

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: December 13, 2023

TO: Caroline Moore

FROM: Madison Bolton

SUBJECT: **Avista Corporation:** 2024 Tariff has been updated. Avista’s Compliance filing at Advice No. 23-07-G for Interest Accrued on Customer Deposits and Late Payment Charge.

On November 17, 2023, Avista Corporation (“Avista” or “Company”) proposed revisions to the following tariff sheets, P.U.C. OR. No. 5.

<u>Oregon PUC Sheet No.</u>	<u>Canceling Oregon PUC Sheet No.</u>
10th Revision Sheet 7B	9th Revision Sheet 7B
<u>Oregon PUC Sheet No.</u>	<u>Canceling Oregon PUC Sheet No.</u>
11th Revision Sheet 20	10th Revision Sheet 20

Jaime Majure, Regulatory Affairs Manager of Avista requests to replace Oregon PUC Tariff Sheet No. 5, the 10th Revision Tariff Sheet 20 with the 11th Revision Tariff Sheet 20; and to replace Oregon PUC Tariff No. 5, the 9th Revision Tariff Sheet 7B with the 10th Revision Tariff Sheet 7B.

In compliance with Commission Order No. 23-438 in Docket No. UM 779, Public Utility Commission of Oregon Determination of Late-Payment Rate and Interest Accrued on Customer Deposits, Avista has made the tariff changes to reflect the late payment rate of 2.3 percent which utilities are allowed to collect on late payments and to reflect the annual interest rate of 5.5 percent on customer deposits for calendar year 2024.

Staff’s review included verifying the following requirements for compliance with Commission Order No. 23-438:

- The late payment fee of 2.3% of unpaid balance, effective for service on and after January 1, 2024.
- The interest rate of 5.5% on customer deposits held during January 1 through December 31, 2024.
- Attachments: Avista's Tariff Sheets for Late Payment charge and interest rate.

Staff verified Avista’s Advice No. 23-07-G and found that the new rates have been properly applied and the Company is in full compliance with the Commission order. Staff recommends an acknowledgement letter be sent.

Cc: Mark Brown

P.U.C. OR. No. 5	Tenth Revision Sheet 7B Canceling Ninth Revision Sheet 7B
AVISTA CORPORATION dba Avista Utilities	
RULE NO. 7 (continued) DEPOSITS	
<p>3. The Company may continue holding a deposit until such time as credit is satisfactorily established or re-established. For purposes of this rule, credit shall be considered to be established or re-established if one year after a deposit is made except as outlined in Section C-2 of this rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The account is current;b. Not more than two five-day disconnection notices were issued to the customer during the previous 12 months; andc. The customer was not disconnected for nonpayment during the previous 12 months. <p>4. After satisfactory credit has been established or re-established, the deposit plus any accrued interest will be promptly refunded or credited to the customer's account. A customer is entitled to a refund upon request.</p> <p>5. In the event the customer moves to a new address within the Company's service area, the deposit, plus accrued interest, will be transferred to the new account.</p> <p>6. Deposits plus accrued interest can be refunded or credited, in whole or in part, to the customer's account at any time provided that procedures followed by the Company are non-discriminatory.</p> <p>7. Unless otherwise specified by the customer, the Company will mail deposit refunds to the customer's last known address. Valid claims for payment of refunds will be promptly honored by the Company if received within one year of the date service is terminated. Funds held beyond one year will be disposed of in accordance with ORS 98.316.</p> <p>D. Interest on Deposits for Residential and Non-Residential Service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Each year, the Commission shall establish an annual interest rate that must be paid on customer deposits. The Commission will base the rate upon consideration of the effective interest rate for new issues of one-year Treasury Bills issued during the last week of October, the interest rate on the most recent issuance of one-year Treasury Bills, or the effective interest rate for the average yield of Treasury Bills of the closest term issued during the last week of October. This interest rate applies to deposits held during January 1 through December 31 of the subsequent year. The current interest rate is 5.5%.	
Advice No. 23-07-G Issued November 17, 2023	Effective For Service On & After January 1, 2024

Issued by Avista Utilities
By Patrick Ehrbar, Director of Regulatory Affairs



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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	2.3% 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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