

AVISTA CORPORATION
dba Avista Utilities

SCHEDULE 493

RESIDENTIAL LOW-INCOME RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIRAP) –
OREGON

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this schedule is to adjust rates in Schedule 410, “General Residential Natural Gas Service – Oregon”, to generate funds to be used for energy assistance for Avista’s qualifying low-income residential customers (in accordance with ORS 757.315(3) and ORS 757.230), to recover funds related to the deferred costs associated with the Company’s House Bill (HB 2475) deferral (UM 2232), and to describe the various forms of energy assistance available to qualifying low-income customers.

(N)
(N)

APPLICABLE:

To all residential Customers in the State of Oregon where the Company has natural gas service available. The Residential Low-Income Rate Assistance Program (LIRAP) Adjustment is applicable to all retail sales customers taking service under Schedules 410, 420, 424, 425, 439, 440 and 444 and the energy assistance offered through LIRAP is made available to all income-qualified Schedule 410 customers. Income-qualified is defined as customers with gross household income at or below 60% of Oregon State Median Income (SMI), adjusted for household size, as described herein or established in collaboration with the Community Action Agencies (“Agencies”). Exceptions to income qualifications may be granted with supervisor approval, as described within this tariff.

(N)
(N)

MONTHLY RATE:

<u>Rate Schedule</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Schedule 410	\$0.03320 per Therm
Schedule 420	\$0.03002 per Therm
Schedule 424/425	\$0.00633 per Therm
Schedule 439/440	\$0.00513 per Therm
Schedule 444	\$0.00763 per Therm

(M)
(N)(I)
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(N)(I)
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(M) material transferred to Supplemental Fifth Revision Sheet 493A

(M)

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By

Patrick Ehrbar, Director of Regulatory Affairs

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LIRAP COMPONENTS:

The following energy assistance options may be available for each household within the income range provided:

Income Range	Bill Discount	Arrearage Assistance
Zero to 5% SMI	90%	Arrearage Forgiveness
6 to 20% SMI	60%	
21 to 40% SMI	25%	Arrearage Management Program (AMP)
41 to 60% SMI	15%	

- Bill Discount – the Bill Discount will be applied to a participating customer’s monthly net bill, the amount of which is determined by the customer’s income range.
- Arrearage Management Program (AMP) – reduces customer arrearages owed over a 12-month period by providing an incentive for on-time, regular payment of their current bill plus a portion of the past due balance, for a maximum award of \$1,000.
- Arrearage Forgiveness – provides arrearage forgiveness for customers with incomes at or below 20% SMI, for a maximum award of \$1,000.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

1. Each month, the Company will bill and collect low-income energy assistance funds from all retail sales customers. By the 20th of the month following the billing month, the Company will remit payment to each Agency for allowed administrative and program delivery costs. (N)
2. The Company will compute interest each month based on the average monthly fund balance undistributed at the current Modified Blended Treasury (MBT) rate. (M) (C) (C)
3. The Company is responsible for program administration and funds distribution to qualifying local Agencies in accordance with terms and conditions (“Guidelines”) established by the Company and the entity. All funds collected under this program, less program administration and (M)

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delivery costs paid to the individual agencies and outreach funding to the Company, are distributed to income-eligible residential customers of Avista Utilities.

(C)

4. Utilization of program administration and delivery costs will be summarized in the annual evaluation report described herein (Special Condition 6).
5. Customer eligibility for LIRAP is determined in cooperation with the Agencies and captured in the LIRAP Guidelines, including eligibility and administration of the LIRAP Bill Discount and AMP.
6. Exceptions to income qualifications for the Bill Discount may be granted by the administering Agency or Company, with supervisory approval, if extenuating circumstances such as job loss, medical crises, or other hardship is encountered by the customer. Customer income for such exceptions shall not exceed 80% SMI, and enrollment for these customers will be made at the 15% discount tier.
7. LIRAP participants may be subject to post-enrollment verification audit sampling. If a customer is found to be ineligible for the program in which they are enrolled, the customer's LIRAP benefit will be suspended. The customer will not be billed for any previous LIRAP benefits received. Customers may re-apply for LIRAP by providing verification of eligibility.
8. The Company will provide an annual summary evaluation report on the progress of the LIRAP for review by the Commission by December 31st following the end of each program year.
9. The LIRAP program year is October 1st through September 30th.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Service under this schedule is subject to the General Rules and Regulations contained in the tariff of which this schedule is a part, and to those prescribed by regulatory authorities.

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