

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER  
COMMISSIONER REDFORD  
COMMISSIONER SMITH  
COMMISSION SECRETARY  
LEGAL  
WORKING FILE**

**FROM: TERRI CARLOCK**

**DATE: MARCH 14, 2014**

**SUBJECT: AVISTA CORPORATION'S APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO  
ENTER INTO CREDIT FACILITIES UP TO \$500,000,000;  
CASE NO. AVU-U-14-01.**

On February 18, 2014, Avista Corporation (Avista) applied for authority to enter into one or more debt credit facilities up to \$500,000,000 in total. The term of the facilities will be for five years expiring in 2019 with an option to extend the term up to two years. The credit facilities may include issuance of secured or unsecured bonds, notes or other indebtedness. It is proposed that any guarantee of indebtedness may be refunded, extended, renewed or replaced within the authorized timeframe. The requested authority will replace current facilities set to expire in February 2017.

The proceeds will be used for one or more of the following purposes: (a) the Company's acquisition, construction, completion, extension or improvement of facilities, (b) the improvement or maintenance of service, (c) retirement or exchange of one or more outstanding stock, bond, or note issuances, (c) reimbursement to the treasury for funds previously expended, and (d) for such other purposes as may be permitted by law.

The estimated fees and borrowing spreads will be based on the Company's current senior secured debt rating and current market information. Avista's current senior secured debt ratings are A- by Standard & Poors and A2 by Moody's. This currently places Avista in Pricing Level I where the facility fee would be 0.10%. Avista will only enter into transactions where the fees, interest rates and expenses charged or incurred by Avista in connection with the transactions and any refunding, extensions, renewals or replacements are competitive with market prices for similar transactions. The Company's Application is consistent with the previously authorized notification and filing process if a rating falls below investment grade.

The Company also requests authority to issue, refund, extend, renew or replace indebtedness under the credit facility without further Commission approval. The issuance would allow the Company greater flexibility to manage its daily cash funds and reduce borrowing costs, thereby permitting the Company to better manage its debt and capital in a more efficient and cost effective manner.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of the proposed credit facilities up to \$500,000,000 in total. Staff also recommends the authority be for five years with allowed extensions up to two additional years. If the extensions are exercised, Staff recommends the Company be required to file an informational letter notifying the Commission of any extensions under this authority. In addition, it is recommended that the authority under this initial approval be continuing (without further order required) for the five-year term plus any extensions provided Avista maintains senior secured debt ratings that are investment grade, BBB-/Baa3 or at least Pricing Level V. The terms of the current authority are consistent with these recommendations and are acceptable to the Company.

### **COMMISSION DECISION**

1. Does the Commission wish to approve Avista's request to issue up to \$500,000,000 in one or more credit facility?
2. Does the Commission wish to authorize a term of five years with extensions up to two years?
3. Does the Commission wish to require Avista file an informational letter if extensions are exercised?
4. Does the Commission wish to allow its authority under this Order to be continuing during the authorized term provided the senior secured debt rating levels remain investment grade?

  
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Terri Carlock