

**Docket Nos. UE-220053, UG-220054, and UE-210854  
(Consolidated) - Vol. III**

**WUTC v. Avista Corporation**

**June 21, 2022**



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	Dockets UE-220053,
vs.	)	UG-220054, UE-210854
	)	(Consolidated)
AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a	)	
AVISTA UTILITIES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

VIRTUAL PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANDREW O'CONNELL

VOLUME III

June 21, 2022

11:02 a.m.

Pages 71-80

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1 JUNE 21, 2022

2 11:02 A.M.

3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Good morning. The time is  
4 approximately 11:00 a.m. My name is Andrew O'Connell. I  
5 am the administrative law judge with the Washington --  
6 sorry, Washington Utilities and Transportation  
7 Commission. I'm presiding along with the commissioners  
8 in this matter, Dockets UE-220053, UG-220054, and  
9 UE-210845. Excuse me one moment. I might have gotten  
10 that docket number wrong. I believe it is UE-210854. My  
11 apologies.

12 So these are Avista's 2022 general rate case and  
13 Avista's electric service reliability reporting plan.

14 Okay. Let's begin with appearances, starting  
15 with a Avista.

16 MR. MEYER: Thank you. Am I being heard?

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes.

18 MR. MEYER: Okay. Thank you. Appearing for  
19 Vista, David Meyer. Thank you.

20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: And for Staff.

21 MR. CALLAGHAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 Nash Callaghan, assistant attorney general, on  
23 behalf of Commission Staff.

24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Public counsel.

25 MS. SUETAKE: Good morning. Nina Suetake,

1 assistant attorney general, on behalf of public counsel  
2 unit. I'm joined by Ann Paisner.

3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

4 And the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers.

5 MS. MOSER: Sommer Moser on behalf of AWEC.

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: And for Northwest Energy  
7 Coalition.

8 MS. HARDWICK: Good morning. This is Ellie  
9 Hardwick for NWECA.

10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

11 For the Energy Project.

12 MR. ZAKAI: Good morning. This is Yochi Zakai  
13 with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger on behalf of the Energy  
14 Project or TEP.

15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

16 And for the Sierra Club.

17 JIM DENNISON: Good morning. This is Jim  
18 Dennison with Sierra Club.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

20 For Walmart.

21 MS. BALDWIN: Good morning. This is Vicki  
22 Baldwin for Walmart.

23 JUDGE O'CONNELL: And for Small Business  
24 Utility Advocates.

25 MR. WINMILL: Jeff Winmill on behalf of SBUA.

1 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

2 So the parties informed the commission on  
3 June 10 that you had reached a full, multiparty  
4 settlement. And you requested the commission suspend the  
5 current procedural schedule and hold a status conference  
6 to establish a new schedule.

7 I suspended the procedural schedule. And  
8 today's status conference will be for discussing the new  
9 agreed procedural schedule that the parties have shared  
10 with me.

11 I have only a few questions for the parties.

12 First, Mr. Meyer, are there any additions or  
13 changes to the parties' proposed schedule?

14 MR. MEYER: Not that I'm aware of.

15 In part, after we hear from public counsel as to  
16 what items they would litigate, if any, then we can, I  
17 think, turn to that. But it would be good to know what  
18 the playing field is at the outset.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

20 Yes. I wanted to turn to public counsel next.

21 It had been my understanding that public counsel  
22 had not yet decided whether it would join in part or  
23 contest the settlement.

24 Let me turn to you, Ms. Suetake.

25 Are there any updates from public counsel?

1 MS. SUETAKE: At this time we are still in the  
2 process of working through our approval process. So I  
3 don't have an update for you right now.

4 I think given -- we have not, thus far, been  
5 wholly supportive of the entire settlement.

6 But we -- as we work through our settlement  
7 authority process, I can't tell you whether or not that's  
8 100 percent going to stay the same.

9 But just as a matter of scheduling, I think it  
10 would be safe to continue on with the settlement proposed  
11 schedule as if we are going to litigate, rather than try  
12 to change the schedule later on.

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. I agree with  
14 you. I think it's appropriate to set the schedule  
15 affording you the opportunity to contest and the settling  
16 parties the opportunity to respond to that opposition.

17 If those circumstances change, we would expect  
18 that the parties will inform the commission.

19 I see that the proposed date for settlement  
20 hearing is the former date for the evidentiary hearing.  
21 The commission still has this date available. So I don't  
22 have -- the commission doesn't have any objection to  
23 keeping that date.

24 Is there anything else regarding the procedural  
25 schedule that we should state on the record at this time?



1 MS. SUETAKE: Your Honor, just that the  
2 parties have agreed to reduce the response time to data  
3 requests to five days once the stipulation is filed-- or  
4 once the testimony in support of the stipulation is  
5 filed.

6 So that would be July 8th, which is a bit  
7 earlier in the process than what normally happens.

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. I've made that  
9 note for myself.

10 Was there anything else that we need to make  
11 sure that we state on the record about the procedural  
12 schedule?

13 Okay. Hearing nothing.

14 I expect to confirm the proposed dates with the  
15 commissioners and issue a notice of adopting the parties  
16 proposed schedule. And that will happen within the next  
17 day or two.

18 Is there anything else from the parties that we  
19 need to address today?

20 MR. MEYER: Not from Avista's perspective.

21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I'm seeing head shaking. So  
22 I'll wait one more moment if anyone is trying to unmute  
23 their microphone.

24 Okay. Thank you. I will issue a notice  
25 adopting the proposed schedule. And with that, we are

1 adjourned. Thank you.

2 (Videoconference proceedings  
3 adjourned at 11:09 a.m.)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
COUNTY OF KITSAP

I, Carisa Kitselman, a Certified Court Reporter  
in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify  
that the foregoing transcript of the videoconference  
hearing, on JUNE 21, 2022, is true and accurate to the  
best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
and seal this 6th day of July, 2022.

Carisa Kitselman  
CARISA KITSELMAN, RPR, CCR #2018

