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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON

Docket No. UM 1356

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) APPLICATION FOR
AVISTA UTILITIES FOR AN ORDER) REAUTHORIZATION
REAUTHORIZING DEFERRAL OF CERTAIN) OF CERTAIN
COSTS RELATED TO INTERVENOR) DEFERRAL ACCOUNTS
FUNDING GRANTS)

Pursuant to ORS 757.259 and OAR 860-027-0300(4), Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities (“Avista” or “Company”), applies to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("Commission") for an order reauthorizing it to utilize deferred accounting for Intervenor Funding Grants provided to various qualifying organizations. Avista respectfully requests that this reauthorization become effective November 1, 2020.

In support of this Application, the Company states:

Avista provides natural gas service in southwestern and northeastern Oregon and is a public utility subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction under ORS 757.005(1)(a)(A).

Avista requests that all notices, pleadings and correspondence regarding this Application be sent to the following:

Patrick D. Ehrbar	David J. Meyer
Director of Regulatory Affairs	Vice President and Chief Counsel
Avista Corporation	for Regulatory and Governmental Affairs
P.O. Box 3727	Avista Corporation
1411 E. Mission, MSC-27	P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220-3727	1411 E. Mission, MSC-10
(509) 495-8620	Spokane, WA 99220-3727
Patrick.ehrbar@avistacorp.com	(509) 495-4316
	David.meyer@avistacorp.com

This Application is filed pursuant to ORS 757.259, which empowers the Commission to authorize the deferral of expenses or revenues of a public utility for later incorporation in rates.

1 BACKGROUND

2 The Intervenor Funding Agreement, Third Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding
3 Agreement Order No. 15-335 dated October 20, 2015 and later replaced with the Fourth
4 Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement Order No. 18-017 dated January 17,
5 2018, between the Company, Citizens’ Utility Board of Oregon (“CUB”) and Northwest
6 Industrial Gas Users (“NWIGU”) established three funds from which grants could be made
7 (CUB Fund, Preauthorized Matching Fund and an Issues Fund).

8 DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSES

9 The Intervenor Funding Agreement provides that pre-certified intervenors must submit a
10 proposed fund budget to the Commission that contains the following information:

- 11 1) A statement of the work to be performed by the applicant for which the applicant is
12 seeking an Issue Fund Grant;
- 13 2) A description of the areas to be investigated by the intervenor;
- 14 3) A description of the particular customer class(es) that will benefit from the
15 intervenor’s participation;
- 16 4) Identification of the specific account or accounts from which the intervenor is seeking
17 an Issue Fund Grant and an estimate of the amount of available funds in that account;
- 18 5) A budget showing estimated attorney fees, which may include the cost for appropriate
19 support staff and operational support;
- 20 6) A budget showing estimated consultant fees and expert witness fees, which may
21 include the cost for appropriate support staff and operational support; and
- 22 7) A representation that the intervenor will use matching funds from either in-house
23 resources or outside funding to account for or pay at least 20 percent of the “Eligible

1 Expenses” for the work to be performed for which the intervenor is seeking an Issue
 2 Fund Grant.

3 After Commission approval of the proposed budget, the intervenor must file a Request
 4 for Payment with the Commission. If the request meets the Intervenor Funding Agreement
 5 requirements, the Commission will order payment and specify which customer class will be
 6 responsible for the grant.

7 Sub-accounts of FERC account number 191 is used to record the grant payments,
 8 specifically account numbers 191720, 191721 and 191722.

9 GRANTS APPROVED THIS PERIOD

10 On August 29, 2019, by Order No. 19-280, the Commission approved continued deferred
 11 accounting treatment for the three Intervenor Funds. In accordance with that Order the
 12 Company deferred the following:

13 **Table 1 Current Deferrals:**

	CUB Fund (191720)	Preauthorized Matching Fund (191721)	Issues Fund (191722)
Per Order No. 19-343			\$25,339
Per Order No. 20-009			\$24,780
Per Order No. 19-330		\$4,651	
Per Order No. 20-003	\$44,500		
Per Order No. 20-117		\$6,434	
Interest	\$2,864	\$1,149	\$3,572
Balance at 06-30-2020	\$47,364	\$12,234	\$53,691

14 RECOVERY OF INTERVENOR FUNDING GRANTS

15 On November 22, 2011, in accordance with Commission Order No. 11-470, the
 16 Company began amortizing the Intervenor Funding deferrals through Schedule 476. Effective

1 October 31, 2020, balances for the Residential and Industrial accounts are estimated to be:

2 **Table 2 Unamortized Residual Balances:**

	Residential <u>Acct</u> <u>191723</u>	Industrial <u>Acct</u> <u>191724</u>
Balance at June 30, 2020	\$4,742	\$29,247
Less: Amortization	\$6,883	\$21,117
Add: Interest	\$25	\$237
Balance at October 31, 2020	<u>(\$2,116)</u>	<u>\$8,367</u>

3
4 SCHEDULE 476 TARIFF FILING

5 In conjunction with its annual PGA filing in July 2020, Avista will request to recover the
6 current deferral balances (Table 1), and the remaining unamortized residual balances (Table
7 2), over the upcoming traditional PGA period (November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021).

8 If approved, the funds in general ledger account 191720 (CUB Fund) in the amount of
9 \$47,364 will be transferred to Account 191723 (Residential); the funds in general ledger
10 account 191721 (Preauthorized Matching Fund) in the amount of \$12,234 will be transferred
11 to 191724 (Industrial); and, of the \$53,691 balance in general ledger account 191722 (Issues
12 Fund), \$25,753 will be transferred to 191723 for Residential Customers, and \$27,938 will be
13 transferred to 191724 for Industrial customers for amortization. These amounts do not include
14 interest that will be accrued from July 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020 in accordance with
15 the Intervenor Funding Agreement previously approved by the Commission.

16 FUTURE ESTIMATED DEFERRALS


17 The Company estimates that the following amounts may be deferred during the 12-month
18 period subsequent to this Application (November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021):

19 CUB Fund \$44,500

1	Preauthorized Matching Fund ¹	\$41,267
2	Issues Fund	\$70,000
3	Absent Commission’s reauthorization of deferred accounting, the Company would incur	
4	the cost of Intervenor Funding Grants.	

5 Avista seeks with this application to receive reauthorization of the use of sub-accounts
6 of FERC Account No. 191 to account for the Intervenor Funding Grants awarded over the
7 twelve month period beginning November 1, 2020 and ending October 31, 2021.

8 DATED this 8th day of July 2020.

9 Respectfully submitted,
10 Avista Corporation
11 
12 By: _____
13 Patrick D. Ehrbar
14 Director of Regulatory Affairs

¹ As s stated in the Fourth Amended Intervenor Funding Agreement, the amount for 2018 is \$37,950 increased by 3% each year thereafter. The pro-rated amount approved for the period November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020 was \$40,066. The updated amount for November 1, 2020 through October 32, 2021 is \$41,267 (\$40,066 x 1.03).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Docket No. UM 1356

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have on this day, July 8, 2020 served by electronic mail the foregoing Notice of Application for Reauthorization of Certain Deferral Accounts, related to the deferral of costs for Intervenor Funding Grants provided to various qualifying organizations, to all parties of record for Avista's most recent general rate case, Docket No. UG 389, as indicated below:

Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC)

Edward Finklea, Director of Natural Gas
efinklea@awec.solutions

Chad M. Stokes
Cable Huston, LLP
cstokes@cablehuston.com

Tommy A. Brooks
Cable Huston, LLP
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Oregon Public Utilities Commission (OPUC)

John Crider, OPUC Staff
john.crider@puc.state.or.us

Oregon Citizens Utility Board (CUB)

Mike Goetz, Staff Attorney
mike@oregoncub.org

William Gehrke
will@oregoncub.org

dockets@oregoncub.org

Department of Justice

Johanna Riemenschneider
johanna.riemenschneider@doj.state.or.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Spokane, Washington this 8th day of July, 2020.

/s/ Paul Kimball

Paul Kimball
Manager of Compliance & Discovery
Avista Utilities
Paul.Kimball@avistacorp.com
(509) 495-4584

Docket No. UM 1356

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN
DEFERRAL ACCOUNTS**

July 8, 2020

To All Parties Who Participated in UG 389:

Please be advised that on July 8, 2020, Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities (“Avista” or “Company”), applied to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("Commission") for an order reauthorizing the Company to utilize deferred accounting for Intervenor Funding Grants provided to various qualifying organizations. This filing has been made pursuant to ORS 757.259 and OAR 860-027-0300(4).

This Notice is being sent to all parties that participated in Avista’s most recent general rate case, Docket No. UG 389, to inform them that an Application for Reauthorization has been filed. Parties wanting more information or who wish to obtain a copy of the filing can access the Application on the Commission website, or by contacting either of the following:

**Avista Utilities
Attn: Patrick Ehrbar
P.O. Box 3727
1411 E. Mission, MSC-27
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
(509) 495-8620**

**Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Attn: Filing Center
201 High Street SE, Suite 100
PO Box 1088
Salem, OR 97301-1088
(509) 373-0886**

Any person may submit to the Commission written comments on this matter by August 2, 2020. Approval of Avista’s Application will not authorize a change in the Company’s rates, but will permit the Commission to consider allowing such deferred amounts in rates in a subsequent proceeding.

DATED this 8th day of July, 2020.

By: /s/ David Meyer

David J. Meyer, Vice President and Chief Counsel for Regulatory and Governmental Affairs