

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a
AVISTA UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-160228 and
UG-160229 (*Consolidated*)

NOTICE OF PREHEARING
CONFERENCE

(Set for March 23, 2016, at
9:30 a.m.)

- 1 On February 19, 2016, Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-28, Electric Service in Docket UE-160228 and revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-29, Natural Gas Service in Docket UG-160229 designed to effect a general rate increase for electric and natural gas service.
- 2 Avista requests authority to increase charges and rates for electric service by approximately \$38.6 million, or 7.6 percent in billed rates, effective January 1, 2017, and requests an overall increase in electric base revenues of \$10.3 million, or 3.9 percent, to become effective January 1, 2018. Avista also requests authority to increase rates for natural gas service by approximately \$4.4 million, or 2.8 percent in billed rates, effective January 1, 2017, and is proposing a second-step natural gas revenue increase of \$0.9 million, or 1 percent in billed rates, effective January 1, 2018. The Commission suspended operation of the tariffs and consolidated the dockets for hearing by Order 01 entered on March 7, 2016.
- 3 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under RCW Title 80, and has legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of electric and gas utilities. The statutes that apply to this matter include RCW 80.01, RCW 80.04, and RCW 80.28, 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 this matter include those within WAC 480-07, WAC 480-90, and 480-100.
- 4 The Commission will hear this matter under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), particularly Part IV of RCW 34.05 relating to adjudications. The provisions of the APA

that relate to this proceeding include, but are not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.434, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission will also follow its procedural rules in WAC 480-07 in this proceeding.

5 The Commission finds there is good cause to hear this matter on shortened notice. *See* WAC 480-07-440(1)(a).

6 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a prehearing conference in this matter at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.** If you are unable to attend the prehearing conference in person, you may attend via the Commission's teleconference bridge line at **(360) 664-3846**. Please appear on the teleconference bridge five minutes before the conference is scheduled to begin.

7 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider requests for intervention, resolve scheduling matters including establishing dates for distributing evidence and workpapers, to identify the issues in the proceeding and determine other matters to assist the Commission in resolving the matter, 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.**

8 **INTERVENTION:** Persons who wish to intervene should file a petition to intervene in writing at least three business days before the date of the 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). If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, they 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.

9 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440.**

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

Complainant: Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Richard Hemstad Building
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

Representative: Patrick J. Oshie
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poshie@utc.wa.gov
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Respondent: Avista Corporation
Kelly O. Norwood
VP, State & Federal Regulation
P.O. Box 3727
1411 E. Mission Ave, MSC-27
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
(509) 495-4267
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Representative: David J. Meyer, Esq.
VP and Chief Counsel for
Regulatory and Governmental Affairs
Avista Corporation
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Inquiries may be addressed to:

Executive Director and Secretary
Washington State Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Richard Hemstad Building
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

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

NOTICE

Hearing facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Smoking is prohibited. If limited English-speaking, 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 fill out this form and return it to Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Steven V. King, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. (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: _____

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: (____) _____