levels for each conservation program, and subsequent supporting spreadsheets providing further detail for each program and line item shown in the summary sheet. Avista must allocate a reasonable amount of its program budget towards pilot programs, research, and data collection.
- 5) **Program Details.** Avista must maintain its conservation tariffs on file with the Commission. Program details about specific measures, incentives, and eligibility requirements must be filed and updated in its Annual Conservation Plan in this Docket.
- 6) **Approved Strategies for Selecting and Evaluating Energy Conservation Savings.**
- a) Avista has identified a number of potential conservation measures described in the BCP. The Commission is not obligated to accept savings identified in the BCP for purposes of compliance with RCW 19.285.
 - b) When Avista proposes a new or significant change to a program, pilot or tariff schedule, it must present the program to the Advisory Group with program details fully defined, to the extent practicable. After consultation with the Advisory Group in accordance with WAC 480-109-110(1)(h), the Advisory Group may advise if a revision to the Conservation Plan in this Docket is necessary.
 - c) Avista must spend a reasonable amount of its conservation budget on evaluation, measurement and verification (EM&V), including a reasonable proportion on independent, third-party EM&V. Avista must perform EM&V annually on a maximum four-year schedule of selected programs such that, over the EM&V cycle, all major programs are covered. The EM&V function includes impact, process, market and cost

test analyses. The results must verify the level at which claimed energy savings have occurred, evaluate the existing internal review processes, and suggest improvements to the program and ongoing EM&V processes.

- d) An independent third-party must review portfolio-level electric energy savings reported by Avista for the 2020-2021 biennial period, from existing conservation programs operated during that period, per WAC 480-109-120(4)(b)(v). The independent third-party reviewer must be selected through an RFP process and is intended to:
 - i. Verify the calculation of total portfolio MWh savings; and
 - ii. Provide a review of EM&V activities and application for best practices and reasonable findings, which includes the following:
 - 1) Validate the adequacy of Avista’s savings verification process, controls and procedures;
 - 2) Validate savings tracking and reporting processes and practices;
 - 3) Review program process and impact evaluations completed during the biennium for appropriateness of evaluation approach/methodologies (program specific) and program cost-effectiveness calculations.
- e) A final report for the entire 2020-2021 biennium may be implemented in phases and delivered as a final product at an earlier date, as needed, by Avista.

7) Program Design Principles

- a) Modifications to the programs must be filed with the Commission as revisions to tariffs or as revisions to Avista’s current Conservation Plan, as determined in consultation by the Advisory Group.
- b) Incentives and Conservation Program Implementation — Programs, program services, and incentives may be directed to consumers, retailers, manufacturers, trade allies or other relevant market actors as appropriate for measures or activities that lead to electric energy savings. Avista must work with the Advisory Group to establish a balanced portfolio of measures that provides savings from a variety of savings types and meets the needs of a broad spectrum of Avista customers.
- c) Conservation Efforts without Approved EM&V Protocol — Avista may spend up to 10 percent of its conservation budget on programs whose savings impact has not yet been measured, as long as the overall portfolio of conservation passes the primary cost-effectiveness test used by the Commission. These programs may include information-only and pilot projects. Avista may ask the Commission to modify this spending limit, following Advisory Group consultation.
 - i. Information-only services refers to those information services that are not associated with an active incentive program or that include no on-site technical assistance or on-site delivery of school education programs. Information-only services and behavior change services must be assigned no quantifiable energy savings value without full support of the Advisory Group.
 - ii. If quantifiable energy savings have been identified and Commission-approved for any aspect of such programs, the budget associated with that aspect of the

program will no longer be subject to this 10 percent spending restriction.

8) Cost-Effectiveness Tests

- a) The Commission currently uses a modified Total Resource Cost Test (TRC), consistent with the Council, as its primary cost-effectiveness test. The modified TRC test includes all quantifiable nonenergy impacts, a risk adder, and a 10 percent conservation benefit adder. Avista’s portfolio must pass the modified TRC test. All cost-effectiveness calculations will assume a Net-to-Gross ratio of 1.0, consistent with the Council’s methodology.
- b) Avista must also provide calculations of the Program Administrator Cost Test (also called the Utility Cost Test) as described in the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency’s study “Understanding Cost-Effectiveness of Energy Efficiency Programs.”
- c) Conservation-related administrative costs must be included in portfolio level analysis.

9) Pilot Programs and Research Requirements

- a) Avista must develop a plan and conduct the research necessary to achieve sustained energy burden reductions for low-income households, with advice and review provided by the Advisory Group. The low-income savings potential must be included in the 2022-2023 Biennial Conservation Plan along with a description of how the plan prioritizes energy assistance to low-income households with the highest energy burden and future actions under consideration to improve this prioritization.
- b) Avista must design and implement pilot programs that serve some highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations. These pilots will be instrumental in identifying data gaps and other barriers to ensure an equitable distribution of energy and nonenergy impacts.
- c) Avista must evaluate opportunities for location-targeted programs that provide non-wires alternatives to eliminate or delay the need for distribution system investments.

10) Equitable Distribution of Nonenergy Benefits

- a) During this biennium, Avista must demonstrate progress towards identifying, researching, and developing a plan to properly value nonenergy impacts that have not previously been quantified. The nonenergy impacts considered must include the costs and risks of long-term and short-term public health benefits, environmental benefits, energy security, and other applicable nonenergy impacts. These impacts and risks must be included in the 2022-2023 Biennial Conservation Plan.
- b) Avista must identify the discrete nonenergy impacts and the monetized value used in cost-effectiveness testing for each electric conservation program. This must be provided in a detailed format with a summary page and subsequent supporting spreadsheets, in native format with formulas intact, providing further detail for each program and line item shown in the summary sheet in annual plans and reports.
- c) To the extent practicable, Avista must begin to identify the distribution of energy and nonenergy benefits in annual plans and reports. This reporting must use currently

quantified nonenergy impacts as well as values and estimates of additional impacts as they become available.

11) Recovery through an Electric Conservation Service Rider

- a) Scope of Expenditures — Funds collected through the Electric Conservation Service Rider must be used on approved conservation programs and their administrative costs. Additionally, Rider funds may be used for other purposes when they have a benefit to Avista customers, and is approved by the Commission.
- b) Recovery for Each Customer Class —Rate spread and rate design must match Avista's underlying base volumetric rates.
- c) Recovery of costs associated with distribution and production efficiency initiatives are not funded through the Electric Conservation Tariff Rider because these programs are not *customer* conservation initiatives. These are company conservation programs. As such, these costs are recovered in the general rate making process over time and may be requested through a general rate case, a deferred accounting petition or other allowed mechanism. The method of cost recovery in no way diminishes its obligation as required in RCW 19.285 and WAC 480-109.
- d) Avista must file revisions to its cost recovery tariff (Schedule 91) by June 1 each year, with requested effective date of August 1 of that same year. If Avista files its cost recovery tariff early, a Draft Annual Report with completed savings evaluations must accompany the filing.

12) Additional Commitments

- a) Avista must continue to review the feasibility of pursuing cost-effective conservation in the form of reduction in electric power consumption resulting from increases in the efficiency of energy use at electric power production facilities it owns in whole or in part. Avista's Annual Report must include updates regarding production efficiency activities in power production facilities operated by Avista and, to the extent practicable, facilities wholly or partially owned by Avista that are not operated by the Company.
- b) To avoid double-counting of efficiency savings achieved at electric power production facilities owned in whole or in part by Avista, the Company has developed a protocol for how savings will be claimed, with advice and review provided by the Advisory Group. If a protocol is established, Avista must consult with the Advisory Group prior to modifying it.