

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF AVISTA’S ANNUAL)	CASE NO. AVU-E-24-05
RATE ADJUSTMENT FILING FOR)	
ELECTRIC LINE EXTENSION SCHEDULE)	NOTICE OF APPLICATION
51)	
)	NOTICE OF MODIFIED
)	PROCEDURE
)	
)	NOTICE OF INTERVENTION
)	DEADLINE
)	
)	ORDER NO. 36154

On March 29, 2024, Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities (“Company”) applied for Commission approval of an update in costs and administrative changes to the Company’s Electric Line Extension Schedule 51 (“Application”). The Company requested a May 15, 2024, effective date and that its Filing be processed by Modified Procedure.

The Commission now issues this Notice of Application, Notice of Intervention Deadline, and sets dates for public comments and the Company’s reply.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Schedule 51 incorporates average costing for electrical facilities commonly used to extend service. Schedule 51 sets forth “Basic and Exceptional Costs” that have a fixed and variable component, with the variable component stated on a cost-per-foot basis. These Basic and Exceptional Costs apply to facilities like transformers and conduit and are based on recent average costs. The Company represents average costing works well and does not propose to change the conceptual structure of the tariff in the Application.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that in compliance with Order No. 35757 the Company included workpapers detailing the “hours, materials, and vehicle support for each job.” Application at 3. Actual work order estimates were also included for each job type.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company updated the allowances for new residential, industrial, and commercial customers’ services. The updated allowances are based on an embedded cost method which seeks to ensure investments in facilities for new customers track

embedded costs included in base rates. Costs that exceed the allowance must be paid by the customer and will be booked as a contribution in aid of construction. The embedded costs are based on cost-of-service study used for the Settlement approved in Case No. AUV-E-23-01. The proposed changes are as follows:

<u>Service Schedule</u>	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Schedule 1 Individual Customer per unit	\$ 2,095	\$ 2,475
Schedule 1 Duplex per unit	\$ 1,675	\$ 1,980
Schedule 1 Multiplex per unit	\$ 1,260	\$ 1,490
Schedule 11/12 per kWh	\$ 0.16986	\$ 0.19321
Schedule 21/21 per kWh	\$ 0.15731	\$ 0.17749
Schedule 31/32 per kWh	\$ 0.27217	\$ 0.31838

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company is not proposing to update the Construction and Material Standards because the current standards comply with and reflect the most recent National Electric Safety Code. The Company does propose to update the primary, secondary, service, and transformer average cost as follows:

	<u>Present¹</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<u>Overhead Primary Circuit</u>		
Fixed Cost	\$ 4,875	\$ 5,379
Variable Cost	\$ 9.63	\$ 10.69
<u>Underground Primary Circuit</u>		
Fixed Costs	\$ 2,232	\$ 2,516
Variable Costs	\$ 13.07	\$ 13.48
<u>Underground Secondary Circuit</u>		
Fixed Costs	\$ 600	\$ 666
Variable Costs	\$ 14.38	\$ 14.17
<u>Overhead Secondary Circuit</u>		
Fixed Costs	\$ 1,976	\$ 2,212
Overhead Service Circuit	\$ 4.04	\$ 5.02
Underground Service Circuit	\$ 11.41	\$ 10.46
Overhead Transformer	\$ 3,615	\$ 4,436
Padmount Transformer	\$ 7,598	\$ 7,470

¹ The Company's Application mistakenly included the term "Proposed" in this column.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company indicates the primary driver of higher costs are increased labor and transformer cost. The driver of reduced costs for some underground work stems from a reduction in conduit costs. Overall, the Company notes demand outpaces supply in the utility sector, driving prices upward. To highlight this the Company provided the following illustration related to transformer costs:

	December 2021	December 2022	December 2023	22-23 change
Transformer— 25KVA	\$1,700	\$4,820	\$7,095	47.2%
Transformer— 50KVA	\$2,255	\$5,660	\$8,021	41.7%

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company proposed to update its residential development costs to reflect the most current Construction and Material Standards and average 2023 construction costs as follows:

