

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a
AVISTA UTILITIES,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-200900, UG-200901,
UE-200894 (*Consolidated*)

ORDER 06 / 03

GRANTING MOTION TO AMEND
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

In the Matter of the Petition of

AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a
AVISTA UTILITIES,

For an Accounting Order Authorizing
Accounting and Ratemaking Treatment
of Costs Associated with the Company's
Wildfire Resiliency Plan

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 30, 2020, Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities, (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective electric and natural gas service tariffs, Tariffs WN U-28 and WN U-29, in Dockets UE-200900 and UG-200901 that are designed to effect a general rate increase for its electric and natural gas services (general rate case, or GRC), and also an accounting petition in Docket UE-200894 for costs associated with its wildfire resiliency plan (Petition). On December 23, 2020, the Commission entered Order 04/01, consolidating the three dockets.

- 2 On May 27, 2021, Avista filed with the Commission a Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule and Accept Partial Multiparty Settlement Stipulation (Motion). Avista appended to its Motion the Partial Multiparty Settlement (Settlement) and Attachment A to the Settlement. Avista represented in its Motion that no party objects to amending the procedural schedule.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- 3 Avista's Motion requests that the Commission modify the procedural schedule to require the filing of joint or separate testimony in support of the Settlement by Avista, Commission staff (Staff), the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC), the Inland Empire Paper Company (Inland Empire), the Energy Project, and Sierra Club (Settling Parties) by June 25, 2021. The Motion also requests that the procedural schedule be modified to allow for the filing of an executed Special Contract between Inland Empire and Avista by June 25, 2021. Last, the Motion requests that the Settlement and the Special Contract be addressed at the evidentiary hearing already scheduled for July 7 and 9 (if necessary), 2021. All other procedural dates would remain the same. Public Counsel, the only party who has not joined the Settlement as of yet, does not object to the Motion's requests to amend the procedural schedule.
- 4 We find the proposed modifications to the procedural schedule reasonable. It is appropriate to address the proposed Settlement, in addition to any fully contested issues, during the currently scheduled virtual evidentiary hearing set for July 7, 2021, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and continuing on July 9, if necessary. The proposed date of June 25, 2021, for filing supporting testimony and also the Special Contract between Inland Empire and Avista is also reasonable. An updated procedural schedule, showing the modifications approved by this order, is attached to this Order as Appendix A. Accordingly, we determine that Avista's motion to amend the procedural schedule should be granted as requested.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 5 Avista Corporation's, d/b/a Avista Utilities, motion to amend the procedural schedule is GRANTED.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective June 2, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ *Andrew J. O'Connell*

ANDREW J. O'CONNELL

Administrative Law Judge

**APPENDIX A
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
DOCKETS UE-200900, UG-200901, UE-200894
updated June 2, 2021**

EVENT	DATE
Company Filing	October 30, 2020
Prehearing Conference	December 14, 2020
Initial Settlement Conference ¹	March 10, 2021
Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervenor Response Testimony and Exhibits ²	April 21, 2021
Avista Circulates Joint Issues Matrix	April 30, 2021
Settlement Conference	May 6, 2021
Notice Issued for Public Comment Hearing	May 17, 2021
Avista Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits; Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervenor Cross-Answering Testimony and Exhibits ³	May 28, 2021
Public Comment Hearing	June 16, 2021
Discovery Deadline – Last Day to Issue Data Requests ⁴	June 18, 2021
<i>Testimony Supporting Settlement; Special Contract</i>	<u>June 25, 2021</u>
Avista Files Joint Issues Matrix	June 30, 2021
Exhibits List, Cross-Examination Exhibits, Witnesses List, Time Estimates, Exhibits Errata	June 30 2021
Evidentiary Hearing	July 7 & 9, 2021
Post-Hearing Briefs and Updated Joint Issues Matrix	August 13, 2021
Suspension Date ⁵	October 1, 2021

¹ Per WAC 480-07-700(5)(a), parties may reschedule a settlement conference included in the procedural schedule without seeking to modify the schedule if all parties agree, but the parties must provide notice to the presiding officer of the rescheduled date.

² Response time to data requests relating to this testimony will be 7 business days.

³ Response time to data requests will be 5 business days.

⁴ Response time to data requests will be 5 business days.

⁵ Based on a 10-month suspension from the stated effective date of December 1, on the as-filed tariff sheets, per RCW 80.04.130.

