



**Idaho Public Utilities Commission**

P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074

C.L. Butch Otter, Governor

Paul Kjellander, Commissioner  
Kristine Raper, Commissioner  
Eric Anderson, Commissioner

*Case Nos. AVU-E-17-01 and AVU-G-17-01*

*Contact: Matt Evans, (208) 334-0339 or (208) 520-4763*

[www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov)

## **Public workshops set over proposed rate increases for Avista customers**

**BOISE (Aug. 16, 2017)** – Staff from the Idaho Public Utilities Commission has scheduled workshops in northern Idaho regarding Avista’s proposed rate increases for electric and natural gas service.

The workshops are set for Aug. 30 in Lewiston and Aug. 31 in Coeur D’Alene, and will provide customers with a summary of Avista’s application and information about how the Commission generally evaluates and decides a case.

The workshop in Lewiston is scheduled from 7 pm to 9 pm (PDT) at Lewis-Clark State College, Room 112 in Sacajawea Hall, 710 5<sup>th</sup> St. The Coeur D’Alene workshop is set for 6pm to 8pm at the Coeur D’Alene School District’s Midtown Center Meeting Room, 1505 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St.

Avista serves approximately 125,000 electric customers and 75,000 natural gas customers in northern Idaho.

The Spokane-based company has asked state regulators to approve a proposal that calls for rate increases in 2018 and 2019 for its electric and natural gas customers, in addition to raising the basic monthly charge for each service from \$5.75 to \$6.

If approved as-is, the proposal would lead to an average increase of 7.9 percent for Avista’s electric customers beginning Jan. 1, 2018, and an average 4.2-percent increase effective Jan. 1, 2019.

That equates to a \$7.03 increase in the monthly bill for a residential customer using an average of 910-kilowatt-hours in 2018, and an increase of \$4.02 per month in 2019.

For natural gas customers, Avista’s proposal calls for rates to increase across all customer classes by an average of 5.7 percent in 2018, and an average of 3.3 percent in 2019. For a residential customer using 61 therms per month, that would lead to a monthly increase of \$3.37 in 2018, and \$2.07 in 2019.

If approved in full, the rate changes would increase the company’s revenue by a combined total of \$34.1 million.

Avista said the primary driver of the proposed increases is the need to replace or upgrade its aging infrastructure.

At the public workshops in late August, commission staff will not take a position on the merits of the case. Any information gathered at the workshops may contribute to the report that staff will file, however, and comment sheets will be available for anyone interested in submitting a comment for the official case record.

Following the workshops, commission staff and parties to the cases will participate in a settlement conference on Sept. 29. Parties to the settlement conference include Avista, commission staff, Idaho Conservation League, Sierra Club, Idaho Forest Group and the Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho, which represents primarily customers on low- and fixed-incomes.

A technical hearing has been scheduled for Dec. 8.

Customers interested in providing input for the official case record should file comments. To submit written comments, go to the Commission website, [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov), and click on "Case Comment Form" under the "Electric" or "Natural Gas" heading and enter the case number. Comments can also be mailed to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID, 83720-0074.

Avista's application and exhibits are available on the commission's website. Click on "Open Cases" under the "Electric" or "Natural Gas" heading and scroll down to Case No. AVU-E-17-01 (Electric) or AVU-G-17-01. As the case progresses, testimony and exhibits from commission staff and other parties as well as customer comments will be posted to the website.