

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

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET UG-101982
	)	
AVISTA CORPORATION,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
Seeking Exemption from the	)	
Provisions of WAC 480-90-238(4)	)	
Relating to Integrated Resource	)	ORDER GRANTING
Planning Timing	)	EXEMPTION FROM RULE
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On December 9, 2010, Avista Corporation (Avista) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting an exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4).
  
- 2     WAC 480-90-238(4) requires electric companies and each natural gas utility to submit an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) within two years after the date on which the previous plan was filed with the Commission.
  
- 3     Avista stated that the current natural gas IRP due date falls on December 31 of odd-numbered years and has requested a change to August 31 of even-numbered years. The current schedule creates a conflict with Avista’s Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) filings and gas procurement planning, which both occur in the fall of each year. The change would also create a stagger between the electric IRP and natural gas IRP, allowing for better participation in the technical advisory groups of both integrated resource plans.
  
- 4     Staff has reviewed the request and participated in discussions with Avista and the Commission Staff of Idaho and Oregon to reach a consensus on the filing timeline. The natural gas IRP will be due in all three jurisdictions on the same schedule.

**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, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.*

- 6 (2) Avista is engaged in the business of providing gas services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) Avista is subject to WAC 480-90-238(4), which requires gas companies to submit an IRP within two years after the date on which the previous plan was filed with the Commission.
- 8 (4) Under WAC 480-90-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-90, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. *See also WAC 480-07-110.*
- 9 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 30, 2010.
- 10 (6) After reviewing Avista's petition filed in Docket UG-101982 on December 9, 2010 and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is reasonable and should be granted.

## **O R D E R**

### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 11 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Avista Corporation is granted an exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4), requiring Avista to submit a natural gas IRP within two years after which the previous plan was filed with the Commission.
- 12 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Avista Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

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 this December 30, 2010.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary