

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a  
AVISTA UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-220053 and  
UG-220054 (*Consolidated*)

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
**(Set for February 14, 2022, at  
10:30 a.m.)**

and

NOTICE OF SECOND VIRTUAL  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
**(Set for February 28, 2022, at  
1:30 p.m.)**

- 1 On January 21, 2022, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions in Docket UE-220053 to its currently effective electric service tariff, Tariff WN U-28, and in Docket UG-220054 to its natural gas service tariff, Tariff WN U-29. The purpose of these filings is to increase rates and charges for electric and natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington. Avista proposes a Two-Year Rate Plan, which would begin with new base rates effective in December 2022 (Rate Year 1) and December 2023 (Rate Year 2).
- 2 For Rate Year 1, Avista proposes an increase to electric base revenue of \$52.9 million, or 9.6 percent, and an overall increase to natural gas base revenue of \$10.9 million, or 9.5 percent. For Rate Year 2, Avista proposes an increase to electric base revenue of \$17.1 million, or 2.8 percent, and an overall increase to natural gas base revenue of \$2.2 million, or 1.7 percent.
- 3 Avista proposes to return a Residual Tax Customer Credit of approximately \$25.5 million (electric) and \$12.5 million (natural gas) to customers through separate Tariff Schedules 78 (electric) and 178 (natural gas) over a two-year amortization period beginning December 2022. Avista proposes to use the Residual Tax Customer Credit to offset its requested increase for Rate Year 1, in part. Inclusive of the Residual Tax Customer

Credit and all other rate adjustments, the Company's requested total increase in Rate Year 1 to *billed* rates is 7.4 percent for electric operations and 2.5 percent for natural gas operations.

- 4 On January 27, 2022, the Commission entered Order 01, Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions; Order of Consolidation (Order 01). Order 01 consolidated dockets UE-220053 and UG-220054 and suspended operation of the revised tariffs.
- 5 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over these matters under Title 80 RCW, and has legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of electric and gas utilities. The statutes that apply to these matters include Chapters 80.01 RCW, 80.04 RCW, 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. The rules that apply to these matters include those within Chapters 480-80 WAC, 480-90 WAC, and 480-100 WAC.
- 6 The Commission will hear these matters under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), particularly Part IV of Chapter 34.05 RCW relating to adjudications. The provisions of the APA that relate to these proceedings include, but are 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 will also follow its procedural rules in Chapter 480-07 WAC in these proceedings.
- 7 **INTERVENTION.** Persons who wish to intervene should file a petition to intervene in writing at least three business days before the date of the first prehearing conference. *See* WAC 480-07-355(a). The Commission will consider oral petitions to intervene during the conference, but strongly prefers written petitions to intervene. Party representatives must file a notice of appearance with the Commission no later than the business day before the conference. *See* WAC 480-07-345(2). Any party or witness in need of an interpreter or other assistance should fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission. The Commission will set the time and place for any evidentiary hearings at the prehearing conference, on the record of a later conference or hearing session, or by later written notice.
- 8 **PREHEARING CONFERENCES.** The purpose of prehearing conferences is to consider requests for intervention, resolve scheduling matters including establishing dates for distributing evidence, identify the issues in the proceedings, and determine other matters to assist the Commission in resolving the matters, as listed in WAC 480-07-430. **Parties are encouraged to consult informally prior to the prehearing conference to**

**develop a proposed schedule for the Commission's consideration, including the filing of an issues matrix.**

9 The Commission finds there is good cause to hear these matters on shortened notice. *See* WAC 480-07-440(1)(a) and RCW 34.05.434.

10 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a virtual prehearing conference in these matters at 10:30 a.m., on February 14, 2022. To participate by phone, call (253) 215-8782 and enter the Conference ID: 922 1996 7288# and use the Passcode: 577489#. To attend via Zoom, use the following link: [Click here to join the meeting](#).**

11 In addition, recent legislation passed in Washington, RCW 80.28.430, allows the Commission to authorize funding for organizations that represent broad customer interests in regulatory proceedings related to electric and gas utilities. Processes and procedures that may be applicable to funding for intervenors in these consolidated proceedings, pursuant to RCW 80.28.430 and the Commission's recently issued policy statement in Docket U-210595, will be discussed at a second virtual prehearing conference. The Commission will receive and consider applications for such funding at that second prehearing conference, at outset of these proceedings.

