

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF AVISTA) **CASE NO. AVU-G-22-01**
CORPORATION’S PROPOSED TARIFF)
SCHEDULE 195—OPTIONAL RENEWABLE) **NOTICE OF APPLICATION**
NATURAL GAS)
) **NOTICE OF INTERVENTION**
) **DEADLINE**
)
) **NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF**
) **PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE**
)
) **ORDER NO. 35355**

On March 1, 2022, Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities (“Company”) applied for authority to implement a new tariff Schedule 195—Optional Renewable Gas (“Schedule 195”). The Company proposes to implement a voluntary Renewable Natural Gas (“RNG”) program that provides customers an opportunity to purchase RNG as part of their regular monthly service. The Company requested a May 1, 2022, effective date.

The Commission now issues this notice of the Company’s Application and sets a 21-day intervention deadline for persons wishing to be joined as parties. The Commission further issues this Notice of Suspension, suspending the Company’s proposed effective date of May 1, 2022, by thirty-days plus five months in accordance with *Idaho Code* § 61-622(4).

BACKGROUND

The Company conducted a commercial customer research project in 2019 focused exclusively on energy and the environment plus internal research geared at residential customers’ RNG programs in 2020. *Id.* With ample RNG supply available to support a voluntary RNG program for its natural gas customers, positive customer sentiment towards an RNG program, and uptick in customer enrollments amongst its Washington natural gas customers, the Company believes offering a voluntary RNG program in Idaho is a valuable option for its interested customers. *Id.* at 3.

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YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Company plans to offer customers the opportunity to purchase blocks of RNG where each block includes environmental attributes represented by the equivalent to 1.5 therms of RNG for \$5.00 per block (“Program”). *Id.* The Company states that the charges would be separated on customer’s monthly bills and would be in addition to the customer’s regular natural gas charges. *Id.* The Company states it has structured the price to confine the costs and benefits strictly to Program participants, including the supply of RNG attributes and Program administration costs. *Id.*; *see also* Attachment A to the Company’s *Application*.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED the Company has signed an agreement with Puget Sound Energy (“PSE”) to acquire the necessary RNG to support the Program. PSE has signed a contract for RNG with Klickitat Public Utility District to acquire an estimated 550,000 dekatherms per year for the first three years with significantly more RNG in the years following. *Application* at 3.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that interested customers may enroll online or over the phone. *Id.* Customers may participate in the Program with no contract and may cancel participation at any time. *Id.* at 4. Natural gas customers will be notified of the Program on the effective date of Commission approval. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED the Company has identified key performance indicators and will establish baseline metrics to track Program performance to meet its primary objectives of customer satisfaction, customer awareness, and customer participation. *Id.* The Company will monitor customer awareness through external web traffic on the Program’s page and participation will be measured by customer enrollment. *Id.* For participating customers, the Company states it will utilize the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System—M-RETS—for purposes of the Program and retiring environmental attributes on behalf of participating customers. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application and attachments are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission’s office. These documents are also available on the Commission’s website at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the “GAS” icon, select “Open Cases,” and click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

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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.

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 INTERVENTION DEADLINE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to intervene in this matter to obtain parties' rights of participation must file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission pursuant to this Commission's Rules of Procedure 72 and 73, IDAPA 31.01.01.072 and .073. Persons who wish to intervene as a party must file a Petition to Intervene **no later than 21 days after the date of service of this Order**. Persons desiring to present their views without parties' rights of participation do not have to intervene and may present their comments without prior notification to the Commission or the parties.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission Secretary shall issue a Notice of Parties after the deadline for intervention has passed. The Notice of Parties shall assign exhibit numbers to each party in this proceeding.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that once the Notice of Parties is issued, Commission Staff will informally confer with the parties to discuss a schedule to process this case and other issues as may be raised by the parties.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the following people are designated as the Company's representatives in this matter:

Shawn Bonfield
Amanda Ghering
Avista Corporation
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Spokane, WA 99220-0500
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shawn.bonfield@avistacorp.com

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company filed its Application on March 1, 2022, and proposes a May 1, 2022, effective date. The Commission finds the Company's proposed effective date does not provide adequate time for Commission Staff and interested

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persons to evaluate the Company's proposal. Pursuant to *Idaho Code* § 61-622(4), the Commission suspends the proposed changes for 30 days and five months or until the Commission enters an order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the proposed rate increases.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that persons desiring to intervene in this case for the purpose of obtaining parties' rights of participation must file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission, pursuant to Rules 72 and 73, IDAPA 31.01.01.72-73, no later than 21 days after the service date of this Order.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that after the Notice of Parties has issued, Commission Staff shall confer with the parties regarding a procedural schedule for this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Company's proposed effective date of May 1, 2022, is suspended for 30 days plus five months or until the Commission enters an earlier order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the proposed rate increases.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the 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.

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DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 25th day of March 2022.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

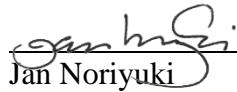


JOHN CHATBURN, COMMISSIONER



JOHN R. HAMMOND JR, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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