

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF AVISTA)
CORPORATION'S PETITION FOR) CASE NO. AVU-G-11-02
PERMANENT MODIFICATION OF THE)
FILING DATE FOR ITS NATURAL GAS)
INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN.) ORDER NO. 32233
_____)**

On March 24, 2011, Avista Corporation filed a Petition with the Commission requesting authority to permanently change the filing of its natural gas Integrated Resource Plans (IRP) from December 31 of each odd-numbered year to August 31 of each even-numbered year. Reference Order No. 25342, GNR-G-93-02.

Avista states that three areas of significant workflow currently overlap and occur in the fall of each year: PGA filings, Avista's procurement planning and IRP drafting/reviewing/finalizing. These processes place considerable demand on Avista and its stakeholders. Avista maintains that the IRP filing, in theory, does not have to be performed at the same time as the PGA filings and procurement planning. Accordingly, Avista is requesting a permanent shift of IRP dates. Avista contends that this shift has the support of Staff and other stakeholders who participate in the IRP process.

Avista states that it has discussed the shift in natural gas IRP filing dates with regulatory staff in Idaho, Washington and Oregon, all of whom support the proposal and have agreed that this would allow for a more thorough and efficient review of the natural gas IRP, given conflicting priorities. Avista maintains that, ultimately, the quality and thoroughness of the review process will be enhanced. In addition, the Company agrees to provide a natural gas demand update to the Commission between the time this request is approved and when the Company would otherwise make its August 2012 natural gas IRP filing, in order to allay any concerns about a delay in the filing of the 2012 IRP.

Avista notes that its electric IRP is due on August 31 of each odd-numbered year. A shift in the natural gas IRP filing date would provide a staggered filing for the Company's two IRP's and avoid any overlap in participation in the two separate plans by the stakeholder groups.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission has jurisdiction over Avista Corporation, an electric and natural gas utility, and the issues presented in this case pursuant to statutory authority granted under Idaho Code, Title 61, and the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.* The Commission has reviewed the filings of record and finds that a permanent modification to the filing date of Avista's natural gas IRP will improve the overall review process. Specifically, we find that, given the timing of Avista's PGA filings and procurement planning, an adjustment to Avista's natural gas IRP filing will result in a more thorough and efficient review of its natural gas resources. In order to account for the filing delay that will occur with a modification of the Company's natural gas IRP filing date, the Commission directs the Company to provide a natural gas demand update to the Commission no later than August 31, 2011.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Petition of Avista Corporation for authority to permanently modify its natural gas IRP filing date from December 31 of each odd-numbered year to August 31 of each even-numbered year is approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Avista provide a natural gas demand update to the Commission no later than August 31, 2011.

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. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. See *Idaho Code* § 61-626.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 26th
day of April 2011.


PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT


MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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