

You may contact the Commission with questions or share your comments by one of the following ways. Please include your name and mailing address, the name of the company (Avista), and the Dockets UE-240006 and UG-240007.

To submit a comment

- Fill out the Online Comment Form.
Go to www.utc.wa.gov and click on "Submit a public comment" link;
- Email comments@utc.wa.gov;
- Call 1-888-333-9882; or
- Write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250

The Commission is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to participants with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in the public comment hearing, please contact the Commission at comments@utc.wa.gov or 888-333-9882 before Sept. 12, 2024.

For more information about the proposed rate change, conservation tips and energy efficiency programs, energy assistance programs and bill payment plans, visit us at www.myavista.com or contact us at **1-800-227-9187**, or by mail at: P.O. Box 3727, Spokane, WA 99220.

Residential and small business customers are represented by the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General's Office. You can contact them via the web at www.atg.wa.gov/utilities-regulated or by email at utility@atg.wa.gov.

How Can You Participate in the Rate Case Process?

The Commission will hold public hearings to examine the requested rate changes. The Commission has the authority to set final rates that may be different from Avista's request based on the results of the investigation, stakeholder input, and customer feedback. The Commission should issue its ruling on or before Dec. 21, 2024.

Virtual Public Hearing September 19, 2024, 6 p.m.

The WUTC will conduct a virtual public hearing to take comments from the public. You can participate via the Zoom link or by phone:

Zoom: <https://utc-wa-gov.zoom.us>; **click Join and enter Meeting ID: 932 0659 3527 and Passcode: 333313**
Phone: **(253) 215-8782 and enter Meeting ID: 878 3893 3652 and Passcode: 742820**

When you join the hearing via Zoom, please mute your connection. If participating via phone, press *6 to mute your phone.

If you would like to provide verbal comments at the hearing, please call **1-888-333-9882** or email comments@utc.wa.gov at least one day before the hearing and staff will sign you up to provide your verbal comments.

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To learn more about these and other options, go to www.myavista.com or call 1-800-227-9187.

For help with managing energy usage, Avista's Energy Manager and home energy audit tools, as well as energy-saving tips, videos and money-saving rebates for energy-efficient upgrades, are available.

In addition, Avista provides local community action agencies with funding for eligible customers who need emergency grants, home weatherization and heating system improvements. Customers with special health or financial circumstances can also work directly with our Customer Assistance Referral and Evaluation Services (CARES) team to be connected with resources for help with housing, other utilities, medical assistance, and more.

For more information on assistance options, customers can visit www.myavista.com/assistance.

We can help make your energy more affordable.

When customers need help with their energy use and billing, Avista has ways to assist. In Washington, Avista recently launched My Energy Discount, a personalized monthly bill discount program to help eligible customers lower their energy bills. The program offers more inclusive eligibility guidelines, quick and easy enrollment, and a two-year discount term. In addition, billing options, such as Comfort Level Billing, preferred due date, and payment arrangements, give customers more control over how their energy costs are spread out.

For help with managing energy usage, Avista's Energy Manager and home energy audit tools, as well as energy-saving tips, videos and money-saving rebates for energy-efficient upgrades, are available.



Avista requests electric and natural gas rate changes in Washington.



The Company seeks to recover investment costs to infrastructure and systems to serve customers.

On Jan. 18, 2024, Avista filed a two-year rate plan request with the Washington Utilities and Transportation (Commission) to increase electric and natural gas base rates. If approved, electric and natural gas rates would incrementally increase over the next two years effective Dec. 21, 2024, and Dec. 21, 2025. The Commission has up to 11 months to review the filing and should issue its ruling on or before December 21, 2024.

If approved as requested, electric revenues would increase as follows:

- **December 21, 2024:** 12.6% or \$77.1 million
 - **December 21, 2025:** 7.8% or \$53.7 million
- If approved as requested, natural gas revenues would increase as follows:
- **December 21, 2024:** 6.3% or \$17.3 million
 - **December 21, 2025:** 1.6% or \$4.6 million

Components of Avista’s Request:

Investments in infrastructure serve as the main reason for Avista’s request. Among the projects included in Avista’s filing are:

- Investments in our clean energy hydroelectric projects, such as Nine Mile, Cabinet Gorge, Post Falls, and Noxon Rapids, as well as installation of new substations to meet customer capacity requirements.
- Continued investment in Avista’s Wildfire Resiliency Plan, which outlines substantial steps that Avista has taken to guard against the growing threat of wildfires including grid hardening, enhanced vegetation management, and other industry-leading best practice measures.
- Ongoing systematic replacement of portions of natural gas distribution pipe in Avista’s service area installed prior to 1987, as well as replacement of other natural gas service equipment to strengthen the integrity, safety, and reliability of the system.
- Technology upgrades that support necessary business processes and operational efficiencies that allow Avista to effectively manage the utility and serve customers.

