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1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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4 WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND )

)

5 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )

)

6 Complainant, ) Docket Nos. UE-150204 and

) UG-150205

7 vs. ) (Consolidated)

)

8 AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a )

AVISTA UTILITIES, )

9 )

Respondent. )

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11 PREHEARING CONFERENCE, VOLUME I

12 Pages 1 - 16

13 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE FRIEDLANDER

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15 1:35 P.M.

MARCH 12, 2015

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S (Continued)

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1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; MARCH 12, 2015

2 1:35 P.M.

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5 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Good afternoon. It

6 is March 12th, 2015, and this is the time and place

7 the Commission has set for a prehearing conference in

8 the consolidated Avista General Rate case, Dockets

9 UE-150204 and UG-150205.

10 We will take appearances first, beginning with

11 Mr. Meyer.

12 MR. MEYER: The long form of appearance?

13 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Let's go ahead and

14 do that, since it is our first meeting.

15 MR. MEYER: Sure.

16 David Meyer. The street address is -- I'm

17 appearing on behalf of Avista Corporation. The street

18 address is East 1411 Mission Avenue, Spokane,

19 Washington 99220. The phone number, (509) 495-4316.

20 The e-mail is david.meyer, M-E-Y-E-R, @avistacorp, one

21 word, dot-com.

22 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

23 And appearing today on behalf of Staff?

24 MR. OSHIE: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 Patrick Oshie on behalf of Staff. Also joined by

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1 Brett Shearer and Jennifer Cameron-Rulkowski. I will

2 save having three addresses to announce. It is -- the

3 address of the office, 1400 South Evergreen Parkway

4 Southwest, Olympia, 98, whatever it is, 504. I

5 believe 504. My phone number is (360) 664-1188, and

6 e-mail address is poshie@utc.wa.gov.

7 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Excellent.

8 Thank you.

9 And appearing today on behalf of Public

10 Counsel, Ms. Gafken.

11 MS. GAFKEN: Yes, this is Lisa Gafken.

12 My address is 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000, PB-14,

13 Seattle, Washington 98104. My telephone number is

14 (206) 464-6595. My e-mail address is

15 lisa.gafken@att.wa.gov.

16 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

17 And I believe we have at least one potential

18 intervenor, who is running a bit late, in the form of

19 the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities.

20 We will go ahead and take appearances from the

21 Northwest Industrial Gas Users.

22 MR. STOKES: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

23 This is Chad Stokes for the Northwest Industrial Gas

24 Users. I am with the Cable Huston law firm. The

25 address is 1001 Southwest Fifth Avenue in Portland,

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1 Oregon 97204. The phone number is (503) 224-3092, and

2 my e-mail is cstokes, that's S-T-O-K-E-S, @cable,

3 C-A-B-L-E, huston, H-U-S-T-O-N, dot-com. Also

4 appearing with me will be Tommy Brooks. His e-mail is

5 tbrooks@cablehuston.com.

6 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay. Thank you.

7 And appearing today on behalf The Energy

8 Project, Mr. Roseman.

9 MR. ROSEMAN: Thank you, Your Honor. My

10 name is Ronald Roseman. I am appearing on behalf of

11 The Energy Project. My address is 2011 Fourteenth

12 Avenue East, Seattle, Washington 98112. My telephone

13 is (206) 324-8792, and my e-mail address is

14 ronaldroseman@comcast.net.

15 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

16 Okay. So let's turn to the petitions for need

17 to intervene. We have three. The Energy Project

18 obviously just spoke, ICNU, and the Northwest

19 Industrial Gas Users.

20 Does anyone have an objection to these

21 intervention requests?

22 MR. MEYER: No, Your Honor.

23 MR. OSHIE: No, Your Honor.

24 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

25 And, Ms. Gafken?

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1 MS. GAFKEN: No objection.

2 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay. Thank you.

3 So they are granted.

4 Have the parties had a chance to discuss a

5 procedural schedule?

