



Avista Corp.

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VIA – Electronic Filing

March 18, 2020

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Attn: Filing Center
201 High Street SE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-3612

RE: Advice No. 20-03-G; Rule No. 9, Late Payment Charge Revisions

Filing Center:

Pursuant to ORS 757.205 and OAR 860-022-0025, attached for filing with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (“Commission”) is an electronic copy of Avista Corporation’s, dba Avista Utilities (“Avista” or “the Company”), filing of its proposed changes to the following tariff sheet, P.U.C. OR No. 5:

First Revision Sheet 9E

Canceling

Original Sheet 9E

The primary purpose of this filing is to adjust the language regarding late payment charges in the Company’s tariff Rule No. 9, “Rendering and Payment of Bills”, to allow Avista to use its discretion in applying late payment charges. The language in Rule No. 9, Section G, Late Payment Charge, currently states that “For balances between \$50 and \$200, a \$3 minimum late payment charge *will* be assessed.” (emphasis added). The company proposes to replace “will” with “may”, and to add further language clarifying “*if* charged” (emphasis added) in Section G (5), which provides the Company the flexibility needed to suspend assessing the late payment charge during the current COVID-19 situation and future emergency situations.

To immediately respond to the rapidly changing economic conditions facing its customers due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Avista respectfully requests that the Commission allow these

tariff changes to become effective as of March 20, 2020. As allowed by ORS 757.220, the Commission, “for good cause shown, may allow changes without requiring the 30 days’ notice by filing an order specifying the changes to be made and the time when they shall take effect.” Avista believes the requested tariff revisions to be in the best interest of its customers based on the rapidly evolving conditions caused by COVID-19, and therefore a practical show of good cause.

The Company requests the tariff changes be effective for service rendered on and after March 20, 2020, or upon Commission approval. In the event the Commission’s approval and the effective date occur within 30 days, the Company has included a request for Less than Statutory Notice (“LSN”) in this filing.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (509) 495-4975.

Sincerely,

/s/Linda Gervais

Linda Gervais
Senior Manager, Regulatory Policy & Strategy
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Enclosures



AVISTA CORPORATION
dba Avista Utilities

RULE NO. 9 (continued)

RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

2. If the customer has six months or more remaining on a time-payment agreement, the installment amount will be adjusted in order to bring the account into balance within the time period specified in the original agreement. If the customer has less than six months remaining on a time-payment agreement, the Company will recalculate the agreement to bring that account into balance within 12 months. The customer must pay any past due time-payment installments before the Company adjusts or recalculates the agreement. The Company may make more liberal payment arrangements for customers on medical certificates who cannot reasonably be expected to pay the outstanding balance in the time otherwise applicable under this rule.

G. Late Payment Charge

1. Payments not received by the next month's bill date will be considered late.
2. The late payment charge will not be applied to time-payment or equal-payment accounts that are current.
3. For balances less than \$50, no late payment charge will be assessed.
4. For balances between \$50 and \$200, a \$3 minimum late payment charge may be assessed. (C)
5. For balances over \$200, if charged, the late payment charge will be based on a monthly late-payment rate applied to overdue account balances at the time of preparing the subsequent month's bill. The Commission determines the late-payment rate annually based on a survey of prevailing market rates for late-payment charges of commercial enterprises and advises all utilities by November 15, of each year what rate to use to determine late-payment charges on overdue customer accounts during the following calendar year. The current late-payment rate and the conditions for its application to customer accounts are specified on the utility bill. (C)
6. Payment received on the day of the next month's bill date may result in a Late Payment Charge on the next bill; however, this charge will be adjusted on the following bill.

Advice No. 20-03-G
Issued March 18, 2020

Effective For Service On & After
March 20, 2020

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



LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE APPLICATION

This document may be electronically filed by sending it as an attachment to an electronic mail message addressed to the Commission's Filing Center at puc.filingcenter@state.or.us.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities _____ (UTILITY COMPANY)))))	UTILITY L.S.N. APPLICATION NO. _____ (LEAVE BLANK)
TO WAIVE STATUTORY NOTICE.		

NOTE: ATTACH EXHIBIT IF SPACE IS INSUFFICIENT.

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE(S) ADDITION, DELETION, OR CHANGE. (SCHEDULE INCLUDES ALL RATES, TOLLS AND CHARGES FOR SERVICE AND ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE SAME)
 The purpose of this filing is to modify the language in Rule No. 9, Section G, Late Payment Charge, to allow Avista to suspend billing of the late payment charge during certain events.

2. APPLICANT DESIRES TO CHANGE THE SCHEDULE(S) NOW ON FILE KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS: (INSERT SCHEDULE REFERENCE BY NUMBER, PAGE, AND ITEM)
 P.U.C. OR. No. 5, Original Sheet 9E, Section G, Late Payment Charge

3. THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE(S) SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS: (INSERT SCHEDULE REFERENCE BY NUMBER, PAGE AND ITEM)
 P.U.C. OR. No. 5, First Revision Sheet 9E, Section G, Late Payment Charge

4. REASONS FOR REQUESTING A WAIVER OF STATUTORY NOTICE:
 Avista Utilities is submitting this L.S.N. Application for Advice No. 20-03-G because the requested effective date of the tariff revisions provided is less than 30 days from the date of filing. In response to COVID-19, Avista seeks the ability to suspend the billing of late payment charges. The Company seeks to waive the statutory notice to implement this change as soon as possible.

5. REQUESTED EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE NEW SCHEDULE(S) OR CHANGE(S): March 20, 2020

. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE 	TITLE Director of Regulatory Affairs	DATE 3/18/2020
PUC USE ONLY		
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DENIED	EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED SCHEDULE(S) OR CHANGE	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	DATE	