# **DECISION MEMORANDUM**

TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER

COMMISSIONER RAPER
COMMISSIONER ANDERSON
COMMISSION SECRETARY

**COMMISSION STAFF** 

**LEGAL** 

FROM: JOHN R. HAMMOND JR.

**DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL** 

DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

SUBJECT: AVISTA GENERAL RATE CASE SCHEDULING - ELECTRIC; CASE

NO. AVU-E-19-04.

This matter comes before the Commission to set the schedule for processing Avista Corporation's ("Avista" or the "Company") general rate case to completion. All parties have agreed upon the proposed schedule set forth below.

#### INTRODUCTION

On June 10, 2019, Avista applied to increase its base rates for electric service it provides to customers in Idaho. Specifically, Avista seeks to increase its electric base revenues by \$5.3 million dollars (2.1%). *Application* at 1. The Company states the proposed rate increase also reflects the present Permanent Federal Income Tax Rate Credit under electric tariff Schedule 72 being consolidated into its base rates. *Id.* Avista requests that the proposed rate increase for electric service in Idaho take effect on January 1, 2020. *Id.* 

On July 1, 2019, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Intervention Deadline and suspended the proposed effective date for any changes in the Company's rates. Order No. 34368. The Idaho Forest Group LLC, Clearwater Paper Corporation, Idaho Conservation League, Walmart Inc. and the Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho intervened as parties. *See* Order Nos. 34369, 34374 & 34394.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The instant Application requests an increase in rates and charges for <u>electric service</u> only. Previously, the Company filed a Notice of Intent to File a Combined Electric and Natural Gas General Rate Case on March 25, 2019.

## PROPOSED RATE CASE SCHEDULE

Based on the parties' Agreement, Staff proposes the following schedule:

Settlement Conference

October 1, 2019

Staff/Intervenor Prefile Direct

November 5, 2019

Testimony

Company Prefile Rebuttal Testimony

November 26, 2019

Technical Evidentiary Hearing

December 17-18, 2019

The parties believe this schedule will enable the Commission to issue its final Order by December 30, 2019, before the proposed effective date of January 1, 2020.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission issue an Order that adopts the schedule above and sets a technical hearing for December 17-18, 2019. Staff also recommends the Commission direct Staff to conduct one or more public informational workshops within the Company's service territory. Lastly, Staff recommends the Commission notify customers that the Commission will schedule one or more public hearings for customers at a later date.

#### **COMMISSION DECISION**

Does the Commission wish to issue an Order that adopts the agreed-upon schedule and sets a technical hearing on the dates set forth above, directs Staff to schedule one or more public workshops, and notifies customers that one or more public hearings will be scheduled at a later date?

John R. Hammond Jr.

Deputy Attorney General

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