



UE-230423

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June 01, 2023

Received
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Jun 1, 2023

Amanda Maxwell
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

RE: Avista Utilities Tariff WN U-28, Schedule 70, Rules and Regulations

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

Attached for electronic filing with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) are the proposed tariff revisions of Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities (Avista or the Company), requesting modifications to the following electric tariff sheets, WN U-28:

Second Revision Sheet 70-L	Canceling	First Revision Sheet 70-L
Second Revision Sheet 70-N	Canceling	First Revision Sheet 70-N
Third Revision Sheet 70-P	Canceling	Substitute Second Revision Sheet 70-P
First Revision Sheet 70-X	Canceling	Original Sheet 70-X
	New	Original Sheet 70-AB
	New	Original Sheet 70-AC

I. INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this filing is to modify Avista’s electric tariff Schedule 70, “Rules and Regulations”, to incorporate changes to RCW 80.28.010 as a result of House Bill 1329, which passed April 14, 2023 and becomes effective July 23, 2023. With the increasing rise in temperatures due to the onset of the summer months and in order to provide immediate relief to its

customers, Avista is requesting that these revisions be approved with an effective date of July 01, 2023. The Company has also included in this request modifications that are housekeeping in nature, to incorporate information regarding standard voltage and permissible variation pursuant to WAC 480-100-373.

II. PROPOSED TARIFF MODIFICATIONS

Avista's Schedule 70 contains a comprehensive set of the Company's rules and regulations pertinent to its electric service as provided to its Washington customers. The primary intention of the proposed Schedule 70 revisions is to integrate applicable changes in language or process instituted in the recently approved revisions to RCW 80.28.010, relating to the prevention of utility disconnections for nonpayment during extreme heat events. While Avista has language in its current Schedule 70 discussing utility disconnections during extreme cold (below 25 degrees Fahrenheit) or excessive heat (above 100 degrees Fahrenheit), these proposed modifications provide additional details for defining extreme heat events outside the Company's current process for temperatures over 100 degrees. If the proposed modifications are approved, Avista will utilize its current daily process for reviewing weather conditions when determining which service areas in Washington are subject to inclement weather conditions (as outlined above). The Company will include heat related alerts, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or similar alerts issued by the National Weather Service as part of its daily review for each county in which the Company has a construction office located.

In support of its incorporation of the changes provided in RCW 80.28.010(9)(a), included in this filing as Attachment A are copies of Avista's draft proposed past due and final notices, which include language educating customers of their ability to contact Avista to have services reconnected on any day where the National Weather Service issues or intends to issue a heat related alert. These changes are also reflected in the Company's proposed tariff modifications.

In addition to the proposed tariff modifications above, made as a result of the recent changes to RCW 80.28.010, the Company has also included in this filing the addition of language regarding standard voltage and permissible variation. Avista has historically made this information

publicly available to its customers via its “Electric Service Blue Book”,¹ and as part of its overall system design work with any customer requesting or interested in obtaining electric service from the Company, but has found through recent conversations with Commission Staff that its tariffs lack the clarity mandated under WAC 480-100-373(1). This filing is intended to remedy this lack of specification.

III. CONCLUSION

As outlined in the attached Schedule 70 modifications, Avista hereby requests that the tariff changes proposed become effective July 1, 2023, so that the Company may promptly update its disconnection process to include additional heat advisories as issued by the National Weather Service, and to more clearly represent its policies regarding standard voltage.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (509) 495-2782 or shawn.bonfield@avistacorp.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ Shawn Bonfield

Shawn Bonfield
Sr. Manager of Regulatory Policy & Strategy

¹ Please see the document entitled “Electric Service Requirements” at [Natural Gas and Electric Service Requirements | Avista \(myavista.com\)](#).