

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSION</b>	)	<b>CASE NO. AVU-E-26-04</b>
<b>STAFF’S APPLICATION TO UPDATE</b>	)	
<b>INPUTS TO THE SURROGATE AVOIDED</b>	)	<b>NOTICE OF APPLICATION</b>
<b>RESOURCE (“SAR”) MODEL AND SAR-</b>	)	
<b>BASED AVOIDED COST RATES</b>	)	<b>NOTICE OF MODIFIED</b>
	)	<b>PROCEDURE</b>
	)	
	)	<b>ORDER NO. 37067</b>
	)	

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On May 5, 2026, Commission Staff (“Staff”) applied to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) requesting the Commission issue an order updating inputs to the Surrogate Avoided Resource (“SAR”) Model of Avista Corporation, doing business as Avista Utilities (“Company”), approving the resulting SAR-based avoided cost rates, and establishing a new processing timeline for the annual update (“Application”).

The Commission now issues this Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure establishing written comment deadlines.

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Staff requested that the Commission approve the proposed annual update to SAR-based avoided cost rates for qualifying facilities under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 based on inputs to the SAR Model using the natural gas price forecast from the Mountain Region Reference Case in the United States Energy Information Administration (“EIA”) Annual Energy Outlook. Application at 1.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the EIA published its Annual Energy Outlook on April 8, 2026. *Id.* at 2. Staff states that it used the published natural gas price forecast through 2050 to update the SAR Model. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that because the SAR Model is designed to calculate 30 years of avoided cost rates while the Annual Energy Outlook currently forecasts only 25 years, Staff’s proposed SAR Model extrapolates the EIA’s data to create values for the additional years. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Staff attached its proposed SAR Model and the resulting avoided cost rates to the Application. *Id.* at 2–3.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Staff also requests that the Commission establish a new processing timeline for the annual update to the SAR Model, as progressively delayed EIA publishing dates make it difficult to adhere to the Commission’s previously established timeline for the update. *Id.* at 3. Staff recommends that the new timeline, which would apply to updates for all Commission-regulated electric utilities, require Staff to initiate the annual update case within one month of the Annual Energy Outlook’s publishing date, with an effective date of three months following the publishing date. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission’s office. The Application is also available on the Commission’s website at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov). Click on the “ELECTRIC” icon, 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 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 Procedure pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure 201-204, IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.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 and explain why written comments alone are insufficient. **Persons interested in filing written comments, including the Company, must do so within 21 days of the service date of this Order.** Comments must be filed through the Commission’s website or by e-mail unless computer access is unavailable. To comment electronically, please access the Commission’s

website at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov). Click the “Case Comment Form” and complete the form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document.

To file by e-mail, persons must e-mail the comments to the Commission Secretary and all parties at the e-mail addresses listed below. Persons submitting a comment by e-mail must provide their name, address, and the Case Number under which they are commenting. Persons submitting a comment by e-mail also acknowledge that submitting a comment in an open case constitutes a public record under *Idaho Code* § 74-101(13), and all information provided by such person is available for public and media inspection.

If computer access is unavailable, then comments may be mailed to the Commission and the Parties at the addresses below. Persons submitting a comment by mail must provide their name, address, and the Case Number under which they are commenting. Persons submitting a comment by mail also acknowledge that submitting a comment in an open case constitutes a public record under *Idaho Code* § 74-101(13), and all information provided by such person is available for public and media inspection.

**For the Idaho Public Utilities  
Commission:**

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**For Commission Staff:**

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**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Staff must file any reply comments within 28 days of the service date of this Order.**

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 final 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 formal hearing.


**ORDER**


IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Application be processed under Modified Procedure. Persons interested in submitting written comments, including the Company, must do so within 21

days of the service date of this Order. Staff must file any reply comments within 28 days of the service date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties comply with Order No. 35375, issued April 21, 2022. Generally, all pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and will be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. Rule 14.02. Service between parties should continue to be accomplished electronically when possible. However, 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.

  
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EDWARD LODGE, PRESIDENT

  
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JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER

  
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DAYN HARDIE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
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Monica Barrios-Sanchez  
Commission Secretary  
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