

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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Commission adopts new schedule for proposed Avista-Hydro One merger case

BOISE (Sept. 18, 2018) – State regulators have approved a new procedural schedule for processing the proposed merger of Avista and Hydro One.

The schedule approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission calls for a settlement conference on Oct. 16 and a technical hearing to begin on Nov. 26.

The previous schedule was disrupted by the abrupt resignation in mid-July of Hydro One's entire board and its chief executive officer.

The case dates to September 2017, when Avista and Canadian-based Hydro One <u>filed for</u> <u>Commission approval</u> of the \$5.3 billion merger.

<u>The application</u> calls for Avista to become a wholly owned subsidiary of Hydro One, the largest electric transmission and distribution utility in the province of Ontario with more than 1.3 million customers.

Avista provides electric service to approximately 378,000 customers and natural gas service to 342,000 customers. Approximately 130,000 electric customers and 82,000 natural gas customers are in Idaho.

More than 500 written comments have been submitted in the case, in addition to oral testimony provided at three public hearings the Commission held in mid-June in Moscow, Sandpoint and Coeur D'Alene.

A technical hearing that had been scheduled for July 23 was vacated in the wake of the management upheaval at Hydro One.

In late August, the Commission directed the parties to the case to develop a new procedural schedule. The parties met Sept. 10 and agreed to a revised schedule that was submitted for Commission approval.

The Commission approved the following scheduling deadlines/milestones:

- Sept. 24: Applicants' deadline for supplemental testimony
- Oct. 16: Settlement conference
- Nov. 1: Staff and intervenor testimony
- Nov. 14: Company rebuttal testimony
- Nov. 26: Technical hearing begins

All documents filed in the case can be found <u>here</u>. Or go to <u>www.puc.idaho.gov</u>. Click on "Open Cases" under the "Electric" or "Natural Gas" heading and scroll down to AVU-E-17-09 or AVU-G-17-05.