

ITEM NO. CA3

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 6, 2020**

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE October 15, 2020

DATE: September 18, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Heather Cohen

THROUGH: Bryan Conway and John Crider **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: AVISTA UTILITIES:
(Docket No. ADV 1184/Advice No. 20-11-G)
Requests approval of housekeeping changes to Rule 2, Rule 20, and
Schedule 469.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Avista Utilities' (Avista or Company) Advice No. 20-11-G and allow the proposed housekeeping revisions to tariff sheets associated with Tariff P.U.C. No. 5 to go into effect on October 15, 2020.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve the Company's proposed revisions to its Tariff P.U.C. No. 5.

Applicable Law

The Commission may approve tariff changes if they are deemed to be fair, just, and reasonable. ORS 757.210. Tariff revisions may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required under the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-022-0025. Filings that propose any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules, or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days before the effective date of the change. See ORS 757.220; OAR 860-022-0020.

Analysis

On September 15, 2020, Avista submitted this housekeeping filing to modify its tariff by amending text for clarifying purposes, removing superfluous specifications and incorporating changes previously omitted in previous advice filings. The Company proposes changes to Rule No. 2, Rule No. 20, and Rule No. 469.

For Rule No. 2, the Company adjusts the expected average heating value of natural gas supplied by the Company along with several grammatical fixes. Avista requests to update its current heating values to those that match those delivered by Gas Transmission Northwest (GTN) and Northwest Pipeline (NWP) according to existing FERC Gas Tariff Sheet No. 204.

For Rule No. 20, the Company corrects the updated curtailment penalty amount from \$1 to \$10 as stated in its most recent general rate case.¹

For Rule No. 469, Avista proposes to remove the specific revenue percentage (“3.98% of revenues”) stated as the basis by which the Public Purpose Charge (PPC) is collected, as well as the effective date detailed for this percentage. The Company has found listing the specific percentage of revenues in its tariff creates an unnecessary administrative burden in instances where the Company’s revenues change at a time inconsistent with the cadence of the PPC filings.

Conclusion

Staff identified no issues or errors with the filing and recommends that the Commission approve the tariff changes as filed, allowing the housekeeping revisions to go into effect on and after October 15, 2020.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve Avista’s Advice No. 20-11-G, effective on and after October 15, 2020.

¹ See Docket No. UG 389, Joint Testimony in Support of Second Partial Settlement Stipulation, pg. 20, lines 4-9.