

**BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities

For an Order Authorizing Deferred Accounting
for Costs Related to the November 2023 Williams
Northwest Pipeline Outage

) Docket No. UG-23 _____
)
) PETITION OF AVISTA
) CORPORATION
)
)
)

I. INTRODUCTION

1 In accordance with WAC 480-07-370(3) and WAC 480-90-203(3), Avista Corporation,
doing business as Avista Utilities ("Avista" or "Company"), at 1411 East Mission Avenue,
Spokane, Washington, hereby petitions the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
(Commission) for an order to defer the costs associated with the November 2023 Williams
Northwest Pipeline outage that impacted Avista's natural gas distribution operations.

2 Avista is a utility that provides service to approximately 415,000 electric customers and
379,000 natural gas customers in a 26,000 square-mile area in eastern Washington, northern
Idaho, and Oregon. The largest community served by Avista is Spokane, Washington, which is
the location of its corporate headquarters.

3 Please direct all correspondence related to this Petition as follows:

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4 Rules and statutes that may be brought at issue in this Petition include RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.28.020, and WAC 480-07-370(3).

II. BACKGROUND

5 On November 8, 2023, Avista was notified that Williams Northwest Pipeline (Williams), an interstate pipeline operator who transports natural gas from supply basins to the Company's distribution system gate stations, experienced a "dig in" by a third party. That dig in caused Williams to shut down its 12 inch pipeline, thereby ceasing delivery of natural gas to Avista's distribution system in the Pullman/Moscow and Lewiston/Clarkston general vicinities. The outages on Avista's systems started in the late afternoon of November 8, 2023. At this point in time, it is unknown how many customers will be affected, but estimates are in the range of 35,000 to 40,000 between Washington and Idaho. Nor do we know the likely duration.

6 For natural gas outages, Avista will be required to visit every affected premise to turn off customers' natural gas meters. When appropriate, Avista will then purge the lines of remaining natural gas, refill the lines, and then visit each of the premises to turn meters back on and relight appliances.

7 The Company is developing response plans, restoration activities, customer communications and other measures to respond to this incident. Avista has also reached out through industry partners for mutual aid – crews that will be brought in to assist Avista in its efforts. While Avista is not responsible for the outage, it is responsible to restore service to customers as soon as reasonably possible, consistent with safe practices. Avista does not yet have an estimate of what

the costs of this event might be and will therefore supplement this filing with further information and estimates when it becomes available.

III. PROPOSED ACCOUNTING TREATMENT

8 Avista proposes to defer the costs associated with this incident for later recovery from customers, including proceeds, if any, that result from any claims made by Avista. Avista would seek recovery of any deferred costs, including interest at the Company's current authorized rate of return, through a general rate case or other proceeding. Avista will propose a method for recovery of the deferred costs, including interest, from customers, and once that has been approved by the Commission, the Company will transfer the asset from a deferred miscellaneous asset in FERC Account 186.0 (Miscellaneous Deferred Debits) to a regulatory asset in FERC Account 182.3 (Regulatory Asset).

IV. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

9 WHEREFORE, Avista requests deferral of the costs associated with the November 2023 Williams Northwest Pipeline outage that impacted Avista's natural gas distribution operations. Approval by this Commission of the proposed deferral treatment as described in this petition would allow the opportunity to recover these costs in a future period.

DATED this ___ day of November 08, 2023

By: /s/ David Meyer

David J. Meyer

Vice President and Chief Counsel for Regulatory and Governmental Affairs