

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Case No. AVU-E-14-02, Order No. 33003
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Avista seeks to update line extension costs, allowances

BOISE (April 10, 2014) -- The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is taking comment on an Avista Utilities application to update the costs it charges for line extensions and the allowance allowed developers and builders against those costs.

Avista annually updates the cost of line extensions – transformers, meters and service cable – to new customers which are included in base rates. But it has not updated since 2001 the allowance allowed developers and builders against those costs that are authorized for recovery in base rates. Currently, the allowance is \$1,000 for residential customers. If line extension costs exceed that amount, the customer pays the excess as a Contribution in Aid of Construction. Avista proposes to increase that allowance to \$1,600. The amount of the allowance varies according to customer class.

The utility claims a number of factors have increased line extension cost. The 2012 National Electric Safety Code requires higher strength requirements for guy-supported wood poles and guy wire insulation upgrades. The cost of transformers has also increased significantly, the company claims.

Avista originally proposed the commission adopt the change as a tariff advice, an administrative procedure that doesn't require public comment. However, because of the update in the allowance, the commission said customer comments should be taken.

Comments are accepted via e-mail through April 22, by accessing the commission's homepage at www.puc.idaho.gov and clicking on "Case Comment Form," under the "Electric" heading. Fill in the case number (AVU-E-14-02) and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or faxed to (208) 334-3762.

A full text of the commission's order, along with other documents related to this case, is available on the commission's Web site. Click on "Open Cases" under the "Electric" heading and scroll down to the above case number.

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