

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESIDENTIAL) CASE NO. AVU-E-19-08
AND SMALL FARM ANNUAL RATE)
ADJUSTMENT FILING OF AVISTA) NOTICE OF APPLICATION
CORPORATION)
) NOTICE OF
) MODIFIED PROCEDURE
)
) ORDER NO. 34422

On August 1, 2019, Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities (“Avista” or “Company”) applied to the Commission for authorization to implement a Residential and Small Farm Energy rate credit, for rate schedules 1, 12, 22, 32, and 48, of 0.387 cents per kilowatt-hour (“kWh”). Application at 1. Avista states this rate credit would decrease qualifying customers’ rates by \$3.9 million, with the average monthly bill for a residential customer decreasing from \$82.57 to \$79.71. *Id.* Avista requests that the Application be processed under Modified Procedure, and that the proposed rates take effect October 1, 2019. *Id.* at 2, 5.

The Commission now issues this Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure setting comment and reply deadlines.

BACKGROUND

The Residential and Small Farm Energy rate credit results from an agreement between the Company and the Bonneville Power Administration (“BPA”) regarding the Residential Exchange Program. *Id.* at 2. The Residential Exchange Program allows residential and small-farm customers of six Pacific Northwest Utilities, including Avista, to benefit from the federal Columbia River power system. *Id.*

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the current Residential and Small Farm Energy rate credit is 0.069 cents per kWh, and was designed to pass through about \$0.84 million to customers. *Id.* at 3. The proposed rate credit of 0.387 cents per kWh would pass through about \$4.8 million to customers. The rate credit reflects Idaho share of BPA benefits, as offset by any over-refunded balance from the prior year. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the \$4.8 million in BPA benefits would decrease rates for qualifying customers by about \$3.9 million, or 1.6%. *Id.* at 3. This overall rate decrease reflects the difference between this year’s \$4.8 million proposed rate credit and last year’s \$0.84 million rate credit. *Id.* Additionally the proposed rate credit is offset by last year’s over-refunded balance of about \$0.1 million. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company explains the proposed rate credit would not affect its net income. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company indicates it will notify customers about the Application via a news release and a customer notice billing-insert explaining the rate credit. *Id.* at 4.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application, Exhibit A, and supporting documentation have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission’s office. These documents are also available on the Commission’s web site at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the “File Room” tab at the top of the page, then select “Electric Cases” and click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER 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 Rules 201 through 204 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through .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 any person desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment in support or opposition with the Commission no later than **September 10, 2019**. The comment must contain a statement of reasons supporting the comment. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. Written comments concerning this Application shall be mailed to the Commission and the Company at the addresses reflected below:

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Street Address for Express Mail:

472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702-5918

David J. Meyer
Avista Corporation
P.O. Box 3727
MSC-27
1411 E. Mission Ave.
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
E-mail: David.Meyer@avistacorp.com

Patrick Ehrbar
Avista Utilities
P.O. Box 3727
MSC-27
1411 E. Mission Ave.
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
E-mail: Pat.Ehrbar@avistacorp.com

These comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document. Persons desiring to submit comments via e-mail may do so by accessing the Commission's home page located at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Case Comment or Question Form" under the "Consumers" tab, and complete the comment form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. These comments must also be sent to Avista at the e-mail addresses listed above.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Avista may file reply comments, if necessary, no later than **September 17, 2019**.

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 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.

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 specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-502 and 61-503. The Commission may enter any final order consistent with its authority under Title 61.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Application of Avista Utilities be processed by Modified Procedure, Rule 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204). Parties and persons shall have until September 10, 2019 to file written comments, and the Company shall have until September 17, 2019 to file reply comments, if necessary.

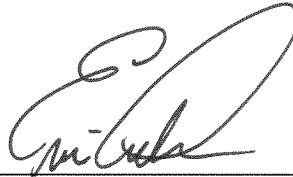
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this *23rd* day of August 2019.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

AVUE1908_ntc app/mod-dh