

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

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET UG-060614
	)	
Avista Corporation,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING
Seeking Temporary Exemption from	)	TEMPORARY
the Provisions of WAC 480-90-257	)	EXEMPTION FROM
Relating to Commission Basis Report	)	WAC 480-90-257
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On April 20, 2006, Avista Corporation (Avista or the Company) filed a petition requesting temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-257(1).
- 2 WAC 480-90-257 requires natural gas companies to file an annual Commission basis report depicting the operations of a natural gas utility under normal temperature and gas supply conditions during the reporting period. The Commission basis reports are due within four months of the end of a utility’s fiscal year.
- 3 Avista states that due to the Company’s recent general rate case implications and changes in internal staffing, compliance with WAC 480-90-257 would be an administrative burden at this time.
- 4 Commission Staff reviewed the requests and recommended granting Avista’s request for temporary exemption of WAC 480-90-257. The Company’s requests that the due date for filing of the commission basis report for the twelve month period ending December 31, 2005, be extended to May 31, 2006.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including natural gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040, Chapter 80.04 RCW, Chapter 80.28 RCW, Chapter 80.08 RCW and Chapter 80.12 RCW.*

- 6 (2) Avista is engaged in the business of providing natural gas services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the provisions of Chapter 80.28 RCW.
- 7 (3) Avista is subject to the provisions of WAC 480-90-257, requiring natural gas companies to depict the natural gas operations of the natural gas utility under normal temperature and gas supply conditions during the reporting period. The Commission basis reports are due within four months of the end of a utility's fiscal year.
- 8 (4) WAC 480-90-008 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in Chapter 480-90 WAC, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 9 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 26, 2006.
- 10 (6) After review of the petition filed in Docket UG-060614 by Avista on April 20, 2006, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the temporary exemption is reasonable and should be granted.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 11 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Avista Corporation is granted a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-257 (1) which requires that Commission basis reports are due within four months of the end of a utility's fiscal year.
- 12 (2) The due date for the Commission basis report for the twelve month period ending December 31, 2005, is temporarily extended until May 31, 2006.
- 13 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Avista Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

*14* 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 April 26, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary