BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,  Complainant,  v.  AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a AVISTA UTILITIES,  Respondent.  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )  )  ) | DOCKETS UE-150204 and  UG-150205 *(Consolidated)*  ORDER 01  COMPLAINT AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS AND ORDER OF CONSOLIDATION |

**BACKGROUND**

1. On February 9, 2015, Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-28, Electric Service, as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The stated effective date is March 12, 2015. The purpose of this filing is to increase rates and charges for electric service provided to customers in the state of Washington.
2. In this filing, Avista requests authority to increase charges and rates for electric service by approximately $33.2 million or 6.7 percent in billed rates. Because this increase might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public, and Avista has not demonstrated that the increase would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
3. On February 9, 2015, Avista also filed revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-29, Natural Gas, as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The stated effective date is March 12, 2015. The purpose of this filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington.
4. In this filing, Avista seeks to increase rates for natural gas service by approximately $12 million or 6.9 percent in billed rates. Because this increase might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Avista has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
5. The matters in the two dockets appear to involve related facts and principles of law. It is appropriate that they be consolidated for hearing and determination pursuant to WAC 480-07-320.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

1. (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric and natural gas companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.
2. (2) Avista is an electric and natural gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
3. (3) The tariff revisions Avista filed on February 9, 2015, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Avista and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
4. (4) Avista has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
5. (5) Avista’s rates and charges for electric or natural gas services shown on any tariffs that Avista does not propose to revise may also be investigated to determine if they are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
6. (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Avista’s books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Avista’s property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Avista’s operations. The Commission finds that these dockets meet the criteria of WAC 480-07-400(2)(b)(i) and that discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commissions discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
7. (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Avista bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
8. (8) Avista may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

**O R D E R**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

1. (1) The tariff revisions Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities filed on February 9, 2015, are suspended.
2. (2) Dockets UE-150204 and UG-150205 are consolidated for hearing and determination under WAC 480-07-320.
3. (3) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required. Such hearings may also examine Avista’s rates and charges for electric or natural gas service shown on any tariffs that Avista does not propose to revise.
4. (4) Avista must not change or alter the tariffs filed in these dockets during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
5. (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of Avista’s books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.
6. (6) Discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commission’s discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
7. (7) Avista shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission’s investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 20, 2015.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

**Appendix**

**TARIFF WN U-28, ELECTRIC SERVICE**

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| 2nd Revision Sheet B | Canceling | 1st Revision Sheet B |
| 13th Revision Sheet 1 | Canceling | Substitute 12th Revision Sheet 1 |
| 13th Revision Sheet 11 | Canceling | Substitute 12th Revision Sheet 11 |
| 13th Revision Sheet 21 | Canceling | Substitute 12th Revision Sheet 21 |
| 13th Revision Sheet 25 | Canceling | Substitute 12th Revision Sheet 25 |
| 10th Revision Sheet 25A | Canceling | Substitute 9th Revision Sheet 25A |
| 13th Revision Sheet 31 | Canceling | Substitute 12th Revision Sheet 31 |
| 12th Revision Sheet 41 | Canceling | Substitute 11th Revision Sheet 41 |
| 12th Revision Sheet 42 | Canceling | Substitute 11th Revision Sheet 42 |
| 6th Revision Sheet 42A | Canceling | Substitute 5th Revision Sheet 42A |
| 12th Revision Sheet 44 | Canceling | Substitute 11th Revision Sheet 44 |
| 13th Revision Sheet 45 | Canceling | Substitute 12th Revision Sheet 45 |
| 13th Revision Sheet 46 | Canceling | Substitute 12th Revision Sheet 46 |
| 12th Revision Sheet 47 | Canceling | Substitute 11th Revision Sheet 47 |
| 13th Revision Sheet 47A | Canceling | Substitute 12th Revision Sheet 47A |
| Original Sheet 47B |  |  |

**TARIFF WN U-29, NATURAL GAS SERVICE**

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| 14th Revision Sheet 101 | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 13th Revision Sheet 101 |
| 14th Revision Sheet 111 | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 13th Revision Sheet 111 |
| 14th Revision Sheet 112 | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 13th Revision Sheet 112 |
| 14th Revision Sheet 121 | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 13th Revision Sheet 121 |
| 5th Revision Sheet 121A | Canceling | Substitute 4th Revision Sheet 121A |
| 14th Revision Sheet 122 | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 13th Revision Sheet 122 |
| 5th Revision Sheet 122A | Canceling | Substitute 4th Revision Sheet 122A |
| 14th Revision Sheet 131 | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 13th Revision Sheet 131 |
| 5th Revision Sheet 131A | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 4th Revision Sheet 131A |
| 14th Revision Sheet 132 | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 13th Revision Sheet 132 |
| 5th Revision Sheet 132A | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 4th Revision Sheet 132A |
| 14th Revision Sheet 146 | Canceling | 2nd Substitute 13th Revision Sheet 146 |