

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of

AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a AVISTA
UTILITIES,

Petitioner,

For an Order Establishing Compliance with
the Provisions of RCW 80.08.040, with
Respect to its Proposal to issue up to \$600
million of Debt Securities.

DOCKET U-190554

ORDER 01

ESTABLISHING COMPLIANCE
WITH RCW 80.08.040,
SECURITIES

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 26, 2019, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a statement of a planned debt securities issuance and application for an order affirming compliance with RCW 80.08.040 (Application). In its Application, Avista proposes to issue and sell up to \$600 million of Debt Securities through public offerings, or private placement. The Application is filed pursuant to RCW 80.08.040.
- 2 Avista filed with its Application: (1) a certification by an authorized officer that the proceeds will be used for one or more purposes allowed by RCW 80.08.030; (2) a description of the proposed issuance, including the terms of financing; and (3) a statement as to why the proposed sale of securities is in the public interest. The Company contends that the issuance is in the public interest because the proceeds will be used to finance the cost of acquiring, constructing, improving, and maintaining its facilities.
- 3 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the Company's Application and determined that it meets the requirements set out in RCW 80.08.040. Accordingly, Staff recommends the Commission grant the Company's Application and issue an order finding that the Company has complied with RCW 80.08.040.

DISCUSSION

4 We grant Avista's Application for an order finding that its planned securities issuance complies with RCW 80.08.040. The statute requires that a regulated utility, prior to issuing a security, must file with the Commission:

- (1) A description of the purposes for which the issuance is made, including a certification by an officer authorized to do so, that the proceeds from any such financing is for one or more of the purposes allowed by RCW 80.08.030;¹
- (2) A description of the proposed issuance, including the terms of financing; and
- (3) A statement as to why the transaction is in the public interest.

5 RCW 80.08.040 further provides that any utility that makes such a filing may request the Commission to enter a written order establishing that the utility has complied with the requirements set out above. The statute requires the Commission to enter such an order when the utility has provided all information and statements as required.

6 We find that Avista has satisfied the statutory requirements. The Company's planned securities issuance includes a description of the purposes for which the issuance is made, including a certification by an authorized officer that the proceeds will be used for one or more purposes allowed by RCW 80.08.030; a description of the proposed issuance, including the terms of financing; and a statement as to why the proposed sale of securities is in the public interest. Accordingly, we grant the Company's Application.

7 Within five months from the end of Avista's reporting period, the Company must file with the Commission an annual securities transaction report that complies with the minimum reporting requirements set out in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-90-262 and WAC 480-100-262.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

8 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts,

¹ RCW 80.08.030 provides that a public service company may issue stock for a limited number of purposes, including the construction, completion, extension, or improvement of its facilities, or the improvement or maintenance of its service.

securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric and gas companies.

- 9 (2) Avista is engaged in the business of providing electric and natural gas service within the state of Washington. As a public service company, it is subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 10 (3) On June 26, 2019, Avista filed with the Commission a statement of a planned securities issuance and Application for an order affirming compliance with RCW 80.08.040. The Application includes: (1) a certification by an authorized officer that the proceeds will be used for one or more purposes allowed by RCW 80.08.030; (2) a description of the proposed issuance, including the terms of financing, and (3) a statement as to why the proposed sale of securities is in the public interest, consistent with the requirements set out in RCW 80.08.040.
- 11 (4) After reviewing the information and application Avista filed in Docket U-190554 on June 26, 2019, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that Avista's Application meets the requirements of RCW 80.08.040.
- 12 (5) Within five months from the end of its reporting period, Avista must file a securities transaction report that complies with WAC 480-90-262 and WAC 480-100-262.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities has complied with the requirements of RCW 80.08.040 with respect to the proposals in its Application to issue and sell up to \$600 million of Debt Securities through public offerings, or private placement.
- 14 (2) This Order shall in no way affect the authority of the Commission over rates, services, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determination of costs, or any matters that may come before it. Nor shall anything in this Order be construed as an agreement to any estimate or determination of costs, or any valuation of property claimed or asserted.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective September 12, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON,
Executive Director and Secretary