

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET UE-152406
)	
)	ORDER 01
AVISTA CORPORATION D/B/A)	
AVISTA UTILITIES,)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
)	STATUTORY NOTICE
)	
For Less Than Statutory Notice in)	
Connection with Tariff Revisions)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 22, 2015, Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, (Avista or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to its currently effective Tariff WN U-28, designated as 11th Revision of Sheet 93, Power Cost Surcharge – Washington. The purpose of the filing is to align the expiration of the current Energy Recovery Mechanism (ERM) rebate with the effective date of the base rates to be established through Docket UE-150204.

- 2 RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require thirty days’ notice to customers prior to the effective date of the tariff. Consistent with this requirement, the tariff sheet bears an effective date of January 22, 2016, but the Company requests that the revision become effective at the same time as the Commission’s determination of new base rates in Docket UE-150204, on less than statutory notice. This is anticipated to be January 11, 2016. Avista requests less than statutory notice to prevent two separate rate changes in a two week period.

- 3 The currently effective 10th revision of Sheet 93 states that “(t)he energy charges will be reduced for a twelve month period, from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.” However, on December 21, 2015, Judge Friedlander advised the parties in Avista’s general rate case, Docket Nos. UE-150204 and UG-150205, that new base rates will not be implemented by January 1, 2016. Absent Commission action, the expiration of the ERM credit, and thus a rate increase, will occur less than two weeks prior to the statutory deadline of January 11, 2016, for the Commission to enter an order establishing new base rates.

DISCUSSION

4 The Commission agrees that the proposed tariff revision should become effective on less than statutory notice. The extension of the ERM rebate by, at most, 11 days properly aligns the rate change related to the expiration of the ERM rebate with the rate change related to the forthcoming Commission Order in Dockets UE-150204 and UG-150205 establishing new base rates. This alignment avoids Avista ratepayers having to experience two separate rate changes in a two-week period.

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 the rates, regulations, and practices of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 6 (2) Avista is an electric company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) Electric companies must provide 30 days' notice of any changes to their rates, charges, or services. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may allow changes without requiring thirty days' notice by order specifying the changes to be made and the time when the Order shall take effect.
- 8 (4) Avista reasonably requests less than statutory notice for its proposed extension of the expiration of its ERM rebate.
- 9 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 30, 2015.
- 10 (6) After reviewing Avista's proposed tariff revision filed on December 22, 2015, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed tariff revision should be allowed to become effective January 1, 2016.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities' request for less than statutory notice is
granted.
- 12 (2) The tariff revision Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities filed on December 22,
2015, will be effective on January 1, 2016.

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 December 30, 2015.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary