## BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF

AVISTA CORPORATION FOR THE

AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES AND

CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC AND NATURAL

GAS SERVICE TO ELECTRIC AND NATURAL

GAS CUSTOMERS IN THE STATE OF IDAHO.

TECHNICAL HEARING

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. A proposed reduction in the Company's current Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) surcharge rate is also requested. The net amount of actual increase varies by class of customer and usage.

Pursuant to Notice, a technical hearing in Case Nos. AVU-E-04-1 and AVU-G-04-1 was held in Boise, Idaho the week of July 19, 2004. Prior to the technical hearing, on July 9, 2004, the Commission Staff filed a Notice of Witness Unavailability and Motion to Delay Witness Testimony. Staff's cost-of-capital witness, Terri Carlock, as a result of injury, was unable to physically attend the scheduled technical hearing. Staff apprised the Commission and parties that Ms. Carlock was the only cost-of-capital witness for Staff and that no other member of the Commission Staff had the background and capability of sponsoring her testimony.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that pursuant to agreement of the parties and the Commission, the Commission will conduct further proceedings and a continued technical hearing in this matter on MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2004, COMMENCING AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE COMMISSION'S HEARING ROOM, 472 WEST WASHINGTON, BOISE, IDAHO for the purpose of receiving the direct testimony of Staff witness Terri Carlock and to provide an opportunity for party cross-examination of Ms. Carlock and related rebuttal (if necessary).

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 the Commission may enter any final Order consistent with its authority under Title 61.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all hearings in this matter will be held in facilities meeting the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons needing the help of a sign language interpreter or other assistance in order to participate in or to understand testimony and argument at a public hearing may ask the Commission to provide a sign language interpreter or other assistance at the hearing. The request for assistance must be received at least five (5) working days before the hearing by contacting the Commission Secretary at:

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION PO BOX 83720 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0074 (208) 334-0338 (Telephone) (208) 334-3762 (FAX)

E-Mail: jjewell@puc.state.id.us

DATED at Boise, Idaho this 29th day of July 2004.

PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

Out of the Office on this Date DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

Jean D. Jewell Commission Secretary

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