6 MR. MEYER: Yes, we have. We are not

7 quite finished with that discussion.

8 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

9 MR. MEYER: I think we are making very

10 substantial progress.

11 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

12 MR. MEYER: I am hopeful that it won't

13 take too long.

14 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

15 MR. MEYER: If we could just recess for

16 a moment.

17 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: That's fine. We

18 will be off the record.

19 MR. MEYER: Thank you.

20 (A brief recess.)

21 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: We will go back on

22 the record. I understand that the parties have

23 arrived at a proposed procedural schedule. Mr. Meyer,

24 do you want to walk us through it?

25 MR. MEYER: Yes, I would be happy to.

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1 Before I do that, there were a couple of dates

2 that do not appear in this. I think Lisa will speak

3 to the public hearing dates and provide some

4 suggestions in that regard. Those are not reflected

5 on this schedule.

6 What I have provided to you, and what we have

7 agreed upon among the parties, is that we will work to

8 have the public notice report filed on April 30th. We

9 will circulate a joint issues list, "we" being Avista,

10 by June 11th to get the process started for developing

11 the final version down the road.

12 The first settlement conference, July 10th,

13 followed by Staff, Public Counsel, intervenor response

14 testimony and exhibits on July 27th. That, as you

15 will see with the asterisk, triggers a response time

16 to DRs relating to this testimony, will be seven

17 business days. The next set of settlement conferences

18 will be on August 6th and 7th. That will be followed

19 by a fresh version of the joint issues list on

20 August 20. That will be followed by the Company

21 rebuttal and exhibits, as well as Staff, Public

22 Counsel, and intervenor cross-answering testimony and

23 exhibits on September 4th. As far as that goes, the

24 response time to DRs relating to this testimony will

25 be five business days. Public comment hearing, as I

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1 suggested earlier, will be discussed momentarily. Let

2 me just get through this before we go there.

3 The discovery deadline, which is the late date

4 to issue data requests, will be September 22nd. That

5 will trigger a five-business-day turnaround for DRs,

6 to those DRs.

7 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Which I think is the

8 same as anything after September 4th, isn't it?

9 MR. MEYER: Let's see. Yes.

10 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

11 MR. ROSEMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Meyer. Did

12 you say the 26th of September or the 22nd of

13 September?

14 MR. MEYER: The 22nd.

15 MR. ROSEMAN: Thank you.

16 MR. MEYER: Then the deadline for filing

17 cross-examination exhibits is September 30th. The

18 evidentiary hearing, and I'm hoping those dates still

19 hold from last week, October 5th through the 8th. I

20 understand there is no doubt a Thursday business

21 meeting in there --

22 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Sure.

23 MR. MEYER: -- for a half a day, but it

24 is Monday through Thursday.

25 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: So we may not need

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1 that Thursday anyway.

2 MR. MEYER: Yes.

3 Posthearing briefs and updated issues list,

4 November 4th. And then the suspension date is -- I

5 should go back and check. That may actually be

6 January 8th.

7 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Yes, I think it was

8 further into the month. I was --

9 MR. MEYER: Was it?

10 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: I thought it was

11 January 12th, but I could be wrong.

12 MR. MEYER: We filed on February 9th.

13 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Right. And I think

14 January 12th is a Monday.

15 MR. MEYER: Okay.

16 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Subject to check.

17 MR. MEYER: So whatever it falls out to

18 be, it is.

19 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Exactly.

20 MR. MEYER: Okay.

21 MS. GAFKEN: January 11th.

22 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Maybe that's it.

23 MR. ROSEMAN: What did you say it was?

24 MS. GAFKEN: January 11th.

25 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

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1 MS. GAFKEN: That's a Monday.

2 MR. MEYER: We are not going to get

3 there anyway, right? Right?

4 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: We all have hopes,

5 high hopes.

6 Well, thank you so much.

7 Ms. Gafken, did you want to speak to the

8 possible dates or possibility for public comment

9 hearing?

