

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: December 1, 2020**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE December 6, 2020

DATE: November 20, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Kathy Zarate

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, John Crider, and Matthew Muldoon **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: AVISTA CORPORATION:
(Docket No. ADV 1193/Advice No. 20-12-G)
Requests revisions to Rule 11 – Discontinuance and Restoration of Service.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) should approve the request by Avista Corporation (Avista or Company) to adjust the language regarding disconnection and reconnection of service in the Company’s tariff Rule No. 11, Discontinuance and Restoration of Service, to become effective with service on and after December 6, 2020.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve the Company’s Advice No. 20-12-G, revisions to Rule 11 – Discontinuance and Restoration of Service.

Applicable Rule

The Company’s filing involves tariff sheets that are governed by ORS 757.205 and OAR 860-022-0025. Under ORS 757.205(1), a public utility must file schedules showing all rates, tolls, and charges for service that have been established and are in force at the time. Tariff revisions or corrections may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required under the Commission’s administrative rules, including OAR 860-022-0005 and OAR 860-022-0025. Filings that make 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 changes.

Analysis

On November 6, 2020, Avista submitted this filing to clarify the language as it relates to the discontinuance and restoration of service for Residential Rule 11, P.U.C OR. No 5.

Pursuant to Order No. 20-401 of Docket No. UM 2114, the company proposes changes to the following tariff sheet, P.U.C. OR No. 11:

- First Revision Sheet 11 Canceling Original Sheet 11
- First Revision Sheet 11A Canceling Original Sheet 11A
- First Revision Sheet 11D Canceling Original Sheet 11D
- First Revision Sheet 11G Canceling Original Sheet 11G
- First Revision Sheet 11H Canceling Original Sheet 11H

Order No. 20-401 adopts the stipulation entered into by numerous parties, including Avista to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on energy utility customers. Under paragraph 11 of the stipulation, utilities agree not to assess disconnection or reconnection fees for residential customers until October 1, 2022. The parties will consider whether to adjust this date in October 2021. Staff noted in the Staff report submitting the stipulation in Docket No. UM 2114 that Avista may need to revise its tariff Rule No. 11.

The primary purpose of this filing is to adjust the language regarding disconnection and reconnection of service in the Company's tariff Rule No. 11, Discontinuance and Restoration of Service, to allow Avista flexibility and leniency when the disconnection of natural gas service is required along with the assessment of reconnection charges. The language in Rule No. 11 requires the Company to disconnect natural gas service for nonpayment and to charge a customer a reconnection charge prior to restoration of service. The company proposes to replace "will" on Page 2 of 2 with "may" in multiple instances to better align its tariff language with the COVID-19 Stipulation.

Conclusion

After review, Staff concludes that the revisions filed by Avista are appropriate. By their nature, none of the revisions affect customers' rates or tariff eligibilities. Staff reviewed the proposed schedule changes to ensure that they were consistent with the rates approved by the Commission. Staff also reviewed the entire tariff file to ensure no other schedules were affected by the recent changes. Staff identified no issues or errors with the filing and recommends the Commission approve the adjusted the language regarding disconnection and reconnection of service in the Company's tariff Rule No. 11, Discontinuance and Restoration of Service.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve Avista's Advice No.20-12-G for service on and after December 6, 2020.