

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION'S

Renewable Energy Target Progress
Report under RCW 19.285.070 and WAC
480-109-210

DOCKET UE-170682

ORDER 01

ORDER APPROVING
COMPLIANCE WITH ELIGIBLE
RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
FOR 2017

BACKGROUND

- 1* The Energy Independence Act (EIA or Act)¹ requires qualifying electric utilities to obtain certain percentages of their electricity from eligible renewable resources. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) enforces compliance with the EIA by investor-owned utilities.² Ultimately, the Commission must determine “whether the utility has generated, acquired or arranged to acquire enough renewable energy credits or qualifying generation to comply with its renewable resource target.”³
- 2* The Commission has implemented these requirements by establishing a two-step compliance process.⁴ Because a utility may comply with its renewable portfolio standards (RPS) obligation by using RECs acquired in the year after the target year, ultimate compliance for 2017, for example, may be demonstrated as late as June 1, 2019. Accordingly, there will be two Commission decisions for each year’s compliance: (1) a determination that the Company has enough resources to meet the nine percent target; and (2) the retrospective compliance decision. Before the Commission is the initial resource-adequacy filing made by Avista Corporation (Avista or Company) for its 2017 obligation. The Commission will consider Avista’s compliance with its 2017 target when Avista requests such a finding, which the Company must do through a filing in this docket no later than June 1, 2019.

¹ RCW Chapter 19.285.

² RCW 19.285.060(6).

³ WAC 480-109-210(3)(b).

⁴ WAC 480-109-210(1) and (6).

3 On June 1, 2017, Avista filed with the Commission its 2017 RPS Report. On July 11, 2017, Avista filed a revised report to correct its historical load information. The 2017 target was reduced to 504,050 megawatt-hours (MWh) from the target of 506,400 MWh identified in the original report. Table 1, below, summarizes Avista’s 2017 target and the total amount of resources that the Company had acquired by January 1, 2017:

Table 1: Avista’s 2017 Renewable Resource Target and Compliance Plan

2017 Target (MWh)	Incremental Hydro (MWh)	2016 RECs	2017 RECs	Purchased RECs	Total Resources (MWh)
504,050	192,039	0 ⁵	314,361	N/A	506,400 ⁶

4 Avista seeks an order from the Commission confirming that the Company has complied with the Commission’s EIA reporting requirements and accepting the Company’s calculations and eligibility of the renewable resources identified in the RPS Report for 2017.

5 On June 13, 2017, the Commission issued a Notice inviting interested persons to file written comments on Avista’s RPS Report. During the comment period, the Commission received written comments from Staff and joint written comments from Renewable Northwest and Northwest Energy Coalition (RNW/NWEC). RNW/NWEC commended the Company for meeting its RPS target without relying on alternative compliance methods. Similar to joint comments filed in 2016, the organizations expressed concerns about transparency related to Avista’s incremental cost assumptions.⁷ Avista filed supplementary information regarding the incremental cost calculations in Appendix B, but the data remains part of its confidential filing. RNW/NWEC note this concern, but overall are pleased that the Company met its target, and recommend that the commission approve the report.

6 Based on the information that the Company provided in its RPS Report and supplemental filing, Staff believes that Avista correctly calculated its 2017 RPS target, and that it has acquired sufficient resources to meet that target. Although Commission rules require the Company to document its use of renewable resources under various renewable energy programs in its annual report, Staff requests the Commission require Avista to include

⁵ Avista has no excess Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from 2016 that could be used toward its 2017 target.

⁶ In the Company’s revised report submitted on July 11, 2017, Table 4 identifies 506,400 MWh renewable energy available for compliance (net REC sales).

⁷ Docket UE-160779.

that information in its final compliance report, which will allow Staff to determine whether its resources meet EIA requirements.

- 7 Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order in this docket determining that: (1) the 2017 renewable energy target for Avista is 504,050 MWh; (2) Avista has demonstrated that, by January 1, 2017, the Company acquired at least 504,050 MWh of eligible renewable resources, equivalent RECs, or a combination of the two, sufficient to supply at least nine percent of its load for 2017; (3) Avista has complied with the June 1, 2017, reporting requirements pursuant to WAC 480-109-210; (4) in its final compliance report for 2017 required by WAC 480-109-210(6), Avista must provide details about which certificates were used for its various renewable energy programs.

DISCUSSION

- 8 The Commission accepts Avista's calculation of 504,050 megawatt-hours as the Company's renewable energy target for 2017 and determines that Avista has identified sufficient resources to be able to meet that target. The Commission will make its final determination about whether Avista has met its 2017 target when the Company requests such a finding, no later than June 1, 2019. To assist Staff with determining whether Avista's resources meet EIA eligibility requirements, Avista must provide details about which certificates were used for its various renewable energy programs, as required by WAC 480-109-210(2)(d)(i), in its final compliance report for 2017.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (1) The Commission is an agency of the state of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, practices, and accounts of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 10 (2) Avista is an electrical company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) Avista serves more than 25,000 customers within the State of Washington and is a "qualifying utility" within the meaning of RCW 19.285.030(18).
- 12 (4) Avista has properly calculated its renewable energy target for 2017 to be 504,050 megawatt-hours.
- 13 (5) By January 1, 2017, Avista had acquired sufficient eligible renewable resources to supply at least nine percent of its load for the remainder of 2017.

- 14 (6) Avista has met the reporting requirements of RCW 19.285.070 and WAC 480-109-210. These reporting requirements include Avista's plan for meeting its RPS obligation for the remainder of 2017.
- 15 (7) Pursuant to WAC 480-109-210(5), Avista must provide a summary of its RPS Report to its customers, by bill insert or other suitable method, within 90 days of the date of this Order.
- 16 (8) Pursuant to WAC 480-109-210(6), Avista must file a report no later than June 1, 2019, that lists the certificate numbers in WREGIS for every megawatt-hour and renewable energy credit that Avista retired to meet the January 1, 2017, target.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 17 (1) The Commission accepts the calculation of 504,050 megawatt-hours as the 2017 renewable energy target for Avista Corporation.
- 18 (2) Avista Corporation has identified eligible renewable resources sufficient to supply at least nine percent of its load for 2017.
- 19 (3) Avista Corporation has complied with the June 1, 2017, reporting requirements pursuant to WAC 480-109-210.
- 20 (4) Avista Corporation's final compliance report must list certificate numbers for every renewable energy credit that Avista Corporation retired in the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System and details about which certificates were used for its voluntary renewable energy programs in 2017.
- 21 (5) The Commission Secretary is authorized to accept or approve a filing that complies with the requirements of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 10, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner