

DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO: COMMISSIONER ANDERSON
COMMISSIONER HAMMOND
COMMISSIONER LODGE
COMMISSION SECRETARY
COMMISSION STAFF
LEGAL**

**FROM: CHRIS BURDIN
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

**SUBJECT: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF AVISTA CORPORATION,
D/B/A AVISTA UTILITIES, REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO REVISE ITS
ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS BOOK DEPRECIATION RATES AND
AUTHORIZE DEFERRED ACCOUNTING TREATMENT FOR
DIFFERENCE IN DEPRECIATION EXPENSE; CASE NOS. AVU-E-23-02;
AVU-G-23-02.**

On February 22, 2023, Avista Corporation, doing business as Avista Utilities (“Company”), filed an application (“Application”) with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), for approval of a proposed change to electric and natural gas book depreciation rates. The Company also requests that the Commission approve deferred accounting treatment if allocated depreciation rates are not approved by all jurisdictions prior to September 1, 2023, resulting in a difference between allocated depreciation expense included in Case Nos. AVU-E-23-01 and AVU-G-23-01, and allocated depreciation expense ultimately approved in these dockets. The Company requests that the Application be processed by Modified Procedure through the use of written comments.

On March 15, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Intervention Deadline. Order No. 35709. No parties intervened. On April 27, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Modified Procedure setting an August 8, 2023, comment deadline, and an August 15, 2023, reply comment deadline. Order No. 35754.

On July 13, 2023, Commission Staff (“Staff”) and the Company participated in a settlement conference. On August 1, 2023, Staff requested that the Commission vacate the existing comment

deadlines until a Proposed Settlement was filed. On August 2, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Vacating Comment Deadlines. Order No. 35874.

On August 29, 2023, the Company and Staff filed a Stipulation and Settlement (“Proposed Settlement”), and a Motion for Approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission issue a Notice of Proposed Settlement and Notice of Modified Procedure setting an October 26, 2023, comment deadline. Because all of the parties to this case support the Proposed Settlement, Staff does not believe that a reply comment deadline is necessary.

COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission wish to issue a Notice of Proposed Settlement and Notice of Modified Procedure setting an October 26, 2023, comment deadline?



Chris Burdin
Deputy Attorney General

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