



Joint Request for Comment Deadline Extension and Public Meeting from Avista Corporation, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, NW Natural, and Puget Sound Energy

June 23, 2026

Washington State Department of Ecology
Climate Pollution Reduction Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Submitted electronically via <https://ecology.commentinput.com/?id=frD53sZtA>

Avista Corporation, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural, and Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (collectively, the “Utilities”) write to respectfully request that the Washington Department of Ecology (“Ecology”) extend the comment deadline from July 17, 2026, to August 17, 2026, for the recently proposed rulemaking that would amend the Climate Commitment Act Program Rule (Chapter 173-446 WAC) and the Reporting of Emissions of Greenhouse Gases Rule (Chapter 173-441 WAC). The Utilities also ask that Ecology hold a public meeting to answer stakeholders’ questions regarding the proposed amendments, or in the alternative, meet with the Utilities to further explain the intent behind certain utility-specific aspects of these proposed amendments.

First, the Utilities are in the process of reviewing the detailed proposed changes to Chapters 173-446 and 173-441 WAC, but require additional time to fully ascertain the impact of these changes and submit fully informed comments. Specifically, we request a one-month extension of the comment deadline. The current comment period encompasses both Juneteenth and the Fourth of July holidays, and there are numerous proposed amendments that did not appear in previous draft rules. As such, the comment deadline extension would likely benefit other stakeholders as well, and it would also help ensure Ecology receives comprehensive input from all parties that wish to be involved in this rulemaking process.

Second, the Utilities ask that Ecology hold a public meeting by mid-July so that the agency can explain the intent behind the many complex proposed amendments and answer questions from stakeholders on these topics. This public meeting will be crucial to inform the Utilities’ comments on the proposed amendments. In the alternative, the Utilities would like to schedule a meeting with Ecology to discuss the agency’s intent regarding utility-specific sections of the proposed amendments. Ecology should also consider moving the public comment hearings currently scheduled for July 7 and July 13 to later in the extended comment period to allow time for these important interim discussions regarding the proposed changes.

The Utilities appreciate Ecology's consideration of these requests. If you would like to further discuss this letter or have any questions, please reach out to Jillian Caires (jillian.caires@avistacorp.com), Abbie Krebsbach (abbie.krebsbach@mdu.com), Mary Moerlins (mary.moerlins@nwnatural.com), and Lorna Luebbe (lorna.luebbe@pse.com).

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