

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

LC 81

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA
UTILITIES,

2023 Natural Gas Integrated Resource Plan.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC
MEETING AND AGENDA

The Public Utility Commission of Oregon will hold a Special Public Meeting, Public Hearing, and Commissioner Work Session in this proceeding as follows:

DATE: June 29, 2023

TIME: 9:30 AM

ADMINISTRATIVE

LAW JUDGE: Sarah Spruce

VIA ZOOM: Click on the Link Below

[LINK TO MEETING](#)

Call-In Option: 669-254-5252

Meeting ID: 160 128 3104

Passcode: 6743108480

This notice explains the structure and agenda we will follow for this meeting, which is the first step in the Commission's review of Avista's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in this docket.

For those new to IRPs and the PUC, Attachment A to this notice is a brief "Introduction to IRPs." As described there, the first step in the Commission's review of an IRP generally is a presentation of the plan by the utility. Public comment is held for later in the process after further review and analysis of the plan.

On occasion, however, the Commission allows brief public comments immediately following the utility's initial presentation of the plan. We reserve this for instances in which there has been significant public engagement in the IRP development workshops or heightened public awareness of the plan.

At the June 29th meeting, we invite comment from any stakeholder or member of the public following Avista's initial presentation. Given the early stage of the Commission's review process, we ask that public comments be brief, and focus on describing what issues the commenter believes are most important for the PUC to

evaluate during the process, rather than advocating for a particular outcome in the Commission’s acknowledgment decision.

The schedule issued by the Administrative Hearings Division ([schedule](#)) provides additional opportunities for comments during the Commission’s review process.

Agenda

- 9:30 – 9:35 Welcome and process review (Chair Decker, ALJ Spruce)
- 9:35 – 10:30 IRP Presentation (Avista, with Commissioner questions)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Stakeholder and Public Comment

If you wish to provide comment at this meeting, please send your email to puc.publicmeetings@puc.oregon.gov in advance or follow the instructions provided at the meeting.

Dated this 16th day of June 2023, at Salem, Oregon.

Megan W. Decker	Letha Tawney	Mark R. Thompson
_____	_____	_____
Chair	Commissioner	Commissioner

IF YOU HAVE A DISABILITY AND NEED ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW (503) 378-6678, Oregon Relay Service: 7-1-1, or e-mail puc.hearings@puc.oregon.gov

ATTACHMENT A

INTRODUCTION TO IRPS

An Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is a utility’s plan to meet the future energy needs of its customers, in compliance with any policy requirements for energy resource supply. Every two to three years, a utility is required to engage with stakeholders to develop and present to the Commission with its plan and any near-term actions needed to carry it out. After considering all comments and perspectives, the Commission decides whether to “acknowledge” the plan and actions.

“Acknowledgment” is a regulatory concept: if a plan and associated actions are acknowledged, then there is a stronger presumption that the cost of taking those actions can be recovered in utility rates that the Commission sets in a future rate case. In a future rate case, the utility still must prove that its actions were reasonable, prudent and in the public interest. Both IRP acknowledgment and rate case decisions are related to whether the utility may recover costs associated with its actions; neither decision generally prohibits any particular utility action related to the utility’s acquisition of particular resources.

The Commission has adopted official [rules](#) and [guidelines](#) for IRPs. Under those rules, the Commission’s core inquiry in considering acknowledgement of an IRP is whether the utility’s plan represents a reasonable “least cost, least risk” strategy for meeting its customers’ needs, along with any policy requirements for energy resource supply. The Commission plans to update its IRP rules through future processes to reflect today’s policy context regarding utility resources more directly, including decarbonization requirements placed on the utilities.

The PUC’s process for IRP review generally follows these steps, not always in order:

- The utility presents its plan at a Commission public meeting;
- Staff and intervenors conduct discovery (a formal process of seeking information from the utility about its plan);
- Staff, intervenors, and the utility file a series of written comments on the plan;
- The Commission holds one or more workshops to gain greater insight into issues raised in written comments;
- The Commission holds one or more public hearings to gather comments on whether to acknowledge the plan and actions;
- The three Commissioners deliberate, in an open public meeting, on the issues presented and reach their decision;
- The Administrative Hearings Division works with the Commissioners to prepare a written order.

Anyone interested in an IRP may participate in the PUC process, which is organized under a “docket number” beginning with “LC.” Participation options include:

1. Sharing your views live at a public hearing or by submitting a public comment in writing.

2. Signing up to be notified by email when filings are made or orders issued in the docket.
3. Intervening in the docket and filing comments according to the established schedule. (This creates a more official “intervenor” status that enables participation in discovery, sharing of confidential information and facilitates participation in workshops.)