

Agenda Date: July 29, 2021
Item Number: E11

Docket: UE-210486
Company: Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities

Staff: Jennifer Snyder

Recommendation

Issue an order in Docket UE-210486 granting Avista Corporation's petition for waiver of WAC 480-107-017(1).

Background

WAC 480-107-017(1) requires that when a utility files an integrated resource plan (IRP) with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) that identifies a resource need within the following four years, the utility must file a proposed request for proposals (RFP) and accompanying documentation with the Commission within 120 days.

Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) filed its 2021 IRP with the Commission on April 1, 2021. The Company filed this petition on June 29, 2021, which requests an extension of the date they are required to file an RFP from August 1, 2021, to November 1, 2021.

Discussion

Commission staff has reviewed the petition and has no concerns in delaying the filing of the RFP. After filing an update to the IRP on April 29, 2021, that included recent resource acquisitions, Avista's identified resource need in 2025 is for 100 MW of clean energy.

The primary reason for extending the timeline of the RFP is that additional time will allow both Avista and bidders to have a greater understanding of the ability of certain resources to provide reliable capacity based on regional resource adequacy metrics. The Northwest Power Pool is currently determining the planning reserve margin and effective load carrying capability (ELCC) it will use for its regional resource adequacy program. Additional data inputs from this collaborative process may be available and useful in updating ELCC values for the RFP if the extension is granted.

An extension would also allow for additional time for the independent evaluator to assist in design of the RFP. Avista currently has a request for approval of their selected independent evaluator filed with the Commission in Docket UE-210545, as required in WAC 480-107-023. The petition for approval will be heard at the August 12 open meeting.

Recommendation

Issue an order in Docket UE-210486 granting Avista Corporation's petition for waiver of WAC 480-107-017(1) extending the filing date of the RFP until November 1, 2021.