

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a
AVISTA UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-240006 and
UG-240007 (*Consolidated*)

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL
PREHEARING CONFERENCE
**(Set for February 20, 2024, at
9:30 a.m.)**

- 1 On January 18, 2024, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions in Docket UE-240006 to its currently effective electric service tariff, Tariff WN U-28, and in Docket UG-240007 to its natural gas service tariff, Tariff WN U-29, as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. 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.
- 2 For Rate Year 1, Avista proposes an increase to electric base revenue of \$77.1 million, or 13.0 percent, and an overall increase to natural gas base revenue of \$17.3 million, or 13.6 percent. For Rate Year 2, Avista proposes an increase to electric base revenue of \$53.7 million, or 11.7 percent, and an overall increase to natural gas base revenue of \$4.6 million, or 3.2 percent.
- 3 On January 31, 2024, the Commission entered Order 01, Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions; Order of Consolidation (Order 01). Order 01 consolidated Dockets UE-240006 and UG-240007 and suspended operation of the revised tariffs.
- 4 **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.

5 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.

6 **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, or by February 15, 2024. *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.

7 **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.**

8 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.

9 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a virtual prehearing conference in these matters at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. 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 meeting¹](#).

10 **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.**

11 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

Representative: Jeff Roberson
Nash I. Callaghan
Josephine Straus
Liam Weiland
Colin O'Brien
Lisa Gafken
Assistant Attorneys General
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
(360) 664-1186
jeff.roberson@atg.wa.gov
nash.callaghan@atg.wa.gov
josephine.strauss@atg.wa.gov
liam.weiland@atg.wa.gov
colin.obrien@atg.wa.gov
lisa.gafken@atg.wa.gov

¹ <https://utc-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/92219967288?pwd=RjQwb0w1TjVVLy9OTzc4Ym1lIWDZKZz09>.

Respondent: Avista Corporation
Patrick Ehrbar
Director of Regulatory Affairs
P.O. Box 3727
1411 E. Mission Ave, MSC-27
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
(509) 495-8620
pat.ehrbar@avistacorp.com
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

Public Counsel: Tad Robinson O'Neill
Assistant Attorney General
Washington Attorney General's Office
Public Counsel Unit
800 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-3188
(206) 254-0570
tad.oneill@atg.wa.gov

- 12 The Attorney General has designated Tad Robinson O'Neill 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, to contact Public Counsel, or you may contact Public Counsel directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.

- 13 The Commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and Administrative Law Judges James Brown II and Paige Doyle, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during these consolidated proceedings.²
- 14 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 Lacey, Washington, and effective February 8, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFF KILLIP
Executive Director and Secretary

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

² Judge Brown can be reached at (360) 664-1163 or james.brown@utc.wa.gov. Judge Doyle can be reached at (360) 664-1140 or paige.doyle@utc.wa.gov.

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 Stacey Brewster, paralegal, at stacey.brewster@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: _____