Agenda Date: January 13, 2022

Item Number: A1

Docket: UE-210832

Company: Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities

Staff: Jennifer Snyder, Regulatory Analyst

Recommendation

Issue an order granting Avista Corporation's request to extend the approval date of the draft all-source request for proposals from January 14, 2022, to January 31, 2022, by issuing an exemption to WAC 480-107-017(4).

Background

On November 1, 2021, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a Draft 2022 All-Source Request for Proposals (RFP).

On November 9, 2021, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity to Provide Written Comments. Consistent with WAC 480-107-017(2), the public participation schedule includes a 45-day period for public review and comments. Per WAC 480-107-017(4), the Commission "will approve, approve with conditions, or suspend the filed RFP... within seventy-five days after the utility files its RFP," which is January 14, 2022.

On January 5, 2022, Avista filed a request for an exemption to WAC 480-107-017(4) so that the Commission may withhold action on the 2022 All-Source RFP until a later date.

Discussion

Avista plans to file a revised RFP that will not only incorporate revisions based on stakeholder comments in this docket but will modify the resource need to incorporate a recent large resource acquisition. Staff agrees with the Company that this is a significant change to the RFP which will require additional time for stakeholder review. Staff recommends the Commission take action to approve, approve with conditions, or suspend the RFP at the January 27, 2022, open meeting.

Staff has notified stakeholders who filed comments in this docket about the possible delay of Commission action on the RFP and has heard no objections.

Conclusion

Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order granting Avista's request to extend the approval date of the draft all-source request for proposals from January 14, 2022, to January 31, 2022, by issuing an exemption to WAC 480-107-017(4).