10 MS. GAFKEN: Yes, we do have some

11 recommendations with respect to the public comment

12 hearing. As with past cases, we would recommend two

13 public comment hearings: One in the Spokane area and

14 then one in the Spokane Valley area.

15 As far as dates, I am building in a little bit

16 of flexibility, depending on Commissioner

17 availability. We are looking at either the week of

18 August 24th or the week of September 14th. Just a

19 couple of notes about those two dates. The first one

20 is before the rebuttal testimony and the second one is

21 after the rebuttal testimony.

22 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

23 MS. GAFKEN: I don't know if that will

24 factor into your decision or the Commissioners'

25 decision.

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1 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Sure.

2 MS. GAFKEN: Those are weeks that had

3 consensus around them.

4 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: And you said the

5 week of August 24th or September 14th?

6 MS. GAFKEN: Correct.

7 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay. I will let

8 the Commissioners know the preference of Public

9 Counsel.

10 MS. GAFKEN: Thank you.

11 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thanks.

12 Okay. So it looks like you guys have handled

13 pretty much everything that I was going to discuss

14 with you.

15 Do the parties -- we dealt with this last time

16 also, in the last case, 140188, electronic service of

17 process. Do the parties consent to electronic service

18 process amongst themselves?

19 MR. MEYER: Yes.

20 MR. COWELL: Yes, Your Honor.

21 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Anything from the

22 Northwest Industrial gas Users?

23 MR. STOKES: No, Your Honor.

24 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: That was fine with

25 you?

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1 MR. STOKES: Yes.

2 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay. Thank you.

3 Thank you.

4 Mr. Roseman?

5 MR. ROSEMAN: Yes, that's fine with The

6 Energy Project.

7 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

8 Ms. Gafken or Mr. Oshie?

9 MS. GAFKEN: I generally support

10 electronic service. I know that there is a rulemaking

11 that is outstanding. I think the current draft is

12 that we can also still request hard copies as well. I

13 just want to let the parties know, we may ask for hard

14 copies of certain things. Electronic service for

15 service purposes I think is fine.

16 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

17 MS. GAFKEN: That was a long, convoluted

18 explanation.

19 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: That's fine. I

20 understand.

21 MR. OSHIE: I will join in that

22 explanation as well. It should be fine.

23 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay. Great. Thank

24 you.

25 Obviously, discovery, I assume, is taking

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1 place, since we have a confidentiality -- many

2 confidentiality agreements that we have received.

3 Just as a note, the Commission needs an

4 original and six copies of filings made in this

5 proceeding.

6 Is there anything else procedurally?

7 MR. COWELL: Your Honor, I need to make

8 an appearance.

9 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Oh, absolutely.

10 Sorry about that. I probably should have taken those

11 appearances before I had Ms. Gafken talk about the

12 public comments hearings.

13 Please do put in an appearance. We are taking

14 full appearances, so name, who you represent, address,

15 telephone, e-mail.

16 MR. COWELL: Your Honor, this is Jesse

17 Cowell, appearing on behalf of the Industrial

18 Customers of Northwest Utilities. The address is 333

19 Southwest Taylor, Portland, Oregon 97204. E-mail,

20 jec@dvclaw.com.

21 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Great. Thank you.

22 And, Ms. Gafken?

23 MS. GAFKEN: Do you want me to put my

24 appearance on again?

25 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Oh, you're right.

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1 You were on the telephone before. That's fine, we

2 don't need to go there.

3 All right. If there is nothing else

4 procedurally, I think we are finished. Thank you very

5 much. We are adjourned.

6 (Prehearing conference concluded 2:11 p.m.)

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3 STATE OF WASHINGTON

4 COUNTY OF KING

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6 I, Sherrilyn Smith, a Certified

7 Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington,

8 do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is

9 true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill

10 and ability.

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17 SHERRILYN SMITH

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