



Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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John R. Hammond, Jr., Commissioner

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Case No. AVU-E-24-12
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NEWS RELEASE: Commission approves petition granting temporary waiver of master metering prohibition.

BOISE (Oct. 29, 2024) – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved a petition that spells out how a northern Idaho electric utility will provide service during the sale of the Clearwater Paper Corporation’s consumer products division to another company.

In late September, Clearwater Paper, Avista Utilities and Sofidel America Corp. filed a joint petition with the commission asking that it approve a contract between Sofidel and Clearwater, and provide a temporary waiver of Avista’s tariff that prohibited master-metering of electric services.

The companies said Clearwater Paper entered into an agreement to sell its consumer products division (a tissue plant) to Sofidel, and said each company would separately contract with Avista to receive electric service and energy pursuant to Avista’s approved tariffs. However, because Avista’s current electrical infrastructure was designed and built to serve an integrated single entity, it was not possible for Avista to separately meter and serve the tissue plant as an individual customer. The companies also said it may take up to three years for Avista to build the required infrastructure to provide separate metering to the companies.

In its decision to approve the temporary waiver, the commission found it was fair, just and reasonable to do so. The commission is requiring Avista to submit infrastructure project status reports beginning on May 31, 2025, and every six months thereafter. The waiver will be in effect until Avista is able to provide separate metering to the companies.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7419.