Office of the Secretary
Service Date
October 30, 2026

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF AVISTA CORPORATION'S APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING A DECREASE IN RATES CHARGED FOR NATURAL GAS DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS	)))))))	**CASE NO. AVU-G-26-05** **ORDER NO. 37218**

On July 31, 2026, Avista Corporation, doing business as Avista Utilities ("Company"), applied to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") requesting authorization to decrease the rates under its natural gas tariff Schedule 191—Energy Efficiency Rider Adjustment ("EE Rider"), effective November 1, 2026, in alignment with its application to suspend its natural gas demand-side management ("DSM") programs in Case No. AVU-G-26-01 ("Application"). Application at 1. If approved, the Company's annual natural gas revenues would be reduced by approximately 1.6% and an Idaho residential natural gas customer using approximately 66 therms per month would see a $1.03 decrease in their monthly bill (i.e., decrease from $59.28 to $58.24). *Id.* at 7.

On August 20, 2026, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure, establishing comment and reply deadlines. Order No. 37143. No petitions to intervene were filed. Staff filed the only comments.

Based on our review of the record, we issue this Final Order approving the Application and corresponding proposed tariff, as filed.

THE APPLICATION

The Company represented that it expects the Rider to be overfunded by approximately $1.2 million by November 1, 2026. *Id.* at 5. The Company projected that the Rider would be overfunded by almost $935,000 at the beginning of 2027. *Id.* The Company stated that it was not proposing returning the Rider's overfunded balance to its customers at this time because the Company's DSM programs were going to continue to incur costs through 2026 and into 2027, as the Company continued to manage contractual obligations associated with its DSM programs. *Id.* at 5–6. The Company requested approval to change its tariff rider rate to $0.00 per therm, effective November 1, 2026. *Id.* at 6.

STAFF COMMENTS

Based on Staff's review of the Application and workpapers in support of the Application, Staff recommended that the Commission approve the Application, and the proposed Schedule 191 decrease to $0.00 per therm, effective November 1, 2026. Staff Comments at 2. Staff believed that the Company correctly applied the changed Schedule 191 rates to the appropriate customer classes. *Id.* at 4. Staff noted that it did not consider the prudency or cost-effectiveness of the Company's programs for energy efficiency. *Id.*

Staff summarized the combined impact of the Application (i.e., EE Rider), and the Company's Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment application in Case No. AVU-G-26-03 ("PGA"), and the Company's natural gas Fixed Cost Adjustment application in Case No. AVU-G-26-02 ("FCA"):

Table No. 2: Summary of Overall Impact to Natural Gas Revenues

Case	$ Revenue Change	% Revenue Change
EE Tariff	($1.4 million)	(1.6%)
PGA	($2.5 million)	(3.0%)
FCA	$2.4 million	2.8%
Total	($1.5 million)	(1.8%)

Id. 4–5.

Staff believed that the press release and customer notice a part of the Application satisfied the Commission's Rules of Procedure 125, that the Commission written comment deadline provided enough opportunity for customers to file comments, and recommended that the Commission consider late filed comments. *Id.* at 5.

COMMISSION FINDINGS AND DECISION

The Commission has jurisdiction over the Application and the issues in this case under Title 61 of the Idaho Code including, *Idaho Code* §§ 61-501, -502, and -503. The Commission is empowered to investigate rates, charges, rules, regulations, practices, and contracts of all public utilities and to determine whether they are just, reasonable, preferential, discriminatory, or in violation of any provisions of law, and to fix the same by order. *Idaho Code* §§ 61-501, -502, and -503.

The Commission has reviewed the record in this case. Based on our review, and the fact that the Company's natural gas DSM programs are anticipated to not be cost-effective, we find it

fair, just, and reasonable to approve the Application and the Company's proposed Schedule 191 tariff as filed, including the decrease in the Schedule 191 Rate to $0.00 per therm, effective November 1, 2026. The Commission finds that because the natural gas DSM programs are not anticipated to be cost-effective, it would not be prudent to continue charging the Company's customers for the non-cost-effective programs.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company's Application and the proposed Schedule 191 tariff as filed with the Application, which includes a decrease in the Schedule 191 Rate to $0.00 per therm, is approved, effective November 1, 2026.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within 21 days of the service date of this Order regarding any matter decided in this Order. Within seven days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *Idaho Code* § 61-626.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 30th day of October.

EDWARD LODGE, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER

DAYN HARDIE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Monica Barrios-Sanchez
Commission Secretary
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