

**BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	
)	DOCKET NO. UE-160071
AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a)	DOCKET NO. UG-160072
AVISTA UTILITIES)	
)	
For an Order Authorizing Accounting and)	MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
Ratemaking Treatment of Fees for)	
Payments Made by Residential Customers)	
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Comes now, Avista Corporation (“Avista” or the “Company”), and respectfully moves the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“Commission”) for an Order granting a four-month extension of time, to June 1, 2020, for the deferral of fees paid by the Company related to offering a “Fee-Free Program” for payment of bills by Washington residential customers that use credit and debit cards.

In its original Petition, filed January 12, 2016 and approved by the Commission in Order 01 in the above referenced Docket Nos. on March 24, 2016, Avista sought to defer fees associated with credit and debit card transactions for up to 36 months from the date the program was implemented. Avista’s Fee-Free Program and associated deferral began on February 1, 2017, and based on a 36 month deferral period, will expire on January 31, 2020. At the time of filing, the Company anticipated that an annual level of expense would be known and embedded in a test year for general rate case purposes. The first general rate case that has an annual level of expense, post approval, will be filed shortly.

Avista is contemplating a general rate case filing on or before May 1, 2019, based on a 2018 test year. The Company anticipates a statutory suspension date on or before April 1, 2020,

which is two months after the end of the present deferral time period—i.e., January 31, 2020. Therefore, Avista requests a four month extension of the 36 month deferral period, through May 2020 or until such time new base rates are approved by the Commission. Approval of the continued deferral of these fees would allow the Company appropriate time to pursue recovery of this deferral through a rate case proceeding, and to continue offering fee-free payment processing to Washington residents that use credit and debit cards. As agreed to in its original Petition, Avista will continue to provide updates to the Commission every three months.

WHEREFORE, Avista respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Motion for Extension of Time.

Respectfully submitted this 21 day of March, 2019.

By 
David J. Meyer
VP, Chief Counsel for Regulatory
and Governmental Affairs