

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: December 20, 2021

TO: Caroline Moore

FROM: Madison Bolton

SUBJECT: **Avista:** 2022 Tariff has been updated under the OPUC Order No. 21-414 without formal advice filing

Background:

Docket No. UM 779 typically requires utilities to submit a compliance filing with updated tariff sheets to reflect rate revisions for late payment charges and interest on customer deposits each year. However, the rates set by Order No. 21-414 do not reflect any changes from those in the previous year's Order No. 20-437. Provided utilities do not include past dates or language contrary to the rules in Order No. 21-414, tariff sheets are already compliant and do not require a formal compliance filing.

For 2022 rates, Avista meets the criteria for an exemption of a formal compliance filing. In Staff correspondence with Avista, Regulatory Policy Analyst Jaime Majure provided the following statement:

“Since Order No. 21-414 in Docket No. UM 779 did not change the existing late payment rate that utilities can charge on past due bills, nor the interest rate on customer deposits, Avista’s tariffs are already reflective of an interest rate of 0.1 percent and a late-payment rate of 2.0 percent. We do not state any prescriptive dates in tariff or any language contrary to the OARs granted in this year’s order—therefore, no compliance filing is necessary for Avista in instances where UM 779 results in no changes from the prior year.”

Since the rates will remain the same for 2022, Staff reviewed the previous year’s advice filing for the following requirements for compliance with Commission Order No. 21-414:

- The late payment fee of 2.0% of unpaid balance, effective for service on and after January 1, 2022.
- The interest rate of 0.1% on customer deposits held during January 1 through December 31, 2022

Staff’s recommendations:

Staff concludes that OPUC’s Order 21-414 has been reasonably followed by Avista. The 2022 Tariff has been updated without formal advice filing.

Cc: Diane Davis