

Agenda Date: October 15, 2020
Item Number: A4

Docket: UE-200607
Company: Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities

Staff: Andrew Rector, Regulatory Analyst

Recommendation

Direct the secretary to issue a letter acknowledging the 2020 Avista Transportation Electrification Plan, pursuant to RCW 80.28.365.

Background

On July 1, 2020, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or company) filed its 2020 “Transportation Electrification Plan” (TEP or Plan) with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) under Docket UE-200607. This is the first TEP received by the commission since enabling legislation was enacted in 2019. The commission is required to acknowledge a TEP within six months of its filing.¹

Avista serves more than 600,000 electric and natural gas customers in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Avista’s Transportation Electrification Plan

The TEP outlines the company’s planned transportation electrification activities and expenditures from 2021 through 2025. The company intends to spend \$51.5 million in capital expenditures across eight different program areas. These programs and the related activities are described in commission staff’s (staff) responsive comments, filed on September 18, 2020, and included as an attachment to this memo.

Stakeholder Comments

Staff’s comments described the Plan and staff’s analysis of it, offered suggestions for Avista as it implements the plan, and discussed other stakeholder comments received to date in the docket. Staff’s comments concluded with a recommendation that the commission issue a letter acknowledging the Plan by December 31, 2020.

Three other stakeholders submitted comments in the docket. Staff’s comments outlined the comments from Climate Solutions, which recommended acknowledgement of the TEP and offered suggestions for Avista during implementation.

Two additional comments – from the Northwest Energy Coalition (NVEC) and Greenlots – were received after staff finalized its comments. NVEC was supportive of the plan and also

¹ RCW 80.28.365(3).

made several recommendations that would help ensure equitable access to electric vehicle supply equipment. Greenlots called the TEP “one of the most thorough utility transportation electrification planning efforts we’ve seen,” and urged the company to expand into medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and fleet programs.

Conclusion

Direct the secretary to issue a letter acknowledging the 2020 Avista Transportation Electrification Plan, pursuant to RCW 80.28.365.

Attachment