

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	CASE NOS. AVU-E-23-01
OF AVISTA CORPORATION FOR THE)	AVU-G-23-01
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES)	
AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC AND)	ORDER ON REQUEST FOR
NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO ELECTRIC)	REMOTE TESTIMONY
AND NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS IN THE)	
STATE OF IDAHO)	ORDER NO. 35883
)	
)	

On February 1, 2023, Avista Corporation (“Company”) filed an application (“Application”) with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) requesting authorization to increase its rates for both Electric and Natural Gas service. The Company requested a September 1, 2023, effective date.

On February 21, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Intervention Deadline. Order No. 35684. Subsequently, the Commission granted intervention to Clearwater Paper Corporation, Idaho Forest Group LLC, Walmart Inc., and the Idaho Conservation League and NW Energy Coalition jointly. Order Nos. 35704, 35713, and 35719.

On April 12, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Schedule, Notice of Virtual Public Workshop, and Notice of Technical Hearing. Order No. 35736. The Commission set a June 14, 2023, Commission Staff (“Staff”) and Intervenor written testimony deadline, and a July 12, 2023, Company Rebuttal written testimony deadline. *Id.*

On June 1, 2023, Staff, the Company, and all Intervenors participated in a settlement conference. Based upon that settlement conference, on June 6, 2023, Staff requested that the Commission vacate the deadlines for written testimony, and the Commission issued an Order Vacating Testimony Deadlines. Order No. 35808.

On June 14, 2023, Staff and the Company filed a Stipulation and Settlement (“Proposed Settlement”), and a Motion for Approval of Stipulation and Settlement. The Proposed Settlement was signed by Staff, the Company, and intervenors Clearwater Paper Corporation, Idaho Forest Group LLC, and Walmart Inc. (“Signing Parties”). Intervenors Idaho Conservation League and NW Energy Coalition (“ICL/NWEC”) did not sign the Proposed Settlement. The Signing Parties requested that the Commission revise the procedural schedule to set the deadline for filing

testimony in support of, or in opposition to, the Proposed Settlement on July 12, 2023, and set a July 26, 2023, deadline for any rebuttal testimony by the Signing Parties.

On July 6, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Settlement, Notice of Amended Schedule, Notice of Customer Hearings, Notice of Technical Hearing, and Notice of Public Comment Deadline. Order No. 35844. The Commission set an initial testimony filing date of July 12, 2023, and a rebuttal testimony filing date of July 26, 2023. *Id.* The Commission scheduled customer hearings in Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on July 25, 2023, and a customer hearing in Sandpoint, Idaho, on July 26, 2023. The Commission also set a July 26, 2023, deadline for public comments on the Proposed Settlement.

On July 24, 2023, ICL/NWEC filed a Request for Permission for ICL/NWEC's witness Lauren McCloy to Appear Remotely ("Motion").

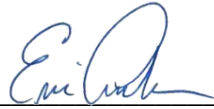
On August 1, 2023, the Commission considered ICL/NWEC's Motion during the Commission's decision meeting. The Commission noted the importance of in-person attendance for hearings, and the Commission emphasized the necessity of having an in-person opportunity to cross-examine and question a witness by all parties and the Commission. The Commission noted that other options were available for parties to submit testimony, including sponsoring the testimony of unavailable witnesses, and the Commission denied the Motion. The Commission notes that on August 2, 2023, the Commission held a technical hearing in this case. ICL/NWEC witness Brad Heusinkveld appeared in person at the hearing and sponsored the prefiled direct testimony of Lauren McCloy. For purposes of the record, the Commission now issues this written order in conformity with its August 1, 2023, decision.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that ICL/NWEC's Motion is denied.

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. *See* 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 16th day of August 2023.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

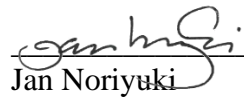


JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER



EDWARD LODGE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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