<u>Residential Developments</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Total Cost per Lot	\$ 2,947	\$ 3,358
Less: Service Cost	\$ 572	\$ 525
Developer Responsibility	<u>\$ 2,375</u>	<u>\$ 2,833</u>
Developer Refundable Payment	\$ 2,095	\$ 2,475
Builder Non-Refundable Payment	\$ 852	\$ 883
Allowance	\$ 2,095	\$ 2,475

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company noted it will send notices to potentially affected developers and builders the week of April 8, 2024.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission’s office. The Application is also available on the Commission’s website at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the “ELECTRIC” icon, select “Open Cases,” and click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission’s jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code, and that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Commission has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing in this matter, and that it will proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure 201-204, IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204. The Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment explaining why the person supports or opposes the Application. Persons who would like a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments and explain why written comments alone are insufficient. **Persons interested in filing written comments must do so by May 1, 2024.** Comments must be filed through the Commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is unavailable. To comment electronically, please access the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/>. Click the "Case Comment Form" and complete the form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document.

To file by e-mail, persons must e-mail the comments to the Commission Secretary and all parties at the e-mail addresses listed below. Persons submitting a comment by e-mail must provide their name, address, and the Case Number under which they are commenting. Persons submitting a comment by e-mail also acknowledge that submitting a comment in an open case constitutes a public record under *Idaho Code* § 74-101(13), and all information provided by such person is available for public and media inspection.

If computer access is unavailable, then comments may be mailed to the Commission and the Parties at the addresses below. Persons submitting a comment by mail must provide their name, address, and the Case Number under which they are commenting. Persons submitting a comment by mail also acknowledge that submitting a comment in an open case constitutes a public record under *Idaho Code* § 74-101(13), and all information provided by such person is available for public and media inspection.

**For the Idaho Public Utilities
Commission:**

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
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Boise, ID 83720-0074
secretary@puc.idaho.gov

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For Avista Corporation:

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YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company must file any reply comments **by May 8, 2024.**

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no written comments or protests are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider this matter on its merits and enter its final order without a formal hearing. If written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider them and, in its discretion, may set the same for formal hearing.

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION DEADLINE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to intervene in this matter to obtain parties' rights of participation must file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission pursuant to this Commission's Rules of Procedure 72 and 73, IDAPA 31.01.01.072 and -.073. **Persons who wish to intervene as a party must file a Petition to Intervene no later than 14 days after the date of service of this Order.** Such persons shall also provide the Commission Secretary with their email address to facilitate further communications. After the intervention deadline runs, the Commission Secretary shall issue a Notice of Parties that identifies the parties and assigns exhibit numbers to each party.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons who would like to present their views without parties' rights of participation and cross-examination do not have to intervene but may present their views by submitting written comments to the Commission.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the following people are designated as the Company's representatives in this matter:

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE
NOTICE OF INTERVENTION DEADLINE
ORDER NO. 36154

David Meyer
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ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that persons desiring to intervene in this matter must file a Petition to Intervene no later than 14 days from the service date of this Order. Once the deadline has passed, the Commission Secretary shall prepare and issue a Notice of Parties.

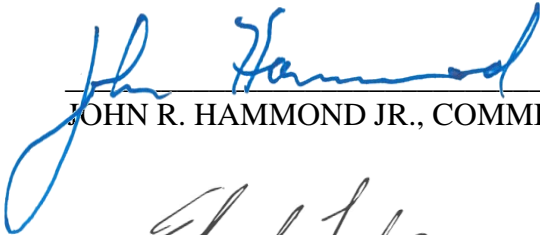
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Application be processed by Modified Procedure, Rules 201-204. Persons interested in filing written comments must do so by May 1, 2024. The Company must file any reply comments by May 8, 2024.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties comply with Order No. 35375, issued April 21, 2022. Generally, all pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and will be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. *See* Rule 14.02. Service between parties should continue to be accomplished electronically when possible. However, voluminous discovery-related documents may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 18th day of April 2024.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

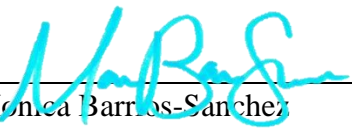


JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER



EDWARD LODGE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Monica Barros-Sanchez
Commission Secretary

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