

[Service Date November 3, 2011]

November 3, 2011

**NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE
(Set for November 14, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.)**

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Complainant, v. Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, Respondent*, Dockets UE-110876 and UG-110877 (*consolidated*)

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD:

On October 10, 2011, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) convened a prehearing conference to address the process and schedule for consideration of the recently-filed Settlement Stipulation (Settlement). The Settlement does not resolve the issue of decoupling, and so, the parties were advised that the Commission planned to bifurcate the proceedings into two phases. In the first phase, the Commission would evaluate and rule on the proffered Settlement. In the second phase, the Commission would address the unresolved issue of decoupling.

On October 28, 2011, the NW Energy Coalition (Coalition) filed a proposed hearing schedule for the Commission's consideration of the decoupling issue. The Coalition suggests, among other things, that discovery in this portion of the proceeding be conducted pursuant to the Commission's rules allowing ten business days for responses to data requests. Also on October 28, 2011, the Public Counsel Section of the Washington Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel) filed a response to the Coalition's proposal. Public Counsel opposes the ten-day response time for data requests, arguing that the Coalition's abbreviated procedural schedule will necessitate reducing the response time to five days. On November 2, 2011, the Coalition filed its opposition to Public Counsel's recommended five-day response time.

In its proposed procedural schedule, the Coalition also suggests that the Commission hold an evidentiary hearing in this phase of the proceeding on January 26-27, 2012. However, the Commission's schedule conflicts with these dates. Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds it necessary to convene a prehearing conference to resolve these issues.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a prehearing conference in this matter at 10:00 a.m., on November 14, 2011, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.

Sincerely,

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER
Administrative Law Judge