

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET NO. UE-050482
TRANSPORTATION	)	
COMMISSION,	)	DOCKET NO. UG-050483
	)	
Complainant,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
v.	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Avista Corp. d/b/a/ Avista Utilities	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
	)	AND ORDER OF
Respondent.	)	CONSOLIDATION
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

1 On March 30, 2005, Avista Corp. d/b/a/ Avista Utilities, “The Company” filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-28 and Tariff WN U-29. The proposed revisions to its tariffs are:

4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 1	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 1
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 11	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 11
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 21	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 21
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 25	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 25
1 <sup>st</sup> Revision Sheet 25A	Canceling	Original Sheet 25A
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 31	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 31
3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 41	Canceling	2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision Sheet 41
3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 42	Canceling	2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision Sheet 42
3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 42A	Canceling	2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision Sheet 42A
3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 44	Canceling	2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision Sheet 44
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 45	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 45
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 46	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 46
3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 47	Canceling	2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision Sheet 47
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 47A	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 47A
2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision Sheet 70F	Canceling	1 <sup>st</sup> Revision Sheet 70F
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 101	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 101

4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 111	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 111
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 112	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 112
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 121	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 121
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 122	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 122
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 131	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 131
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 132	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 132
4 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 146	Canceling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revision Sheet 146
6 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 150	Canceling	5 <sup>th</sup> Revision Sheet 150
2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision Sheet 170F	Canceling	1 <sup>st</sup> Revision Sheet 170F

- 2 The stated effective date is May 1, 2005. The purpose of the filing is to increase its rates and charges for its electric and natural gas service to its customers in the State of Washington. With this filing, the Company, requests an electric rate increase of \$35.8 Million or 11.4% and a natural gas rate increase of \$2.9 Million or 1.7%, to be implemented at the end of the general rate case proceedings.
- 3 The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by Avista Utilities. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Avista Utilities has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, and reasonable.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including electric and natural gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW; and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*

- 5 (2) Avista Utilities is an electric and natural gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 6 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 27, 2005.
- 7 (4) The tariff revisions filed by Avista Utilities on March 30, 2005, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Avista Utilities, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 8 (5) Avista Utilities has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 9 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Avista Utilities' books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Avista Utilities' property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Avista Utilities' operations.
- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (4), Avista Utilities bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 11 (8) Avista Utilities may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

**ORDER**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The tariff revision(s) filed on March 30, 2005, are suspended.
- 13 (2) The matters are consolidated for hearing and determination pursuant to  
WAC 480-07-320.
- 14 (3) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be  
required.
- 15 (4) Avista Utilities must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket  
during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 16 (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of Avista Utility's books,  
accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described  
above.
- 17 (6) Avista Utilities shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and  
allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements  
for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20  
RCW.
- 18 (7) As required by WAC 480-80-125, Avista must supply a notice to all  
affected customers in the form and manner specified in WAC 480-90-125.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective 27th day of April, 2005.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner