



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Public Utility Commission

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October 6, 2020



BY EMAIL

Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities

Joe Miller, joe.miller@avistacorp.com

Jaime Majure, jaime.majure@avistacorp.com

RE: Advice No. 20-011-G

At the public meeting on October 6, 2020, the Commission adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter docketed as ADV 1184. The Staff Report and a receipted copy of the sheets in your advice filing are attached.

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Public Utility Commission of Oregon
(503) 378-3098

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.

AVISTA CORPORATION
dba Avista Utilities

RULE NO. 2

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

A. Kind and Heating Value

Gas supplied by the Company will be natural gas having the following average heating values that may be expected to fluctuate not more than plus or minus three percent.

Southern Oregon Division, excluding Klamath Falls	985 Btu per cubic foot	(C)
Klamath Falls	1,065 Btu per cubic foot	
La Grande and Baker	1,055 Btu per cubic foot	

B. Pressure

The regular delivery pressure will be approximately seven inches of water column.

Where gas is served at pressures above the regular pressure through positive displacement meters, the metered volume shall be corrected to a standard pressure of 14.73 pounds per square inch absolute (psia).

(T)

C. Determination of Therms to be Billed

1. Average Natural Gas Heating Value

All natural gas is supplied under rate schedules based on therms. The number of therms delivered to the customer will be determined by the conversion of volumetric measurements. The conversion of volumetric measurements to therms will be based on the actual Btus delivered on a daily basis. For customers on transportation schedules or special contracts that deliver gas daily to the Company, the daily heating value reported by the pipeline(s) delivering gas to the Company's distribution system will be used.

2. Positive Displacement Metering

a. General Service Accounts Supplied at Regular Delivery Pressure

The therm multiplier for general service accounts metered at regular delivery pressure will be developed from the average natural gas heating value as indicated in Section C.1. above, expressed in Btu per cubic foot divided either by 1,000 for meter registrations in units of 100 cubic feet

(continued)

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By



Patrick Ehrbar, Director of Regulatory Affairs,

AVISTA CORPORATION
dba Avista Utilities

RULE NO. 20
MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES

The following schedule summarizes the Company's service charges to its natural gas customers:

Disconnect (normal business hours).....	no charge
*Reconnect charge for non-pay/Customer convenience	\$30 -during office hours****
(Reference Rule 11)	\$50 -other than office hrs****
* Seasonal Reconnect	\$30 -during office hours****
(Reference Schedule 410 and 420)	\$50 -other than office hrs****
Returned checks from the Bank (Reference Rule 9)	\$ 25
Late Payment Fee	2.1% of unpaid balance
(Reference Rule 9).....	over \$200
2nd Meter Test within 12 Month Period	Company cost of***
(Reference Rule 18)	performing test
Deposits to establish credit - (Reference Rule 7)	Based on premise usage
Penalty Charge for Excess Therms Taken During Curtailment	\$10.00/therm
(Reference Rule 14)	
Customer Requested Removal and Replacement of Meter/Communication Equipment.....	\$221.61
(Reference Rule 17)	
Monthly Meter Reading Expense	\$50.88/month
(Reference Rule 17)	

* Avista Utilities may charge and collect any unusual costs incident to the discontinuance or restoration of a service which has resulted from the customer's action or negligence. In addition, this Commission approved fee may be charged whenever the Company visits a residential service address intending to reconnect service, but due to customer action, the Company is unable to complete the reconnection at the time of the visit. Further, when service has been discontinued at the Customer's request and then reestablished within a twelve-month period, the Customer shall be required to pay the monthly minimum charges that would have been billed had service not been discontinued.

*** Cost based on company formula which allows the Company to recover expenses for payroll, taxes, insurance, and company vehicle used.

**** Office hours are between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays, other than holidays.
(Reconnects must be accomplished before 5PM in order to merit the "during office hour" charge).

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AVISTA CORPORATION
dba Avista Utilities

SCHEDULE 469

PUBLIC PURPOSE FUNDING SURCHARGE - OREGON

APPLICABLE:

Adjustments under this schedule are applicable to all bills calculated under all schedules of this Tariff.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this schedule is to collect funds to be used to fund energy efficiency programs administered through the Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) and the Company.

MONTHLY RATE:

A public purpose charge, based on a percentage of revenues on an annualized basis, will be collected through monthly charges for the purpose described above. The Commodity Charge per therm of the individual rate schedules are to be adjusted by the following amounts:

(T)

<u>Rate Schedule</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Schedule 410	\$0.04256 per Therm
Schedule 420	\$0.03601 per Therm
Schedule 424	\$0.01648 per Therm
Schedule 444	\$0.01731 per Therm

DETERMINATION OF RATE

The Company will annually determine if the Public Purpose Funding Surcharge for energy efficiency programs administered by the ETO and the Company needs to be adjusted so that forecasted collections, plus any unspent collections, are sufficient to meet all programming needs by the ETO and the Company. Any adjustments needed will take place on the 1st of each year.

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. The annual budget funds collected to be transferred to the ETO will be calculated in partnership with the Company and the ETO.
2. The monies collected under this schedule for the purposes of funding energy efficiency program delivered by the ETO will be transferred to the ETO monthly.
3. The Company will retain a portion of the funding collected under this schedule to fund Schedule 485, Avista Oregon Low Income Energy Efficiency Program ("AOLIEE") as well as administrative and marketing expenses.

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