

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of)	DOCKET UG-121584
)	
AVISTA CORPORATION,)	ORDER 01
)	
)	
To Amend its Certificate of Public)	
Convenience and Necessity to Operate a)	
Gas Plant for Hire within Franklin County)	ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 25, 2012, in compliance with RCW 80.28.190 Avista Corporation (Avista or the Company) filed an application to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire, to include an additional area in Franklin County which is contiguous to its presently certified area. (Exhibits A¹ & B²).

- 2 Avista is presently certificated for and is now providing gas service in Franklin County. Avista is requesting a certificate to expand the service area in and around the town of Connell. The additional area requested is contiguous to the existing certificated area.³

- 3 This filing requests no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility to service this addition to Avista’s service area, and recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with the treatment of same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Avista’s results of operation for ratemaking purposes.

- 4 It appears that Avista is best suited to serve the requested service territory economically, therefore, the application should be granted to satisfy the public convenience and necessity. No other gas provider is currently serving the area proposed for service in this application by Avista.

¹ Feasibility Study, Exhibit A, Docket UG-121584, (September, 25, 2012).

² Legal Description and Map, Exhibit B, Docket UG-121584, (September, 25, 2012).

³ Ibid.

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 rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including gas companies. RCW 80.01.040; RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.
- 6 (2) Avista is a gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 7 (3) RCW 80.28.190 states no gas company shall operate in this state any gas plant for hire without first having obtained from the Commission a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity requires or will require such operation and setting forth the area or areas within which service is to be rendered.
- 8 (4) Avista has previously been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate a gas plant for hire.
- 9 (5) Avista has filed an application to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to include an additional area in Franklin County. This area is contiguous to Avista's presently certificated area.
- 10 (6) Commission Staff has reviewed the Company's application and recommends the operation of a gas plant for hire in the additional area requested is required for the public convenience and necessity.
- 11 (7) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 8, 2012.
- 12 (8) After review of the request filed in Docket UG-121584 by Avista and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public convenience and necessity that the Certificate of Avista be amended to reflect the addition of areas in and around the town of Connell in Franklin County.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The application of Avista to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire within the certificated area in Franklin County is granted and the Certificate shall be in accordance with the attached Exhibit A.
- 14 (2) This Order makes no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility to serve this addition to Avista's service area, and recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with treatment of same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Avista's results of operations for ratemaking purposes.
- 15 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Avista to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Executive Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 8, 2012.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary