WN U-29

#### AVISTA CORPORATION dba Avista Utilities

### SCHEDULE 180

### WASHINGTON

# METER READING AND BILLING PRACTICE

1. The normal monthly billing period shall be approximately 30 days between meter readings as scheduled by the Company. However, Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, or some other unusual situation may alter the normal billing period. In such situations, electric service covering 27 to 35 days inclusive will be billed as a normal billing period.

2. The Company reserves the right to modify meter reading schedules as required by changing conditions.

3. When shorter than normal billing periods are caused by the Customer; i.e., opening (or closing) an account, services for six days or less will be treated as an addition to the next (or previous) normal billing period, whichever is applicable, and the total billed on the basis of a normal billing period. Consumptions for seven days or more will be billed as a normal billing period (per Section 1) or prorated (per Section 7) depending on the number of days in the billing period. Billings for time periods between seven and 27 days, which will be prorated, may occur when a customer closes their account.

4. The Company's standard practice is to obtain an actual meter read during the normal billing period of 27 to 35 days per Section 1. When other than normal billing periods are not caused by the Customer; i.e., services for longer than 35 days caused by extreme weather events, acts of nature preventing the Company from obtaining meter reads, or force majeure, the Company will attempt to bill the Customer based on actual meter readings. In such cases, the maximum monthly billing period for which a customer may be billed is 45 days. When an actual meter reading is not available, the Company may estimate the meter reading.

5. The Company may estimate meter readings for fractional month's use and render bills based on these estimated readings.

6. Where the Company's meter reader is unable to gain access to the premises to read the meter on the regular meter reading trip, the Company may estimate the meter reading, or may attempt to obtain the meter reading at a later date, or may request that the Customer provide the meter reading to the Company.

7. The billings for services less than 27 days or more than 35 days will be prorated.

8. If a meter has stopped registering, or otherwise fails to correctly register the amount of services supplied to a Customer, the Company, using the best available information, will estimate the amount of services supplied and will render a bill based on such estimate.

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AVISTA CORPORATION dba Avista Utilities

## SCHEDULE 180 - CONTINUED Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Opt-Out

# **AVAILABILITY:**

The services described herein are available to single-family residential homes, including multiplexes up to four units, for the purpose of a customer's choice to have a non-communicating digital meter. AMI meters, sometimes referred to as "smart meters," are digitial meters equipped with wireless communication capabilities. Customers that request to have a noncommunicating digital meter must meet the requirements and responsibilities for service outlined in this tariff schedule.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- 1. The Company shall not initiate the process to provide non-communicating meter service before it has received the Customer's signed, written request in the Application Form on file with the Commission. If by October 1, 2020, a customer refuses to sign Avista's standard Application Form to receive a non-communicating meter and refuses to allow the Company to install a communicating meter, the customer will be deemed to have opted-out of receiving a communicating meter and will be subject to the opt-out terms and conditions described in provisions number 2 through 6 of tariff Schedule 180a.
- 2. Customer will be required to pay the ongoing administrative and operational costs associated with the manual reading of the non-communicating digital meter, and other fees and charges associated with the non-communicating metering service that may be assessed for each eligible meter, as noted in the Fees Section of this tariff.
- 3. Customer may be required to pay a One-Time fee if they call in <u>after</u> installation of the <u>new</u> AMI meter requesting a non-communicating digital meter. This fee is to cover the costs of the labor and transportation associated with the installation. The One-Time Fee is noted in the Fees Section of this tariff.
- 4. Customer account with a non-communicating meter will be billed monthly based upon estimated monthly reads.
- 5. The Company is under no obligation to physically read the meter more frequently than once a quarter.
- 6. The Company may refuse or revoke the installation of a non-communicating digital meter at the Customer's premises for the following conditions, but not limited to:
  - a. when safe access is not available for the Company's personnel and standard equipment;
  - b. current or past incidents of Customer meter tampering; or
  - c. current or past incidents of the Customer impeding the Company's access to the meter to obtain meter reads, perform maintenance or to disconnect meter for non-payment of electric service.

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AVISTA CORPORATION dba Avista Utilities

#### SCHEDULE 180B - CONTINUED Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Non-Communicating Meter

#### FEES:

**One-Time Fee** 

Customers who request to opt-out from installation of an AMI meter before one is installed and within 30 days of its initial installation will not be charged. When a customer requests a non-communicating meter more than 30 days after an AMI meter has been installed, that customer will be charged as described below:

| Opt-Out Following<br>Installation of an AMI<br>Meter | Natural Gas Meter<br>Only | Both Electric and Natural<br>Gas Meter |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Within 30 days                                       | \$0.00                    | \$0.00                                 |
| After 30 days  | \$75.00                   | \$75.00                                |

#### Ongoing Monthly Meter Reading Charge

Meter Readings - Customers that choose a non-communicating meter will have their meter(s) read by the Company <u>on a quarterly basis</u>. The non-manual meter read billing cycles will be estimated by the Company. The monthly charge for this service is as set forth below:

| Natural Gas Meter(s) Read | Both Electric and Natural Gas |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Only                      | Meter(s) Read                 |
| \$6.00                    | \$6.00                        |

Customers who have qualified for energy assistance in the 12 months prior to the estimated installation date of a communicating meter, but who request a non-communicating meter, will not be subject to the "Ongoing Monthly Meter Reading Charge", but will be subject to the conditions detailed under "One-Time Fee".

All monthly meter reading charges will be subject to the Company's Rules and Regulations under Tariff Schedule 70. There will be no charge for customers choosing to remove a non-communicating digital meter and install an AMI meter.

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Patrick Ehrbar, Director of Regulatory Affairs

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