The request is based on a proposed rate of return (ROR) of 7.61% with a common equity ratio of 48.5% and a 10.4% return on equity (ROE). Customers pay for these returns to service debt expenses and provide the opportunity for shareholders to earn a fair return on their investment in funding Avista’s infrastructure and operations.

Electric Bill Changes

If the Commission approves Avista’s requests as proposed, the monthly bill change for a residential customer using an average of 945 kilowatt hours (kWhs) per month could expect to see billed increases as follows:

- **December 21, 2024:** Increase of \$12.94 per month, or 13.3%, for an average monthly bill from \$97.26 to \$110.20. The monthly increase includes a proposed increase to the basic charge, increasing the current \$9.00 basic charge by \$6.00 per month to \$15.00 per month.
- **December 21, 2025:** Increase of \$6.87 per month, or 3.1%, for an average monthly bill from \$110.20 to \$117.07. The monthly increase includes a proposed \$5.00 per month increase in the basic charge to \$20.00 per month.

The current and proposed rates for residential service are as follows:

Year 1 Electric - Proposed Schedule 1 Residential Billing Rates:

Electric Service	Current Bill Rate (per kWh)	Proposed Change	Proposed Bill Rates (per kWh)
Basic Charge	\$9.00	+\$6.00	\$15.00
First 800 kWhs/month	\$0.09096	+\$0.00715	\$0.09811
Next 700 kWhs/month	\$0.10682	+\$0.00840	\$0.11522
Over 1,500 kWhs/month	\$0.12635	+\$0.00994	\$0.13629

Year 2 Electric - Proposed Schedule 1 Residential Billing Rates:

Electric Service	Current Bill Rate (per kWh)	Proposed Change	Proposed Bill Rates (per kWh)
Basic Charge	\$15.00	+\$5.00	\$20.00
First 800 kWhs/month	\$0.09811	+\$0.00176	\$0.09987
Next 700 kWhs/month	\$0.11522	+\$0.00322	\$0.11844
Over 1,500 kWhs/month	\$0.13629	+\$0.00500	\$0.14129

The proposed electric revenue changes by service schedule are as follows:

Rate Schedule	Dec. 2024 Billing Increase	Dec. 2025 Billing Increase
Residential Service - Schedule 1	13.8%	6.7%
General Service - Schedules 11/12	11.8%	8.8%
General Service Schedule – Transportation 13	11.8%	8.7%
Large General Service - Schedules 21/22	11.7%	8.7%
Large General Service Schedule – Transportation 23	12.1%	9.4%
Extra Large General Service - Schedule 25	11.7%	9.6%
Extra Large Special Contract	11.4%	9.4%
Pumping Service - Schedules 31/32	11.8%	5.9%
Street & Area Lights - Schedules 42-48	11.9%	6.2%
Total	12.6%	7.8%

Natural Gas Bill Changes

If the Commission approves Avista’s requests as proposed the proposed monthly bill change for a residential customer using an average of 66 therms per month could expect to see a billed increase as follows:

- **December 21, 2024:** Increase of \$6.36, or 6.7%, for an average monthly bill from \$94.86 to \$101.22. The monthly increase includes a proposed increase to the basic charge, increasing the current \$9.50 basic charge by \$5.50 per month to \$15.00 per month.
- **December 21, 2025:** Increase of \$2.04, or 2.0%, for an average monthly bill from \$101.22 to \$103.26. The proposed monthly increase includes a proposed \$5.00 per month increase in the basic charge to \$20.00 a month, offset by a decrease in the volumetric, per-therm rate resulting in the \$2.04 monthly increase.

The current and proposed rates for residential and small commercial customers are as follows:

Year 1 Natural Gas - Schedule 101 Billing Rates:

Natural Gas Service	Current Bill Rate (per therm)	Proposed Change	Proposed Bill Rates (per therm)
Basic Charge	\$9.50	+\$5.50	\$15.00
First 70 therms/month	\$1.29338	+\$0.01294	\$1.30632
Over 70 therms/month	\$1.44522	+\$0.01680	\$1.46202

Year 2 Natural Gas - Schedule 101 Billing Rates:

Natural Gas Service	Current Bill Rate (per therm)	Proposed Change	Proposed Bill Rates (per therm)
Basic Charge	\$15.00	+\$5.00	\$20.00
First 70 therms/month	\$1.30632	-\$0.04486	\$1.26146
Over 70 therms/month	\$1.46202	-\$0.05830	\$1.40372

The proposed natural gas revenue changes by service schedule are as follows:

Rate Schedule	Dec. 2024 Billing Increase	Dec. 2025 Billing Increase
General Service Schedule 101	6.9%	1.7%
Large General Service Schedules 111/112/116	4.5%	1.1%
Interruptible Sales Service Schedules 131/132	5.2%	1.3%
Transportation Service Schedule 146	14.3%	3.3%
Total	6.3%	1.6%