

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: May 6, 2008**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE May 16, 2008

DATE: April 9, 2008

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Lisa Gorsuch

THROUGH: Lee Sparling, Ed Busch, and Judy Johnson

SUBJECT: AVISTA UTILITIES: (Advice No. 08-03-G) Modifies Rule 20 and Schedule 410 to hold customer responsible for monthly service charges when service is disconnected and reconnected within a 12-month period.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Avista Utilities' Advice No. 08-03-G be approved and the associated tariffs go into effect on May 16, 2008.

DISCUSSION:

Avista Utilities (Avista or Company) filed Advice No. 08-03-G with the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) on April 7, 2008. The purpose of this filing is to reflect that when service has been disconnected at the customer's request and then reconnected within a 12-month period, the customer will be required to pay the monthly service charges that would have been billed had service not been disconnected.

This change will help ensure equitable responsibility of monthly fixed costs for Avista customers. The minimum charge (customer charge) is \$5.50 per meter, per month, and is designed to help pay basic costs of keeping gas available to customers. This is a standard requirement among other utility companies.

This new condition was discussed as part of Avista's most recent general rate case, Docket No. UG 181, and was a condition supported by staff, the Citizens' Utility Board (CUB), and Avista.

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PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Avista Advice No. 08-03-G be allowed to go into effect on May 16, 2008.