

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT)	CASE NOS. AVU-E-17-09
APPLICATION OF HYDRO ONE LIMITED)	AVU-G-17-05
AND AVISTA CORPORATION FOR)	
APPROVAL OF MERGER AGREEMENT)	NOTICE OF SCHEDULE
)	
)	NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT
)	CONFERENCE
)	
)	NOTICE OF TECHNICAL
)	HEARING
)	
)	ORDER NO. 34148
)	

On September 14, 2017, Hydro One and Avista (“Applicants”) jointly applied for Commission approval of their merger. Applicants also sought approval from utility regulators in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Montana. Assuming approval in the other states, this Commission's approval would result in Avista becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of a Hydro One holding company. The following parties intervened in this case: Idaho Forest Group, Clearwater Paper, Idaho Conservation League, the Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho, the Washington and Northern Idaho District Council of Laborers, an unincorporated nonprofit called Avista Customer Group (ACG), and the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR).

On April 13, 2018, the Applicants and Commission Staff filed a Motion for Approval of Stipulation to approve the proposed merger. The Motion notified the Commission that all parties (except for ACG and IDWR, which had not yet intervened in the case) had signed a settlement stipulation to fully resolve the case. As part of its review process, the Commission issued notice of the proposed settlement and set deadlines for interested persons to submit written comments. The Commission also held public hearings in Moscow, Sandpoint, and Coeur d'Alene for Avista's customers and other interested persons to testify. The Commission also scheduled a July 23, 2018, technical hearing for the parties to specifically address the concerns and issues raised in public comments and testimony.

In mid-July, the Hydro One CEO and board of directors resigned—apparently removed by the company's largest shareholder, the province of Ontario, Canada. The management change and the post-settlement intervention of ACG and IDWR led the Commission to vacate the technical hearing. Order No. 34111. On August 31, 2018, the Commission directed the parties to meet and confer to develop a proposed case processing schedule. On September 10, 2018, the parties met and agreed to a proposed schedule.

With this Order, we adopt the proposed schedule, and schedule a technical hearing for the parties to testify before the Commission.

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that, based on discussion and agreement between the parties, the Commission adopts the following schedule:

DATE	ACTIVITY
September 24, 2018	Applicants' Deadline for Supplemental Testimony
October 16, 2018	Settlement Conference at the Commission's offices, 9:00 AM (MDT)
November 1, 2018	Staff and Intervenor Testimony Due
November 14, 2018	Applicants' Rebuttal Testimony Due
November 26, 2018	Technical Hearing Begins at Commission's offices, 9:30 AM (MDT). The hearing may continue through November 27, 2018, if needed.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all testimony and exhibits filed in this case must conform to the Commission's Rules of Procedure (IDAPA 31.01.01 *et seq.*), specifically Rules 230, 231, and 267.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the parties are directed to serve discovery, testimony, and exhibits among themselves by electronic mail pursuant to Rule 63. *See* IDAPA 31.01.01.063.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that when filing discovery with the Commission, the parties shall provide an original and three copies to the Commission Secretary. *See* IDAPA 31.01.01.061.02.

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL HEARING

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission will conduct a technical hearing in this case. The purpose of the technical hearing is to take testimony from the parties (the Company, Staff, and any intervenors). The technical hearing shall convene at **9:30 A.M. (MST) Monday, November 26, 2018, in the Commission's Hearing Room at 472 West Washington Street, Boise, Idaho, and shall continue as necessary through Tuesday, November 27, 2018.**

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that at the technical hearing, the parties should be prepared to address how the proposed merger conforms to Idaho law, among other things. Additionally, we expect the parties to address concerns and issues raised in public comments and testimony. The Applicants should also be ready to testify to issues related to Hydro One management.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all hearings in this matter will be held in facilities meeting the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons needing the help of a sign language interpreter or other assistance in order to participate in or to understand testimony and argument at a public hearing may ask the Commission to provide a sign language interpreter or other assistance at the hearing. The request for assistance must be received at least five (5) working days before the hearing by contacting the Commission Secretary at:

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0074
(208) 334-0338 (Telephone)
(208) 334-3762 (FAX)
E-Mail: secretary@puc.idaho.gov

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the record in this matter is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices. The record is available on the Commission's web site at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the "File Room" tab at the top of the page, scroll down to and click on "Electric Cases," and then click on Case No. AVU-E-17-09 or click on "Gas Cases," and then click on AVU-G-17-05.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000, *et seq.*

With regard to the parties request for avenues to present closing argument, the Commission will take up that issue at the time of the hearing, if necessary. We note that by the end of the technical hearing, the parties' positions should be developed and in the record to a point where a summation may not be needed. As to the requested date for a final order, we recognize the Applicants' desire to link timelines across jurisdictions, but want to make clear that this Commission's ultimate decision will rest only on the record, and the Commission will take the time it needs to work through the evidence and arguments and deliberate on this case.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Applicants' Deadline for Supplemental Testimony is September 24, 2018; Staff and Intervenor Testimony is due by November 1, 2018; and Applicants' Rebuttal Testimony is due by November 14, 2018.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED a Settlement Conference shall take place at the Commission offices, on October 16, 2018, at 9:00 AM (MDT).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission conduct a technical hearing on November 26, 2018, commencing at 9:30 AM (MST).

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 20th day of September 2018.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

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