

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )</b>	
<b>AVISTA CORPORATION FOR THE )</b>	<b>CASE NO. AVU-E-04-1</b>
<b>AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES AND )</b>	<b>AVU-G-04-1</b>
<b>CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC AND NATURAL )</b>	
<b>GAS SERVICE TO ELECTRIC AND NATURAL )</b>	
<b>GAS CUSTOMERS IN THE STATE OF IDAHO. )</b>	<b>ORDER NO. 29432</b>
)	

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On February 6, 2004, Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities (Avista; Company) filed an Application with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for authority to increase the Company's general rates for electric and natural gas service by averages of 24.1% and 9.2%, respectively. If approved, Company revenues for electric base retail rates would increase by \$35.2 million annually; Company revenues for natural gas service would increase by \$4.7 million annually. Avista is also proposing a reduction in its current Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) surcharge rate. The net amount of actual increase varies by class of customer and by usage. The Company requests Commission authority to increase its rates and charges for electric and natural gas service in the State of Idaho on and after March 10, 2004.

After reviewing the Application in Case Nos. AVU-E-04-1 and AVU-G-04-1, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law and enters its Order as follows:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities has submitted proposed schedules of rates and charges for electric and natural gas service in Idaho to become effective on and after March 10, 2004.

The Commission will be unable to consider the Application before the proposed effective date of March 10, 2004, because of other demands on the Commission's time and because of the complexity of the evidence and issues presented by the Application. The Application is of sufficient importance to require the Commission's investigation of the reasonableness of the proposed rates and charges.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has jurisdiction over Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities and its Application in Case Nos. AVU-E-04-1 and AVU-G-04-1 pursuant to Idaho Code, Title 61 and the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

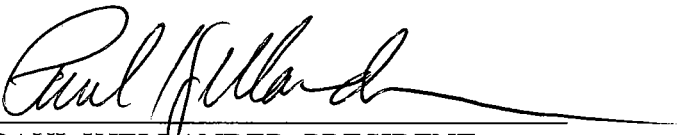
The Commission has authority under *Idaho Code* § 61-622 and 61-623 to suspend the rates which are the subject of this Application for a period of thirty (30) days plus five (5) months from the proposed effective date, March 10, 2004.

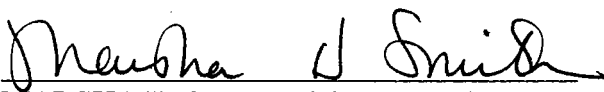
It is necessary to suspend the proposed rates for a period of thirty (30) days plus five (5) months from March 10, 2004, to allow the Commission sufficient time to hear the evidence to be presented in this matter and to consider and determine the issues presented by the Application.

**ORDER**

In consideration of the foregoing and as more particularly described above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the proposed schedules of rates and charges for electric and natural gas service in Case Nos. AVU-E-04-1 and AVU-G-04-1 should be and hereby are suspended for a period of thirty (30) days plus five (5) months, from March 10, 2004, or until such time as the Commission enters an Order accepting, rejecting or modifying the Application in this matter.

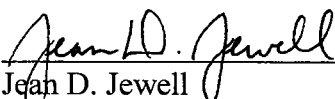
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2004.

  
PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

  
MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

  
DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
Jean D. Jewell  
Commission Secretary

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