

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF AVISTA)	CASE NO. AVU-E-20-05
CORPORATION'S APPLICATION FOR AN)	
ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCOUNTING)	NOTICE OF APPLICATION
AND RATEMAKING TREATMENT OF)	
COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE)	NOTICE OF
COMPANY'S WILDLIFE RESILIENCY)	MODIFIED PROCEDURE
PLAN)	
<hr/>		ORDER NO. 34730

On May 29, 2020, Avista Corporation ("Company") applied for an order authorizing the accounting and ratemaking treatment for the incremental costs the Company will incur due to its Wildfire Resiliency Plan ("WF Plan"). *Application* at 1. The Commission now issues this Notice of Application, Notice of Modified Procedure and Order setting comment and reply deadlines.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED the Company represents that, beginning in June of 2019, it held wildfire workshops to explore how to reduce the wildfire risk associated with the Company's electric transmission and distribution systems. *Id.* at 3.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company developed its WF Plan using information from the workshops, inputs from Company efforts, and information and experience gained from its peers in the energy and forestry industries. *Id.* at 3-4.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company represents the WF Plan details development and implementation of a comprehensive multi-year effort that includes enhanced system hardening and vegetation management efforts aimed at reducing fire ignition events, and other situational awareness and operational efforts. *Id.* at 4.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company asserts the WF Plan is a proactive, strategic, continuous improvement and risk-informed approach to respond to the wildfire risks on the Company's system, encompassing immediate steps and long-term efforts to reduce wildfire risk. *Id.* The Company states the WF Plan specifically aims to:

- Protect lives and property;

- Ensure emergency preparedness and align operating practices with fire threat conditions; and,
- Protect the Company's energy delivery infrastructure.

Id.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company represents the recommendations made in the WF Plan are based on the ability to reduce the risks associated with public and worker safety, the risks to property and infrastructure, and to lessen the impact of electric system outages to customers and the community. *Id.* at 5.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company asserts approval of the proposed incremental costs through cost-recovery is an important element of the Company's WF Plan and helps support the level of wildfire mitigation efforts proposed in it. *Id.* The Company represents its customers' rates currently do not include the proposed incremental costs from the WF Plan and those costs are not otherwise recovered through other mechanisms. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company asks to defer, for later ratemaking treatment, the return on and of incremental capital and expenses related to the Company's WF Plan until the annual costs and capital investment are included in base rates. *Id.* at 20-21.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company will seek a prudence determination and recovery method of the deferred costs in a future Commission proceeding. *Id.* at 1-2.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices. These documents are also available on the Commission's web site at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the "ELECTRIC" tab, then select "Open Cases" and click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

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* §§ 61-501, 61-502 and 61-503.

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.*

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 NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

ORDER NO. 34730

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 persons desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment explaining why the person supports or opposes the Application. Persons who would like a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. **Persons shall have until August 26, 2020, to file written comments.** Comments must be filed by e-mail unless e-mail is unavailable. To comment by e-mail, please access the Commission's home page at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Consumers" tab and then "Case Comment Form" and complete the form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. Comments filed by e-mail must also be e-mailed to the Company at the e-mail addresses listed below. If e-mail is unavailable, then comments may be mailed to the Commission and Company at these addresses:

**For the Idaho Public Utilities
Commission:**

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074
secretary@puc.idaho.gov

Street Address for Express Mail:

11331 W. Chinden Blvd.,
Building 8, Suite 201-A
Boise, ID 83714

For Avista Corporation:

David J. Meyer, Esq.
Patrick D. Ehrbar
Avista Corporation
1411 E. Mission Avenue
P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
David.Meyer@avistacorp.com
pat.ehrbar@avistacorp.com
AvistaDockets@avistacorp.com

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company **must file any reply comments by September 2, 2020.**

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 a formal hearing.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company's Application be processed by Modified Procedure, Rule 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204). Persons shall have until August 26, 2020, to file written comments, and the Company shall have until September 2, 2020, to file any reply comments.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties continue to comply with Order No. 34602, issued March 17, 2020. All pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and shall be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. *See* Commission Rule of Procedure 14.02. Service between parties should also be accomplished electronically. Voluminous discovery-related documents may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 20th day of July 2020.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

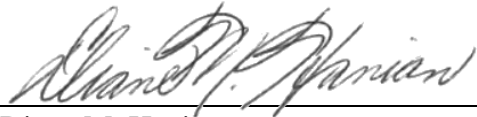


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

I:\Legal\ELECTRIC\AVU-E-20-05\orders\AVUE2005_Ntc of App_jrh.docx

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE
ORDER NO. 34730