

Avista Corp.

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August 6, 2013

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Attn: Filing Center
PO Box 2148
Salem, OR 97308-2148

RE: UG 246 – Avista’s Motion for a General Protective Order (Expedited Consideration Requested)

Avista Utilities anticipates filing a general rate case in the near future, that has been assigned docket number UG 246. The Company expects to file confidential information with its general rate case, therefore, enclosed is a Motion for a General Protective Order.

Please direct any questions regarding this filing to Liz Andrews at (509) 495-8601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Norwood".

Kelly O. Norwood
Vice President, State and Federal Regulation

Enclosure

cc: See attached service list

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that I have this day served the Motion for Protective Order in the Oregon Natural Gas General Rate Case Filing of Avista Utilities, a division of Avista Corporation, (UG-246) upon the parties listed below by electronic mail.

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Department of Justice
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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Spokane, Washington this 6th day of August 2013.



Paul Kimball
Rates Coordinator

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON

UG-246

In the matter of the Application of)
AVISTA CORPORATION, DBA)
AVISTA UTILITIES for a)
General Rate Increase in the)
Company's Oregon Annual Revenues)

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Expedited Consideration Requested

Pursuant to ORCP 36(C)(7) and OAR 860-001-0080(1), Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities ("Company") moves for entry of the Commission's standard protective order in this proceeding. The Company requests expedited consideration of this Motion in order to allow parties that execute the protective order to obtain prompt access to the confidential information filed in support of the request and to expedite any discovery in this proceeding. Good cause exists to issue a Protective Order to protect commercially sensitive and confidential business information related to the Company's request for a general rate increase. In support of this Motion, the Company states:

1.

The Commission's rules authorize Avista to seek reasonable restrictions on discovery of sensitive commercial information and other confidential business information. See OAR 860-001-0080(3)(a) (adopting Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure ("ORCP")); ORCP 36(C)(7) (providing protection against unrestricted discovery of "trade secrets or other confidential research, development, or commercial information"). See also *In re Investigation into the Cost of Providing Telecommunication Service* (UM 351), Order No. 91-500 (1991) (recognizing that protective orders

1 are a reasonable means to protect “the rights of a party to trade secrets and other confidential
2 commercial information” and “to facilitate the communication of information between litigants”).
3

4 2.

5 Avista anticipates that parties to this docket may request proprietary cost data and models,
6 commercially sensitive load and resource projections, confidential market analyses and business
7 projections, confidential employee data, and confidential information regarding contracts for the
8 purchase or sale of natural gas. This confidential business information is of significant commercial
9 value, which would expose the Company to competitive injury if disclosure is unrestricted.
10

11 3.

12 It is substantially likely that Staff and other parties in this proceeding will seek to discover
13 information held by Avista, including confidential business information. “The Commission’s
14 standard blanket protective order is designed to facilitate discovery in cases involving discovery of
15 large numbers of documents.” *See In re Portland Extended Area Service Region*, Docket UM 261,
16 Order No. 91-958 (1991). Issuance of a protective order will facilitate the production of relevant
17 information and expedite the discovery process.
18

19 4.

20 The Company requests expedited consideration of this Motion to allow parties who execute
21 the protective order to obtain prompt access to the confidential exhibits and workpapers in support
22 of the Company’s request for a general rate increase and to expedite any discovery in this
23 proceeding. In addition, in making its general rate filing, Commission rules require the submission

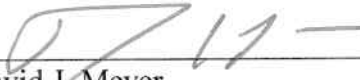
1 of responses to a set of standard information requests (see OAR 860-022-0019), and some of such
2 responses contain confidential information.

3
4 5.

5 Counsel for Avista has contacted counsel for Staff, CUB and NWIGU, all of the interveners
6 in Avista's previous general rate case, and none oppose this motion.

7
8 For the foregoing reasons, Avista requests expedited entry of the Commission's standard
9 protective order in this docket.

DATED: August 6, 2013.



David J. Meyer
Chief Counsel for Regulatory and Governmental Affairs
Avista Corporation



e-FILING REPORT COVER SHEET

Send completed Cover Sheet and the Report in an email addressed to:
PUC.FilingCenter@state.or.us

REPORT NAME: Double-click and enter report name here, tab to next field

COMPANY NAME: Avista Corporation

DOES REPORT CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, please submit only the cover letter electronically. Submit confidential information as directed in OAR 860-001-0070 or the terms of an applicable protective order.

If known, please select designation: ☐ RE (Electric) ☒ RG (Gas) ☐ RW (Water) ☐ RO (Other)

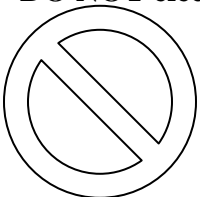
Report is required by: ☐ OAR Enter rule number
☐ Statute Enter statute number
☐ Order Enter PUC Order No
☒ Other Enter reason

Is this report associated with a specific docket/case? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If yes, enter docket number: UG-246

List applicable Key Words for this report to facilitate electronic search:
Protective Order

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- OUS or RSPF Surcharge form or surcharge remittance or
- Any other Telecommunications Reporting or
- Any daily safety or safety incident reports or
- Accident reports required by ORS 654.715

Please file the above reports according to their individual instructions.