

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF AVISTA
CORPORATION'S APPLICATION TO
REVISE TARIFF SCHEDULE 170 –
NATURAL GAS RULES AND
REGULATIONS**

) **CASE NO. AVU-G-18-07**
)
) **NOTICE OF APPLICATION**
)
) **NOTICE OF MODIFIED**
) **PROCEDURE**
)
) **NOTICE OF COMMENT**
) **DEADLINE**
)
) **ORDER NO. 34167**

On September 19, 2018, Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities filed an Application requesting that the Commission approve changes to the Company's Tariff Schedule 170 relating to the Company's Natural Gas Rules and Regulations. The proposed changes stem from the Company's effort to comply with Commission Order No. 33953.

Generally, the Company proposes to incorporate pertinent provisions of the Commission's Service Rules for Gas Utilities (IDAPA 31.31.01), including rules for meter testing and accuracy as well as maintaining system maps and records. The Company proposes to move these relevant requirements into the Company's tariff.

BACKGROUND

In July 2008, Staff received an inquiry from Avista regarding an apparent conflict between Commission Gas Service Rule 102, and Commission Safety Rule 202, relating to the Commission's adoption of the National Fuel Gas Code, the Uniform Mechanical Code, and the International Mechanical Code. After reviewing the issue, the Commission concluded that Gas Service Rule 102 is incompatible with the Commission's Safety Rules 202.02 and 203.02. Order 30625 at 2. Consequently, the Commission suspended Gas Service Rule 102, IDAPA 31.31.01.102. *Id.* at 3. The Commission further directed Staff to work with gas utilities and other interested persons to informally review the Gas Service Rules. *Id.*

Avista and other natural gas utilities provided Staff with proposed changes to IDAPA 31.31.01 in November 2016, consistent with current best practices. Further discussions led to an agreement that the integration of these revisions into the Company's tariffs would be beneficial

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to the Company and the Commission. As such, in the Company's 2017 General Rate Case, the matter of incorporating pertinent provisions from IDAPA 31.31.01 was made part of the ultimate settlement resolving the case.

On December 28, 2017, the Commission issued Order No. 33953, approving the Settlement Stipulation in the rate case. Therein, the parties agreed:

The Company and interested parties will meet and confer to review the Commission's Service Rules for Gas Utilities (IDAPA 31.31.01) to determine which provisions should be retained and/or modified, and, if the participants agree, incorporate those changes into the Company's tariff. Any changes requiring Commission approval, e.g., tariff revisions, will be submitted by the Company on or before [October 1, 2018].

Stipulation and Settlement Para. 19. If the underlying Application is approved, the rules developed with Staff will be incorporated into Avista Natural Gas Tariff Schedule 170. Approval of the rules would not change rates. The Company requested that the Commission process this Application under Modified Procedure, with an effective date of November 1, 2018. Application at 8.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Avista is a public utility engaged in the production, transmission, and distribution of electric power and natural gas to customers in eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and parts of southern and eastern Oregon.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Company seeks to add three new sections to Schedule 170, as follows:

1. **Meter Accuracy:** This change will add rules requiring the Company to afford customers with meters that provide adequate pressure, heat content, and accurate measurement of gas consumption;
2. **Meter Testing:** This change will add rules requiring the Company to maintain meter records, the parameters for new and installed meter testing programs, including methodology; and

3. **Maps and Records of Facilities:** This change will add rules requiring the Company to keep maps and records that show the size, character, and location of each street main, district regulator, street valve, and service connection in the corresponding territory served.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company's Application will have no effect on rates.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission's jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-501, 61-502, 61-507, 61-520, 61-521, 61-523, and 61-622. The Commission may enter any final Order consistent with its authority under Title 61.

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has reviewed the filing in this action, and has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing, and will thus proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through .204. The Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that any person desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment in support or opposition with the Commission by **October 24, 2018**. The comment must contain a statement of reasons supporting the comment. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. Written comments concerning this case shall be mailed to the Commission and the Applicants at the addresses reflected below:

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Street Address for Express Mail:
472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702-5918

David Meyer
Avista Corp.
1411 E. Mission Ave, MSC 27
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
email: david.meyer@avistacorp.com

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Comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document. Persons desiring to submit comments via e-mail may do so by accessing the Commission's home page located at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Case Comment or Question Form" under the "Consumers" tab, and complete the comment form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company shall file reply comments, if necessary, **no later than October 26, 2018**.

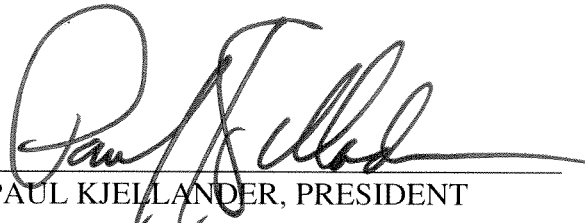
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no written comments or protests are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider this matter on its merits and enter its Order without a formal hearing. If written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider them and, in its discretion, may set the same for formal hearing.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the parties' Application shall be processed by Modified Procedure, Rule 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that interested persons wishing to file written comments must do so no later than October 24, 2018. Avista may file a reply, if any, no later than October 26, 2018.


DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 11th day of October 2018.


PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER


ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

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