



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

VIA – UTC Web Portal

July 30, 2021

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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 revisions to the following natural gas tariff sheet, WN U-29:

Twelfth Revision Sheet 192 Canceling Eleventh Revision Sheet 192

The purpose of this filing is to increase the amount of the Company's natural gas "Low Income Rate Assistance Program" (LIRAP) funding by 7 percent in compliance with Commission Order No. 09, in Docket Nos. UE-190334, UG-190335, and UE-190222 (*Consolidated*).¹ By way of background, Order No. 05 in Docket UE-150204, et. al. established a five-year plan and true-up schedule which required Avista to file revisions to Schedule 192 by August 15th of each year to increase LIRAP funding by the greater of 7 percent, or 2-times the amount of any residential base rate increase, beginning October 1, 2016 with annual funding increases through October 1, 2019. Order No. 09, in Docket UG-190335 extended the five-year funding plan through Avista's next general rate case (GRC). Also included in this filing is a true-up of the estimated revenues collected for LIRAP to the actual collections for the prior October to September LIRAP program year.

¹ Per the Settlement Stipulation approved via Order 09 in Docket UE-190334 et.al., LIRAP funding will increase annually by 7% or 2-times the residential base rate increase, whichever is greater.

Further extension of the current LIRAP funding plan is presently before the Commission in Dockets UE-200900, UG-200901, and UE-200894. Should the Commission's determination in that docket alter the 7% LIRAP funding level incorporated in this tariff filing, the Company will work with interested parties to incorporate those changes either into this tariff filing, or as part of the compliance filing in the GRC proceeding, depending on the timing of the general rate case final order.

Avista requests the Commission approve the proposed increase in rates and charges in Schedule 192 with an effective date of October 1, 2021. The estimated annual revenue change associated with this filing is an increase of approximately \$0.5 million, or an increase of 0.3% in overall billed rates. The proposed rate increase will have an average monthly bill impact of \$0.18 for residential natural gas customers using 66 therms, or 0.3%. If approved, the average monthly bill would increase from \$57.16 to \$57.34.

Pursuant to WAC 480-100-194(1), the Company will provide notice to customers, by way of a bill insert, in the August/September 2021 billing cycle, as well as a posting on the Company's website coincident with the date of this filing. Attached are the Company's workpapers supporting this proposal.

Please direct any questions regarding this filing to Joe Miller at (509) 495-4546.

Sincerely,

/s/ Patrick Ehrbar

Patrick Ehrbar
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures

AVISTA CORPORATION
dba Avista Utilities

SCHEDULE 192

LOW-INCOME RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPLICABLE:

To Customers in the State of Washington where the Company has natural gas service available. The rate adjustment assessed for the Low-Income Rate Assistance Program (LIRAP) shall be applicable to all retail customers taking service under Schedules 101, 102, 111, 112, 116, 131, 132 and 146. This rate adjustment is designed to recover costs incurred by the Company associated with providing bill assistance to low-income customers.

MONTHLY RATE:

The energy charges of the individual rate schedules are to be increased by the following amounts:

Schedule 101 & 102	\$0.02647 per Therm
Schedule 111, 112 & 116	\$0.02221 per Therm
Schedule 131 & 132	\$0.01949 per Therm
Schedule 146	\$0.00109 per Therm

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ANNUAL TRUE-UP:

On or before August 1, every year, the Company will file to adjust rates collected for the necessary program revenue with an effective date of October 1.

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Service under this schedule is subject to the Rules and Regulations contained in this tariff.

The above Rate is subject to increases as set forth in Tax Adjustment Schedule 158.

Issued July 30, 2021

Effective October 1, 2021

Issued by Avista Corporation
By

Patrick Ehrbar, Director of Regulatory Affairs

