



**Avista Corp.**

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August 30, 2024

Mr. Jeff Killip  
Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Re: Tariff WN U-28, Electric Service  
Residential and Small Farm Energy Rate Adjustment Credit

Dear Mr. Killip:

Attached for electronic filing with the Commission is the following tariff sheet proposed to be effective November 1, 2024:

**Twenty-second Revision Sheet 59 Canceling the Twenty-first Revision Sheet 59**

The proposed tariff sheet reflects a rate adjustment to increase the rebate related to Residential Exchange Program benefits the Company receives from the Bonneville Power Administration. The Residential Exchange Program provides a share of the benefits of the federal Columbia River power system to the residential and small-farm customers of the six investor utilities of the Pacific Northwest including Avista.

Under the current Residential Exchange rate adjustment, approximately \$10.7 million annually is being passed through to applicable customers through a uniform 0.386¢ per kilowatt-hour rate credit. The current rate was approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission effective November 1, 2023.

The proposed rate credit of 0.411¢ per kilowatt-hour is designed to pass through approximately \$11.4 million which represents the Washington portion of the annual level of benefits Avista will receive starting in October 2024. The primary driver of the increase in credit is the prior year filing incorporated a forecasted surcharge balance of approximately \$0.9 million as of October 2023. That balance has now been recovered from customers, resulting in a larger portion of the Residential Exchange benefits now being passed back to customers. Under the present rate with current projected loads, customers would receive approximately \$10.7 million, as compared to the proposed rate designed to return approximately \$11.4 million to customers. The Company is

proposing an overall increase in Residential Exchange benefits of approximately \$700,000 or 0.1%. The change in rate credit has no effect on Avista's net income.

Enclosed is a set of workpapers that shows the derivation of the proposed 0.411¢ per kilowatt-hour rate credit proposed to be effective November 1, 2024. The average residential customer using 945 kWhs per month will see a decrease of \$0.24 per month, or approximately 0.2%. The present bill for 945 kWhs is \$105.76 while the proposed bill is \$105.52. The actual change will vary based on customer usage.

The Company has included workpapers with its filing which supports the Company's request. Also, the Company has provided in this filing a copy of its customer notice which will be included as a bill insert in the September time frame. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to Lindsey Thomas at (509) 495-7658.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Patrick Ehrbar*

Patrick D. Ehrbar  
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures



AVISTA CORPORATION  
dba Avista Utilities

### SCHEDULE 59

#### RESIDENTIAL AND FARM ENERGY RATE ADJUSTMENT - WASHINGTON

##### APPLICABLE:

To Residential Customers in the State of Washington where Company has electric service available. This rate adjustment results from an Agreement between the Company and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) covering Residential Exchange Program benefits. The rate adjustment in this schedule shall be applicable to customers served under Schedules 1, 7, 8, 12, 22, 32 and 48. (N)

##### MONTHLY RATE:

The energy charges for all blocks of electric Schedules 1, 12, 22 and 32 and the charges for area lights based on the energy usages of the lights on Schedule 48 are to be decreased by 0.411¢ per kWh. (R)

##### SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The rate adjustment under this schedule is subject to revision to reflect the true up from estimated to actual benefits and to reflect projected future benefits. In the event the credits applied under this schedule vary from the benefits, the Company will adjust the rate on this schedule to recover or pass through that difference. The carrying charge on the Residential Exchange deferral balance is a money market carrying charge.

The energy credit applied to Schedule 32 for farm irrigation and pumping load, for each billing period, shall not exceed the amount of energy determined by the following formula:

$$400 \times 0.746 \times \text{days in the billing period} \times 24$$

In no instance shall any qualifying irrigation and pumping load for any month exceed 222,000 kWh.

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


The above rate is subject to the provisions of Tax Adjustment Schedule 58.

Issued August 30, 2024

Effective November 1, 2024

Issued by Avista Corporation  
By

Patrick Ehrbar – Director of Regulatory Affairs



## **Important Notice for Washington Electric and Natural Gas Customers August-September 2024**

On August 30, 2024, Avista filed its annual Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Residential Exchange Program, Wildfire Expense Balancing Account, Insurance Expense Balancing Account, Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP), Low Income Rate Assistance Program (LIRAP), Climate Commitment Act (CCA) and Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment filings with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC or Commission). If approved, new rates would take effect Nov. 1, 2024 for electric customers and Nov. 15, 2024 for natural gas customers.

If approved, Avista's request is designed to increase electric revenues by \$22.9 million or 3.5% and would decrease natural gas revenues by \$42.3 million or 13.9%.

The first rate adjustment, the BPA Residential Exchange Program, provides a share of the benefits of the federal Columbia River power system to the residential and small farm customers of the investor-owned utilities in the Pacific Northwest, including Avista. Avista applies the benefits it receives to qualifying customers as a credit in their monthly electric rates. Due to fluctuations in usage, Avista rebated to customers a level of benefits that was lower than the level of benefits received from BPA. Through this filing Avista is seeking to slightly increase the level of benefits provided to qualifying customers in order to return the under-rebated balance. As a result, the proposed revenue decrease for these customers is approximately \$0.7 million, or 0.1%.

The second, Wildfire Expense Balancing Account, tracks the difference in wildfire expenses incurred by Avista to address the growing frequency of extreme and dangerous wildfires in Avista's service territory to the base expense approved by the Commission. The difference is rebated to or collected from customers through Schedule 88 – Wildfire Expense Balancing Account. The rate increase proposed reflects the higher level of expense incurred above the approved amount. If approved, Avista's request is designed to increase electric revenues by \$1.4 million or 0.2%.

The third, Insurance Expense Balancing Account, tracks the difference in insurance expenses incurred by Avista to the base expense approved by the Commission. The difference is rebated to or collected from customers through Schedule 66 – Insurance Expense Balancing Account for electric customers and Schedule 166 – Insurance Expense Balancing Account for natural gas customers. The rate change proposed reflects the higher level of expense incurred above the approved amount for electric and natural gas customers. If approved, Avista's request is designed to increase electric revenues by \$4.6 million or 0.7% and increase natural gas revenues by \$0.2 million or 0.1%.

The fourth is related to Avista's Low Income Rate Assistance Program (LIRAP), which provides bill assistance to income eligible customers with a household income less than or equal to 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or 80% Area Median Income (AMI), whichever is greater. This rate increase is necessary to support the continuation and expansion of all LIRAP components, which includes both an income-based bill discount as well as offerings intended to help customers manage their past due balances, or arrearages. If approved, Avista's request is designed to increase electric revenues by \$15.3 million or 2.3% and increase natural gas revenues by \$6.8 million or 2.3%.

The fifth is related to Avista's Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP), which recovers the costs required as a direct result of implementing its CEIP. These costs include a "Named Communities Investment Fund" (NCIF) as a specific action to be dedicated to the equitable distribution of energy and non-energy benefits and reduction in burdens to Vulnerable Populations and Highly Impacted Communities (Named Communities). In addition to the NCIF, this tariff recovers the costs for additional resources necessary for

implementation of Avista’s CEIP and associated conditions to the CEIP. If approved, Avista’s request is designed to increase electric revenues by \$2.1 million or 0.3%.

The sixth is related to the Climate Commitment Act cost recovery tariff. The CCA, passed by the Washington State legislature and enacted into law in 2021, implements a cap-and-invest program designed to meet emission reduction targets and reduce emissions by 95% of 1990 levels by 2050. Natural gas utilities must meet declining targets for greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) as compared to a baseline, which is the average emissions from 2015-2019. Beginning in 2023, natural gas utilities received no-cost emissions allowances to cover a portion of their GHG baseline, which 65% of the no-cost allowances had to be consigned to allowance auctions held by the Department of Ecology. Consignment of no-cost allowances to auction resulted in revenues back to the utility, which shall be used for the benefit of customers as determined by the Commission, including at minimum, eliminating any additional cost burden to low-income customers due to the implementation of the CCA. Locations connected to the natural gas system after July 25, 2021, are not eligible to receive any benefit from these revenues, per state law, hence the larger increases shown below. If approved, Avista’s request is designed to increase natural gas revenues by \$25.2 million or 8.3%.