12 **THE COMMISSION GIVES FURTHER NOTICE That it will hold a second virtual prehearing conference in these matters at 1:30 p.m., on February 28, 2022. To participate by phone, call (253) 215-8782 and enter the Conference ID: 994 2627 6296# and use the Passcode: 046282#. To attend via Zoom, use the following link: [Click here to join the meeting](#).**

13 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conferences set by this Notice, or any other stage of these proceedings, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440 and WAC 480-07-450.**

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

Complainant:	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250 (360) 664-1160
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Representative: Jennifer Cameron-Rulkowski  
Jeff Roberson  
Nash I. Callaghan  
Harry Fukano  
Joe M. Dallas  
Daniel J. Teimouri  
Assistant Attorneys General  
Office of the Attorney General  
P.O. Box 40128  
Olympia, WA 98504-0128  
(360) 664-1186  
[jennifer.cameron-rulkowski@utc.wa.gov](mailto:jennifer.cameron-rulkowski@utc.wa.gov)  
[jeff.roberson@utc.wa.gov](mailto:jeff.roberson@utc.wa.gov)  
[nash.callaghan@utc.wa.gov](mailto:nash.callaghan@utc.wa.gov)  
[harry.fukano@utc.wa.gov](mailto:harry.fukano@utc.wa.gov)  
[joe.dallas@utc.wa.gov](mailto:joe.dallas@utc.wa.gov)  
[dan.teimouri@utc.wa.gov](mailto:dan.teimouri@utc.wa.gov)

Respondent: Avista Corporation  
Patrick Ehrbar  
VP, State & Federal Regulation  
P.O. Box 3727  
1411 E. Mission Ave, MSC-27  
Spokane, WA 99220-3727  
(509) 495-8620  
[pat.ehrbar@avistacorp.com](mailto:pat.ehrbar@avistacorp.com)  
[avistadockets@avistacorp.com](mailto:avistadockets@avistacorp.com)

Representative: David J. Meyer, Esq.  
VP and Chief Counsel for  
Regulatory and Governmental Affairs  
Avista Corporation  
P.O. Box 3727  
1411 E. Mission Ave, MSC-27  
Spokane, WA 99220-3727  
(509) 495-4316  
[david.meyer@avistacorp.com](mailto:david.meyer@avistacorp.com)

Public Counsel: Lisa W. Gafken  
Nina M. Suetake  
Ann Paisner  
Assistant Attorneys General  
Washington Attorney General's Office  
Public Counsel Unit  
800 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104-3188  
(206) 464-6595  
[lisa.gafken@atg.wa.gov](mailto:lisa.gafken@atg.wa.gov)  
[nina.suetake@atg.wa.gov](mailto:nina.suetake@atg.wa.gov)  
[ann.paisner@atg.wa.gov](mailto:ann.paisner@atg.wa.gov)  
[pccseaf@atg.wa.gov](mailto:pccseaf@atg.wa.gov)

- 15 The Attorney General has designated Lisa W. Gafken, Nina M. Suetake, and Ann Paisner from the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel) to represent the public. You may use the Commission's address, shown below, for contacting Public Counsel, or you may contact Public Counsel directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.
- 16 The Commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and Administrative Law Judge Andrew J. O'Connell, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during these consolidated proceedings.<sup>1</sup>
- 17 The Commission will give parties notice of any other procedural phase of the proceedings in writing or on the record, as appropriate during these proceedings.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 3, 2022.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL  
Executive Director and Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> Judge O'Connell can be reached at (360) 664-1285 or [andrew.j.oconnell@utc.wa.gov](mailto:andrew.j.oconnell@utc.wa.gov).

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington State Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160

- or - Public Counsel Unit  
Office of the Attorney General  
800 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104-3188  
(206) 464-7744

**NOTICE**

Hearings are accessible to persons with disabilities and persons who do not speak English as a first language. If limited English-speaking or hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

If you need an interpreter, or have other special needs, please provide the information requested below via email to Paige Doyle, paralegal, at [paige.doyle@utc.wa.gov](mailto:paige.doyle@utc.wa.gov):

(PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Impaired: (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual \_\_\_\_\_ Tactile \_\_\_\_\_

Other type of assistance needed: \_\_\_\_\_