

December 7, 2010

NOTICE SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Complainant, v. Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities, Docket PG-082253*

TO ALL PARTIES:

On June 8, 2010, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) initiated a complaint against Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista) alleging that Avista committed various violations of statute and rules governing the operation of a system for transporting natural gas. On July 15, 2010, the Commission convened a prehearing conference at which time the parties agreed to a procedural schedule adopted by the Commission in Prehearing Conference Order, Order 01, entered July 20, 2010.

On December 7, 2010, all parties to this proceeding, (*i.e.*, Avista and Commission Staff¹) filed a letter indicating that the parties had reached a settlement, in principle, of all issues in this proceeding, and plan to file the settlement documents by December 30, 2010. As a result, the Commission determines it should suspend the current procedural schedule pending filing of the settlement documents.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE THAT it suspends the current procedural schedule in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER
Administrative Law Judge

¹ In formal proceedings, such as this, the Commission's regulatory staff participates like any other party, while the Commissioners make the decision. To assure fairness, the Commissioners, the presiding administrative law judge, and the Commissioners' policy and accounting advisors do not discuss the merits of this proceeding with the regulatory staff, or any other party, without giving notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. *See RCW 34.05.455.*