

**BEFORE THE  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION	)	DOCKET UE-110876
	)	
Complainant,	)	and
	)	
v.	)	DOCKET UG-110877
	)	
AVISTA CORPORATION d/b/a	)	
AVISTA UTILITIES	)	JOINT MOTION FOR AN ORDER
	)	REVISING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
Respondent.	)	FOR DECOUPLING PHASE
.....)	)	

Come now, Avista Corporation (“Avista” or the “Company”), the Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“Staff”), the Public Counsel Section of the Washington Office of Attorney General (“Public Counsel”), Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (“ICNU”), and The Energy Project, (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Joint Parties”), and respectfully move the Commission for an Order revising the procedural schedule for the decoupling phase of these consolidated dockets.<sup>1</sup> This Joint Motion is based on the following:

1. By notice, dated December 20, 2011, the Commission established a procedural schedule for the decoupling phase of these consolidated dockets. (Previously, on December 16, 2011, the Commission issued its Order approving the Settlement Stipulation resolving all other issues in Avista’s general rate filing, with the exception of decoupling.)

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<sup>1</sup> The Northwest Energy Coalition (NWEC) does not join this Motion as it believes the current schedule is adequate, and it does not wish to further delay resolution of this case. However, as the moving parties have accommodated NWEC’s scheduling needs with the June 4 hearing date, NWEC does not oppose this Motion. The Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU), the only other party to these dockets, has represented that it does not plan to participate, insofar as the docket addresses electric decoupling, and accordingly does not object to this Motion.

2. The Commission also has before it Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) general rate case (Docket No. (s) UE-111048 and UG-111049), which has been the subject of evidentiary hearings and is now in the briefing phase. Electric decoupling is also an issue in that proceeding, and many of the same parties who have filed testimony in Avista's decoupling case have also done so in the PSE dockets, raising many of the same issues and concerns. The PSE schedule will result in a decision on decoupling prior to May 14, 2012, which is the end of their statutory suspension period. This decision will occur well in advance of any final decision in Avista's decoupling docket. Indeed, the existing schedule in Avista's case calls for evidentiary hearings on April 24-25, 2012, with post-hearing briefs filed on May 15, 2012 (after end of PSE's suspension period).

3. The Joint Parties propose revisions to Avista's decoupling procedural schedule that take into account the fact that the Commission will rule, in some fashion, and to some extent, on the decoupling issue first in the PSE case, not in Avista's case. The PSE suspension period ends on May 14, 2012, so presumably, by the first week of May, the Commission will have provided some additional guidance on decoupling based on testimony and briefing in the PSE case.<sup>2</sup> The Joint Parties propose to delay the filing of all rebuttal and cross-answering testimony in the Avista case (now due on March 28, 2012) until after the PSE order has issued. In this way, the parties can take this additional guidance from the Commission into account when they later file their rebuttal/cross-answering in Avista's case. All parties will then have the opportunity to respond to issues raised in the PSE order on decoupling, in the context of Avista's case, rather than having previously filed their rebuttal/cross-answering testimony prior to the PSE order, and with no further opportunity to address

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission has customarily issued its decision at least a week before the end of the suspension period, in order to allow for time to submit and review compliance filings.

any remaining Commission concerns.<sup>3</sup> In short, the interests of all parties will be served and a far better record will be created for the Commission in the Avista case, based on what is decided in the PSE case. In this way, the parties can better address what they understand to be any remaining questions or concerns of the Commission, and develop the record accordingly.

4. Attached is a revised schedule that has been agreed-upon by the Joint Parties, that takes into account the foregoing concerns. The proposed hearing dates of June 4, 2012, and the afternoon of June 14 (if needed) have been confirmed as available dates on the Commission's calendar (and tentatively "held" as such), should this Motion be granted.

Respectfully submitted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2012.

Company:

By: 

David J. Meyer

VP, Chief Counsel for Regulatory and Governmental Affairs

Staff:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Donald T. Trotter

Assistant Attorney General

Public Counsel:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Simon ffitch

Assistant Attorney General

ICNU:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Irion Sanger

Davison Van Cleve, P.C.

The Energy Project:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Ronald Roseman

Attorney at Law

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<sup>3</sup> Moreover, revisions to the Avista procedural schedule at this time will avoid what may be multiple requests at a later date to file supplemental testimony by the parties to take into account the PSE Order, after having previously submitted their final round of rebuttal and cross-answering testimony on March 28, 2012, under the existing schedule.

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VP, Chief Counsel for Regulatory and Governmental  
Affairs

Staff:

By: \_\_\_\_\_ 3/6/2012  
Donald T. Trotter  
Assistant Attorney General

Public Counsel:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Simon ffitch  
Assistant Attorney General

ICNU:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Irion Sanger  
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The Energy Project:

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Ronald Roseman  
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Iriou Sanger  
Davison Van Cleve, P.C.

The Energy Project: By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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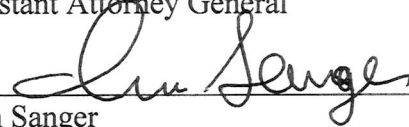
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