

**BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of AVISTA CORPORATION, D/B/A AVISTA UTILITIES, For an Order Approving Avista’s Update of its Base Power Supply and Transmission Costs.)))))))))	DOCKET NO. UE-061411 MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME OF THE INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS OF NORTHWEST UTILITIES AND THE PUBLIC COUNSEL SECTION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE
--	---	---

1 Pursuant to WAC § 480-07-385, the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (“ICNU”) and the Public Counsel Section of the Attorney General’s Office (“Public Counsel”) move the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“WUTC” or the “Commission”) to grant an extension of time of approximately two months, until March 12, 2007, for Staff, Public Counsel, and intervenors to file response testimony in the above-captioned proceeding. ICNU and Public Counsel also request that subsequent dates in the procedural schedule be extended accordingly. The entire proposed revised schedule is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2 Good cause exists to grant this request because ICNU and Public Counsel will be unable to participate fully in this proceeding without an extension. In October 2006, ICNU retained an expert witness to sponsor testimony regarding Avista’s petition. This witness reviewed Avista’s testimony and exhibits, drafted discovery requests to submit to the Company, and sent ICNU a bill for this work. On December 5, 2006, however, the witness unexpectedly notified counsel for ICNU that he would no longer be able to serve as ICNU’s witness in this case. Prior to the withdrawal of this witness, ICNU and Public Counsel were in the process of finalizing an agreement to jointly sponsor this witness’ testimony in the event that ICNU and Public Counsel’s motion to dismiss Avista’s filing was not granted. ICNU and Public Counsel

have now been placed in the difficult position of having to locate a replacement witness before the January 12, 2007 due date for response testimony, which is approximately one month away. The intervening holidays have made this task even more difficult.

3 ICNU and Public Counsel have been contacting experts that are familiar with Avista and WUTC proceedings in an effort to identify an expert that could prepare testimony in a timely manner. No expert that ICNU and Public Counsel have contacted, however, has indicated that it will be possible to prepare meaningful testimony by January 12, 2007. ICNU and Public Counsel now have a tentative agreement to retain a replacement witness with substantial experience appearing before the WUTC. This expert will be unable to prepare response testimony until mid-March 2007, however, due to the press of business and scheduling conflicts with other matters. It is for this reason that ICNU and Public Counsel are requesting that the due date for response testimony be extended until March 12, 2007, and that the remainder of the procedural schedule be extended accordingly.

4 Extending the procedural schedule is warranted under these circumstances because ICNU and Public Counsel will be unable to meaningfully participate or contribute to the record without more time to prepare testimony. ICNU and Public Counsel are the only direct representatives of Avista's customers in this proceeding, and allowing meaningful customer participation is in the public interest and will result in a more well-developed record.

5 In addition, no party's interest in this case will be prejudiced by an extension. ICNU and Public Counsel propose to extend all dates in the current procedural schedule by approximately two months. As such, ICNU and Public Counsel propose to allow all parties the same amount of time to submit rebuttal and cross-answering testimony and prepare for hearing as the current schedule allows.

6

Finally, Avista has not alleged any need for extraordinary or immediate rate relief that justifies maintaining the current schedule at the expense of ICNU and Public Counsel's ability to meaningfully participate. Avista sought a shortened schedule in this case on the basis that the Company's petition allegedly is similar to Puget Sound Energy's power cost only rate cases, which were "contemplated" to be completed under a four-month schedule. Avista's current rates took effect on January 1, 2006, and the Company has not alleged that the costs upon which those rates were set are so outdated as to justify authorizing a rate change under a schedule that will not allow customer groups to participate. Even if ICNU's and Public Counsel's requested extension is granted, the entire schedule will cover approximately ten months, which is generally consistent with the schedule for most general rate cases. Avista has not alleged that any exigent circumstance requires Commission action on Avista's petition in a shorter timeframe than provided for in other general rate cases.

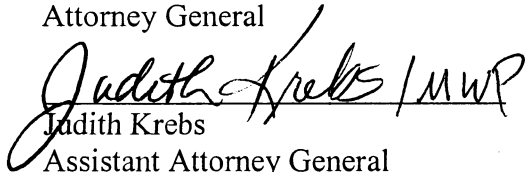
7

WHEREFORE, ICNU and Public Counsel respectfully request that the Commission grant this Motion for Extension of Time.

DATED this 13th day of December, 2006.


Respectfully submitted,

ROB MCKENNA
Attorney General

Handwritten signature of Judith Krebs in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Judith Krebs
Assistant Attorney General
Public Counsel Section
800 5th Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-2079
(206) 464-6595 phone
(206) 389-2079 fax
judyk@atg.wa.gov

DAVISON VAN CLEVE P.C.

Handwritten signature of S. Bradley Van Cleve in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

S. Bradley Van Cleve
Matthew Perkins
333 S.W. Taylor, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 241-7242 phone
(503) 241-8160 fax
mail@dvclaw.com
Of Attorneys for the Industrial Customers
of Northwest Utilities

EXHIBIT A

**ICNU AND PUBLIC COUNSEL
PROPOSED REVISED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
DOCKET NO. UE-061411**

EVENT	CURRENT DATE	PROPOSED DATE
Company Direct Testimony	August 31, 2006	
Settlement Conference for Parties	Parties will determine and advise the Commission of the date selected	
Dispositive Motions	October 27, 2006	
Answers	November 15, 2006	
Responding Evidence	January 12, 2007	March 12, 2007
Company, Cross-rebuttal and Answering Testimony	January 30, 2007	March 30, 2007
Prehearing Conference	February 8, 2007	April 4, 2007
Hearing	February 12 – 15, 2007	April 11-13, 2007
Public Hearing	To be determined	To be determined
Simultaneous Briefs	March 6, 2007	May 4, 2007