

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKETS UE-140188 and
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	UG-140189 ( <i>Consolidated</i> )
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	ORDER 01
v.	)	
	)	
AVISTA CORPORATION, DBA	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
AVISTA UTILITIES,	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
	)	AND ORDER OF CONSOLIDATION
Respondent.	)	
	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On February 4, 2014, Avista Corporation, dba 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, designated as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The stated effective date is March 7, 2014. 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 \$18.2 million or 3.8 percent. Because those increases 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.
  
- 3 The overall electric billed increase proposed by Avista is 5.5 percent, including: the above 3.8 percent base rate increase; a Renewable Energy Credit Revenue Mechanism rebate of 1.1 percent; and the expiration of two rebates currently received

by electric customers totaling a 2.8 percent billed revenue increase effective January 1, 2015.

4 On February 4, 2014, Avista also filed revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-29, Natural Gas, designated as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The stated effective date is March 7, 2014. The purpose of this filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington.

5 In this filing, Avista seeks to increase rates for natural gas service by approximately \$12.1 million or 7.8 percent. Because those increases 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.

6 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**

7 (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.

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

9 (3) The tariff revisions Avista filed on February 4, 2014, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Avista and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.

- 10 (4) Avista has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 11 (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.
- 12 (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.
- 13 (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.
- 14 (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:**

- 15 (1) The tariff revisions Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities filed on February 4, 2014, are suspended.
- 16 (2) Dockets UE-140188 and UG-140189 are consolidated for hearing and determination under WAC 480-07-320.
- 17 (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.

- 18 (4) Avista must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 19 (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of Avista's books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.
- 20 (6) Discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 21 (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 13, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Commissioner

**Appendix**

**WN U-28:**

12 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 1	Residential Service – Washington
12 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 11	General Service – Washington
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 12	Residential and Farm General Service – Washington
12 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 21	Large General Service – Washington
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 22	Residential and Farm Large General Service – Washington
12 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 25	Extra Large General Service – Washington
9 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 25A	Extra Large General Service – Washington
12 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 31	Pumping Service – Washington
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 32	Residential and Farm Pumping Service – Washington
11 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 41	Company Owned Street Light Service - Washington
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 41A	Company Owned Street Light Service - Washington
11 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 42	Company Owned Street Light Service - Washington
5 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 42A	Company Owned Street Light Service - Washington
Original	Sheet No. 42B	Company Owned Street Light Service - Washington
11 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 44	Customer Owned Street Light Energy and Maintenance Service - Washington
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 44A	Customer Owned Street Light Energy and Maintenance Service - Washington
12 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 45	Customer Owned Street Light Energy Service - Washington
12 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 46	Customer Owned Street Light Energy Service - Washington
Original	Sheet No. 46A	Customer Owned Street Light Energy Service - Washington
11 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 47	Area Lighting – Washington
12 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 47A	Area Lighting – Washington - Continued
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 48	Residential and Farm Area Lighting - Washington
Original	Sheet No. 98	Renewable Energy Credit Revenue Mechanism – Washington
Original	Sheet No. 99	Decoupling Mechanism – Electric
Original	Sheet No. 99A	Decoupling Mechanism – Electric (continued)
Original	Sheet No. 99B	Decoupling Mechanism – Electric (continued)
Original	Sheet No. 99C	Decoupling Mechanism – Electric (continued)
Original	Sheet No. 99D	Decoupling Mechanism – Electric (continued)

**WN U-29:**

13 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 101	General Service – Firm – Washington
13 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 111	Large General Service – Firm – Washington
13 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 112	Large General Service – Firm – Washington
13 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 121	High Annual Load Factor Large General Service – Firm – Washington
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 121A	High Annual Load Factor Large General Service – Firm – Washington
13 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 122	High Annual Load Factor Large General Service – Firm - Washington
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 122A	High Annual Load Factor Large General Service – Firm - Washington
13 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 131	Interruptible Service – Washington
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 131A	Interruptible Service – Washington (continued)
13 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 132	Interruptible Service – Washington
4 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 132A	Interruptible Service – Washington (continued)
13 <sup>th</sup> Revised	Sheet No. 146	Transportation Service For Customer-Owned Gas – Washington
Original	Sheet No. 199	Decoupling Mechanism – Natural Gas
Original	Sheet No. 199A	Decoupling Mechanism – Natural Gas
Original	Sheet No. 199B	Decoupling Mechanism – Natural Gas
Original	Sheet No. 199C	Decoupling Mechanism – Natural Gas
Original	Sheet No. 199D	Decoupling Mechanism – Natural Gas