The seventh is Avista’s Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment (PGA). PGAs are filed each year to balance the actual cost of wholesale natural gas purchased by Avista to serve customers with the amount included in rates. This includes the natural gas commodity cost as well as the cost to transport natural gas on interstate pipelines to Avista’s local distribution system. The proposed rate change is primarily due to lower forward wholesale natural gas prices than those currently included in rates and a reduction in the current surcharge amortization rate in effect from the prior year PGA. If approved, Avista’s request is designed to decrease natural gas revenues by \$74.5 million or 24.6%.

**Change in Rates** - If approved by the Commission, residential electric customers in Washington using an average of 945 kilowatt hours/month would see their monthly bills change from \$105.76 to \$109.58, an increase of \$3.82/month, or approximately 3.6%. Residential natural gas customers in Washington using an average of 66 therms per month would see their monthly bills change from \$100.86 to \$87.20, a decrease of \$13.66 per month, or approximately 13.5%, when compared to rates currently in effect.

The percentage change varies by rate schedule and depends on how much energy a customer uses. If approved, customers would see the following rate adjustments:

**Electric Rate Change**

**Proposed Schedule 1 Residential Rates (effective Nov. 1, 2024)**

Electric Service	Current Billing Rate	Proposed Change	Proposed Billing Rates
Basic Charge	\$9.00	\$0.00	\$9.00
First 800 kWhs/month	\$0.09996/kWh	\$0.00404/kWh	\$0.10400/kWh
Next 700 kWhs/month	\$0.11582/kWh	\$0.00404/kWh	\$0.11986/kWh
Over 1,500 kWhs/month	\$0.13535/kWh	\$0.00404/kWh	\$0.13939/kWh

**Proposed Electric Rate Change by Schedule (effective Nov. 1, 2024)**

Schedule No.	Rate Schedule	% Change in Billed Revenue
1/7/8	Residential	3.6%
11/12/13/17/18	General Service	3.4%
21/22/23	Large General Service	3.7%

25/25I	Ex. Lg. General Service	2.5%
31/32	Pumping Service	4.1%
41-48	Street and Area Lights	4.6%
<b>Overall</b>		<b>3.5%</b>

### Natural Gas Rate Change

#### Proposed Schedule 101 Rates (effective Nov. 15, 2024)

Natural Gas Service	Current Billing Rate	Proposed Change	Proposed Billing Rates
Basic Charge	\$9.50	\$0.00	\$9.50
Avg. Sch 162/163 CCA Credit	(\$11.37)	(\$11.68)	(\$23.05)
First 70 therms/month	\$1.55645/therm	(\$0.03000)/therm	\$1.52645/therm
Over 70 therms/month	\$1.70829/therm	(\$0.03000)/therm	\$1.67829/therm

#### Proposed Natural Gas Rate Change by Schedule (effective Nov. 15, 2024)

Schedule No.	Rate Schedule	% Change in Billed Revenue
101	General Service	-14.2%
111/112	Large General Service	-18.6%
131/132	Interruptible Sales Service	7.9%
146	Transportation Service	61.8%
<b>Overall</b>		<b>-13.9%</b>

The Company's request is a proposal, subject to public review and a Commission decision. The Commission has the authority to set final rates that may vary from the utility's request, which may be either higher or lower depending on the results of the investigation. You may contact the UTC to inquire about the Commission process, or to be notified about the scheduled open meetings at which the proposal will be considered. You can contact the Commission to comment on Avista's rate proposals via email at [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov), by telephone at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882), via letter at: UTC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250, or online at: [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov). Copies of the applications are available for public review on the Commission website.

Avista offers a number of programs and services to help customers manage their energy use and costs. Visit [www.myavista.com](http://www.myavista.com) or call 1-800-227-9187 for information on these programs which include Comfort Level Billing, bill payment options, automated payment service, assistance programs such as My Energy Discount, conservation tips, and energy efficiency rebates. Copies of our filings are available for public review at [www.myavista.com/rates](http://www.myavista.com/rates) or on the Commission website at [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov). You can also submit written questions directly to the Company via mail at: 1411 E Mission Ave, C/O Regulatory Affairs, Spokane, WA 99202.

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