

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	CASE NO. AVU-G-21-03
OF AVISTA UTILITIES FOR AN ORDER)	
APPROVING A CHANGE IN NATURAL GAS)	NOTICE OF APPLICATION
RATES AND CHARGES TO REBATE)	
CERTAIN DEFERRED CREDIT BALANCES)	NOTICE OF
)	MODIFIED PROCEDURE
)	
)	ORDER NO. 35117
)	
)	

On July 2, 2021, Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities (“Company”) applied for an Order Approving a Change in Natural Gas Rates and Charges to Rebate Certain Deferred Credit Balances asking to *decrease* its annualized revenues by about \$1.9 million (2.9%). *Application at* 1. The Company proposes to refund to customers deferred credit balances associated with depreciation expense, Accumulated Funds Used During Construction (“AFUDC”), and CARES Act benefits.

The Company says its proposal, if approved, will decrease rates for an average residential or small commercial customer using an average of 63 therms per month by \$1.44 per month (2.9%). *Id.* The Company states it is providing notice of this Application to its customers in compliance with Commission authorities. *Id.* at 2. The Company asks that its application be processed by Modified Procedure, and that the new rates take effect September 1, 2021. *Id.* at 1.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Company is a public utility that distributes natural gas in northern Idaho, eastern and central Washington, and southwestern and northeastern Oregon. The Company buys natural gas and then transports it through pipelines for delivery to customers. The Company proposes to refund to customers deferred credit balances associated with depreciation expense, AFUDC, and CARES Act benefits. The proposed refund to customers, if approved would offset the Company’s proposed Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment rate increase in its application in Case No. AVU-G-21-04 if approved by the Commission. The table below summarizes the proposed rate credits:

	Schedule 178
	Rate
	<u>Per Therm</u>
General Service – Schedule 101	(0.02286)
Large General Service – Schedules 111 & 112	(0.01444)
Interruptible Service – Schedules 131 & 132	(0.01444)
Transportation Service – Schedule 146	(0.00378)

Application at 3. The Company represents that it is also filing its application for a change in rates for the Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment (“PGA”) and amortization of gas-related deferral balances simultaneously with this application. The Company asserts that if both applications are approved the net change to natural gas revenues would be an increase of approximately \$7.1 million or 10.6% effective September 1, 2021.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company asserts it has or will notify customers of its proposed tariffs by posting notice at each of its Idaho district offices, and through a press release. Also, the Company states it will send notice to each customer as a bill insert during the July timeframe.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application and Exhibits are 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. Click on the “NATURAL GAS” tab at the top of the home page, then select “Open Cases” and then locate 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. The Commission may enter any final order consistent with its authority under Title 61.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED 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 will proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through .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 anyone desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment explaining why the person supports or opposes the Application **within 21 days of the service date of this Order**. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. Comments must be filed through the Commission website or by email unless computer access is unavailable. To comment electronically, please access the Commission's home page at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Consumer" tab on the Commission's webpage and then "Case Comment Form" and complete the form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. To file by email, the customer must email the comments to the email addresses listed below. Besides submitting the comments to the Commission Secretary, the customer must also email the Staff and utilities at the email addresses listed below. If computer access is unavailable, then comments may be mailed to the Commission, Staff, and utilities at these addresses:

**For the Idaho Public Utilities
Commission:**

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074
secretary@puc.idaho.gov

11331 W. Chinden Blvd.
Building 8, Suite 201-A
Boise, Idaho 83714

For Avista:

Patrick D. Ehrbar
David J. Meyer
Avista Utilities
1411 E. Mission Avenue
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
pat.ehrbar@avistacorp.com
david.meyer@avistacorp.com

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company 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 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 the Company's Application be processed by Modified Procedure, Rule 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204). Persons interested in submitting written

comments must do so within 21 days of the service date of this Order. The Company must file any reply comments within 28 days of the service date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Parties should continue to comply with Order No. 35058, issued June 3, 2021. All pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and shall be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. *See* Rule 14.02. Service between Parties should also be accomplished electronically. 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 27th day of July 2021.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

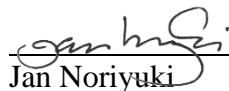


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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