

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA
UTILITIES

Respondent.

DOCKET NO. UE-080416

DOCKET NO. UG-080417

(consolidated)

RESPONSE OF COMMISSION
STAFF TO AVISTA
CORPORATION'S MOTION FOR
LEAVE TO FILE
SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY
AND EXHIBITS

1 On July 28, 2008, Avista Corporation (“Avista” or “the Company”) requested leave to file supplemental testimony and exhibits in this general rate case. The Company’s stated purpose is “to update the original testimony and exhibits of Elizabeth Andrews, Clint Kalich, Bill Johnson, and Tara Knox for information that was not available to Avista at the time it filed its original prefiled direct testimony on March 4, 2008, and to otherwise make certain corrections.”

2 Commission Staff files this response pursuant to WAC 480-07-375(4). Staff has reviewed Avista’s proposed testimony additions and revisions, which deal primarily with power supply expenses but also entail other items. The changes purport to support a revenue requirement of \$47.4 million, in contrast to Avista’s revenue requirement request of \$36.6 million (which Avista states it is *not* changing).

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Staff does not object to Avista's motion, on the condition that Staff (and other parties) be granted an additional week to file its prefiled responsive testimony and exhibits. This extension is necessary and justified because of the additional discovery and preparation burdens that Avista's filing places on Staff. A similar extension was recently granted by the Commission to the parties in Puget Sound Energy's general rate case.¹ Staff's testimony and exhibits, which are currently due on September 12, 2008, would thus be due on September 19, 2008.

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Staff has conferred with the Company regarding this matter, and the Company has informed Staff that it does not oppose Staff's proposal. Avista has stated to Staff that it wishes to have the rebuttal and cross-answering testimony date moved from October 15, 2008, to October 20, 2008. Staff does not oppose this request, if the response testimony date is adjusted as noted above. All other due dates and timelines in this docket would remain unchanged, including the evidentiary hearing dates of December 1-3, 2008.

DATED this 4th day of August, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. MCKENNA
Attorney General

GREGORY J. TRAUTMAN
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel for Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission Staff

¹ Dockets UE-072300 and UG-072301, *Washington Utilities and Transp. Comm'n v. Puget Sound Energy, Inc.*, Order 08, Granting Motion for Leave to File Supplemental Testimony, paragraphs 10 and 15, May 5, 2008.