

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

AVISTA CORPORATION’S REQUEST TO) CASE NO. AVU-E-22-09
DECREASE ITS ENERGY EFFICIENCY)
RIDER ADJUSTMENT SCHEDULE 91)
) ORDER NO. 35545
)

On July 29, 2022, Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities (“Company”) applied to the Commission for authorization to decrease its electric Schedule 91 “Energy Efficiency Rider Adjustment” (“Schedule 91”) rates. The Company asks that its Application be processed under Modified Procedure and requests an effective date of October 1, 2022.

On August 11, 2022, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure establishing a public comment period and Company reply deadline. Order No. 35497. The Commission Staff (“Staff”) filed the only comments to which the Company did not reply. No other comments were received.

Having reviewed the record in this case, we now issue this Order approving the Company’s Application.

BACKGROUND

The Company’s Schedule 91 is used to collect funds that are allocated through Schedule 90 to fund energy efficiency services to customers. The Company’s programs are built to provide financial incentives—rebates—to help customers cover the cost of energy efficiency measures.

As of June 30, 2022, the Company’s Schedule 91 was approximately \$4.9 million overfunded—meaning Schedule 91 has been collecting more than is being used to fund Schedule 90. The Company describes two main factors that contributed to the overfunded balance. First, the Company had set rates to recover a large, underfunded balance after customers in 2016 and 2017 achieved far more energy efficiency savings than contemplated in the Company’s Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”).¹ This forced the Company to adjust its Schedule 91 collection, which has contributed to the overfunding. Second, Covid-19 altered the participation in the programs offered

¹ During 2016 and 2017 customers achieved 88,319 megawatt-hours of energy savings, which was 394% of the IRP target. Application at 3. This caused Schedule 91 to be underfunded by about \$9.6 million. *Id.*

in Schedule 90. The Company is unsure if customer interest and participation will increase to levels it saw prior to Covid-19.

THE APPLICATION

The Company proposes to decrease the rates and charges collected through Schedule 91 by \$3.6 million annually, or 1.4%. If approved, a residential customer using 892 kilowatt-hours per month would see their monthly bill decrease from \$86.00 to \$84.82, or \$1.17 per month.

The Company believes this adjustment will bring the overfunded balance of Schedule 91 to \$0 by September 30, 2025.

STAFF COMMENTS

Staff reviewed the Company's Application and workpapers and supports the Company's Application. Staff's comments discussed the current overfunded balance of the Company's Schedule 91 and the factors that are leading to the overfunded balance. Staff indicated its continued support for the Company's cost-effective demand-side management programs.

Staff also included a summary of the Company's four concurrent electric filings that, if approved as filed, would reduce customers' electric rates by 4.7% effective October 1, 2022. In addition to this filing which would reduce rates by -1.4%, the Power Cost Adjustment (Case No. AVU-E-22-11) would reduce rates by -1.2%, the BPA Residential Exchange Program (Case No. AVU-E-22-10) would reduce rates by -0.1%, and the Fixed Cost Adjustment (Case No. AVU-E-22-04) would reduce rates by -2.0%.

COMMISSION DECISION AND FINDINGS

The Company is an electrical corporation under *Idaho Code* § 61-119 and a public utility under *Idaho Code* § 61-129. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under *Idaho Code* §§ 61-502 and 61-503. The Commission is empowered to investigate rates, charges, rules, regulations, practices, and contracts of public utilities and to determine whether they are just, reasonable, preferential, discriminatory, or in violation of any provision of law, and may fix the same by order. *Idaho Code* §§ 61-502 and 61-503.

We appreciate the Company applying to adjust its Schedule 91 rates to account for and reduce the current overfunded balance. This adjustment will help all customers who are consistently facing higher utility costs while continuing to fund the important energy efficiency programs the Company offers. We encourage the Company to continue to monitor the appetite of

customers to participate in energy efficiency programs and to seek adjustments to its Schedule 91 rate as necessary to ensure it is collecting the proper amount to fund the demand of these programs.

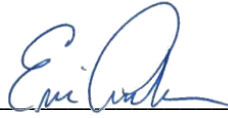
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company's Application is approved, as filed, effective October 1, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Company's proposed Schedule 91-Energy Efficiency Rider Adjustment - Idaho is approved as filed.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order regarding any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *Idaho Code* § 61-626.

DONE by order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 29th day of September 2022.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

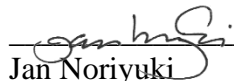


JOHN CHATBURN, COMMISSIONER



JOHN R HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

