

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COMMISSIONER ANDERSON  
COMMISSIONER HAMMOND  
COMMISSIONER LODGE  
COMMISSION SECRETARY  
COMMISSION STAFF  
LEGAL

**FROM:** CHRIS BURDIN  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

**DATE:** JUNE 6, 2023

**SUBJECT:** 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; CASE NOS. AVU-E-23-01; AVU-G-23-01.

On February 1, 2023, Avista Corporation (“Company”) filed an application (“Application”) with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) requesting authorization to increase its rates for both Electric and Natural Gas service. The Company requested a September 1, 2023, effective date.

On February 21, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Intervention Deadline. Order No. 35684. Subsequently, the Commission granted intervention to Clearwater Paper Corporation, Idaho Forest Group LLC, Walmart Inc., and the Idaho Conservation League and NW Energy Coalition jointly. Order Nos. 35704, 35713, and 35719.

On April 12, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Schedule, Notice of Virtual Public Workshop, and Notice of Technical Hearing. Order No. 35736. The Commission set a June 14, 2023, Commission Staff (“Staff”) and Intervenor written testimony deadline, and a July 12, 2023, Company Rebuttal written testimony deadline. *Id.*


On June 1, 2023, Staff, the Company, and all Intervenors participated in a settlement conference. Based upon that settlement conference, Staff believes that a settlement has been reached in principle; however, at this time a full Settlement is not ready to file with the Commission for approval.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Commission vacate the June 14, 2023, Staff and Intervenor testimony deadline, and the July 12, 2023, Company rebuttal testimony deadline until such time as either a Settlement is filed, or Staff informs the Commission that a Settlement will not be filed; at which time the Commission would reschedule testimony deadlines.

### **COMMISSION DECISION**

Does the Commission wish to vacate the existing deadlines for Staff and Intervenor direct testimony, and Company rebuttal testimony?

  
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Chris Burdin  
Deputy Attorney General

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