

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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

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

6 (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.

7 (2) Avista is an electric and natural gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

8 (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.

9 (4) Avista has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

10 (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.

11 (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 Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.

- 12 (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.
- 13 (8) Avista may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) The tariff revisions Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities filed on February 9, 2015, are suspended.
- 15 (2) Dockets UE-150204 and UG-150205 are consolidated for hearing and determination under WAC 480-07-320.
- 16 (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.
- 17 (4) Avista must not change or alter the tariffs filed in these dockets during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 18 (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of Avista's books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.

- 19 (6) Discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in
WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 20 (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

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

TARIFF WN U-29, NATURAL GAS SERVICE

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