

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:           COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER  
              COMMISSIONER SMITH  
              COMMISSIONER RAPER  
              COMMISSION SECRETARY  
              COMMISSION STAFF  
              LEGAL**

**FROM:       KARL KLEIN  
              DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**DATE:       JULY 24, 2015**

**SUBJECT:    AVISTA GENERAL RATE CASE – ELECTRIC AND GAS  
              CASE NOS. AVU-E-15-05 AND AVU-G-15-01**

On June 1, 2015, Avista Corporation applied to the Commission for authority to increase the Company’s general rates for electric and natural gas service. The Company proposes a two-phase rate plan that would increase rates on January 1, 2016, and again on January 1, 2017. The Commission subsequently issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Intervention Deadline and suspended the first proposed effective date. Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho, Idaho Conservation League (ICL), Snake River Alliance, Clearwater Paper Corporation, and Idaho Forest Group, LLC then intervened as parties. The parties then conferred and agreed to the following schedule:

Settlement Conference	September 18, 2015 <sup>1</sup>
Staff/Intervenor Prefile Testimony	October 21, 2015
Settlement Conference (if necessary)	October 28, 2015
Company Prefile Rebuttal	November 11, 2015
Technical Evidentiary Hearings	November 23-24, 2015

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<sup>1</sup> ICL has a prior commitment that precludes it from attending the settlement conference. ICL intends to supply the parties with its views before the meeting, and the parties will inform ICL about what occurs at the meeting, and obtain ICL’s input before a final settlement, if any, is reached.

The parties believe this schedule will enable the Commission to issue its final Order by December 28, 2015, and before the first proposed effective date of January 1, 2016.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Commission issue an Order that adopts the above schedule and sets a technical hearing for November 23-24, 2015. Further, because Avista has applied for a rate increase, Staff recommends the Commission's Order schedule public informational workshops to be conducted by Staff on September 1 and 2 in Moscow and Coeur d'Alene. Staff does not recommend that the Commission's Order schedule a public hearing for customers at this time, but Staff believes the Commission ultimately should schedule a customer hearing through a separate Order at a later date.

#### **COMMISSION DECISION**

Does the Commission wish to issue an Order that adopts the agreed-upon schedule and sets public workshops and a technical hearing as described above?

*Karl Klein*  
Karl Klein  
Deputy Attorney General

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