

## Avista Corp.

1411 East Mission P.O. Box 3727 Spokane. Washington 99220-0500 Telephone 509-489-0500 Toll Free 800-727-9170

April 15, 2016

### Advice No. 16-06-G

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

Attention: Filing Center

Pursuant to OAR 860-022-0025(1), attached for filing with the 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 sheets, P.U.C. OR No. 5:

First Revision Sheet 9A Canceling Original Sheet 9A

The purpose of this filing is to modify the Company's normal billing cycle period for when pro rata corrections are made to bills. It is not always possible to read meters on the same day each month, so currently when a billing period contains less than 27 days or more than 33 days, a pro rata correction is made to the bill. After discussion with Commission Staff regarding the number of bills that are longer than 33 days that include a pro rata correction, the Company proposes to change the billing period when a pro rata correction is made to bills that are less than 27 days or more than 35 days.

The reason for the proposed change arose from a conversation with Commission Staff regarding a customer that inquired about a bill with a pro rata correction due to the bill having a billing period longer than 33 days. As a part of the discussions with Staff, Avista analyzed how many customers received prorated bills for a period longer than 33 days. In 2014, over 68,300 bills were prorated for a period longer than 33 days. From February 2015 through January 2016, over 64,500 bills were prorated for a period longer than 33 days. By changing the normal billing period to 27 – 35 days the number of bills that would have received a pro rata correction due to having a billing period longer than 33 days would have been reduced to 1,294 in 2014, and 1,229 in the February 2015 – January 2016 timeframe. This represents an approximately 98% reduction in the number of bills that had a pro rata correction due to having a billing period longer than 33 days.

The proposed change we believe is the simplest solution to reduce the number of customers that receive a bill with a pro rata correction due to a billing period longer than normal, while at the same time no affecting customers who have a shorter than normal billing period.

The Company requests the tariff changes be effective for service rendered on and after May 16, 2016. If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact Shawn Bonfield at (509) 495-2782.

Sincerely,

Patrick Ehrbar

Senior Manager, Rates and Tariffs

**Enclosures** 



# AVISTA CORPORATION dba Avista Utilities

## RULE NO. 9 (continued)

#### RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

- e. If a monthly manual meter reading is obtained, the Company will, upon written customer request, leave on the meter or with the customer, at the time of such reading, information showing the date and time of the meter reading, and the reading on the meter.
- f. The Company will make reasonable effort to prepare opening and closing bills from actual meter readings.
- g. It may not be possible always to read meters on the same day of each month, and should a monthly billing period contain less than 27 days or more than 35 days, a pro rata correction in the bill will be made in accordance with A.3. below.

Pro Rata Correction

Except as otherwise provided in specific rate schedules, all bills rendered for periods of less than 27 days or more than 35 days will be computed in accordance with the applicable rate schedule, but the size of the commodity blocks, or fixed charge blocks, and the amount of the fixed charge, or minimum charge specified therein, will be prorated on the basis of the ratio of the number of days in the period to the number of days in an average month. The average monthly billing period is 30 days.

Estimated Bills

If, because of unusual conditions or for reasons beyond its control, the Company is unable to read the customer's meter on the scheduled reading date, the Company may bill the customer for estimated consumption during the billing period, and make any necessary corrections when a reading is obtained.

Adjustments for any underestimate or overestimate of a customer's consumption will be reflected on the first regularly scheduled bill rendered and based on an actual reading immediately following the period of inaccessibility. Access to the meter, sufficient to permit its being read, shall be provided by the customer as a prerequisite to the Company making any adjustment in volumes of gas billed on an estimated basis.

(continued)

Advice No. Issued

16-06-G April 15, 2016 Effective For Service On & After

May 16, 2016

Issued by

Avista Utilities

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Vice President, State & Federal Regulation

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