

ISSUED: December 4, 2007

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UG 181 / UM 1351

In the Matters of	)	
	)	
AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA	)	
UTILITIES (AVISTA)	)	JOINT PREHEARING
	)	CONFERENCE
Request for General Rate Revision. (UG 181)	)	REPORT
	)	
and	)	
	)	
AVISTA's	)	
	)	
Petition Requesting Authority to Revise	)	
its Book Depreciation Rates. (UM 1351)	)	

**DISPOSITION: SCHEDULES ADOPTED; PETITION TO INTERVENE GRANTED**

On November 29, 2007, a joint prehearing conference was held in Salem, Oregon, in the above-captioned dockets. The primary purpose of the prehearing conference was to establish procedural schedules for these dockets.

**Identification of Parties**

The following parties appeared at the conference: David B. Hatton, Stephanie Andrus, Judy Johnson, and Ming Peng on behalf of Commission Staff (Staff); David Meyer on behalf of Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities (Avista); Lowrey Brown via telephone on behalf of the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon; and Ed Finklea via telephone on behalf of the Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU).

**Procedural Schedules**

The participants proposed the following procedural schedules:

<b>UG 181</b>	
Petitions to Intervene due	December 10, 2007
Settlement Conference	December 11, 2007
Settlement Conference	January 10, 2008
Intervenor Funding Budgets due	January 16, 2008

Staff and Intervenors file Settlement Proposals	January 29, 2008
Settlement Conference	February 12, 2008
Staff and Intervenors file Opening Testimony	February 28, 2008
Avista Rebuttal Testimony due	March 20, 2008
Staff and Intervenors file Surrebuttal Testimony	April 10, 2008
Avista Sursurrebuttal Testimony due	May 1, 2008
Hearing	May 12, 2008 9:30 a.m. Main Hearing Room
Simultaneous Opening Briefs	May 23, 2008
Simultaneous Reply Briefs	June 6, 2008
Oral Argument	June 11, 2008 9:30 a.m. Main Hearing Room
Commission Decision (target date)	August 20, 2008.

Avista agreed to respond to any data requests submitted in docket UG 181 on or after May 1, 2008, within five business days.

<b>UM 1351</b>	
Petitions to Intervene due	December 10, 2007
Settlement Conference and Workshop	January 10, 2008
Staff and Intervenors file Settlement Proposals	February 15, 2008
Settlement Conference	February 19, 2008
Joint Issues List due	February 22, 2008
Avista files Direct Testimony	March 14, 2008
Staff's and Intervenors' Direct Testimony due	April 10, 2008
Avista Rebuttal Testimony due	April 24, 2008
Hearing	May 12, 2008 9:30 a.m. Main Hearing Room
Simultaneous Opening Briefs	May 23, 2008
Simultaneous Reply Briefs	June 6, 2008.

These proposed schedules are adopted. In addition, the Commission will establish public hearing dates in various cities in Avista's service territory at a later date.

### **Motion for Standard Protective Orders**

Avista made an oral motion for the issuance of standard protective orders in both dockets. No party appearing at the conference objected to the motion. The administrative law judges (ALJs) took the motions under advisement, and separate orders will be issued disposing of the motions.

## **Petition to Intervene**

On November 29, 2007, NWIGU submitted a Petition to Intervene and Notice of Intent to seek intervenor funding in docket UG 181. Upon review of this petition, ALJ Sarah Wallace finds that NWIGU has sufficient interest in the proceeding, and that its appearance and participation will not unreasonably broaden the issues, burden the record, or unreasonably delay the proceeding. *See* OAR 860-012-0001. NWIGU's petition to intervene is conditionally granted. Any person wishing to contest the petition may do so within 10 days of service of the petition. If no person contests the petition, the decision to grant the petition shall be final.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2007, at Salem, Oregon.

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Sarah K. Wallace  
Administrative Law Judge

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Traci A.G. Kirkpatrick  
Administrative Law Judge