

AVISTA CORP
Form 424B5
August 09, 2012
Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-163609

A registration fee of \$7,787.07, calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r), has been transmitted to the SEC with respect to the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price has been calculated by multiplying 2,726,390 shares by \$27.18 per share, the average of the high and low prices of our common stock on August 7, 2012, as reported in the consolidated reporting system. The amount of the registration fee paid with respect to such shares has been offset and reduced by \$333.24, representing the portion of the \$2,704.78 registration fee paid in connection with the filing of prospectus supplement dated August 25, 2010 that is associated with the 226,390 shares remaining unsold out of the 1,837,500 additional shares offered by that prospectus supplement. This paragraph shall be deemed to update the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the registration statement referred to above.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated December 9, 2009)

2,726,390 Shares

AVISTA CORPORATION

Common Stock

We may offer and sell up to 2,726,390 shares of our common stock from time to time through the sales agents named below.

We may offer and sell shares of our common stock through one or both of the sales agents named in this prospectus supplement, over a period of time and from time to time in transactions at the market prices prevailing at the time of sale, pursuant to the applicable sales agency agreement. We will pay each of the sales agents a commission equal to 1% of the gross sales price per share of all shares sold through it as agent under the applicable sales agency agreement. Neither of the sales agents is required to sell any specific number or dollar amount of shares of our common stock but each has agreed to use its reasonable efforts, as our sales agent and on the terms and subject to the conditions of the applicable sales agreement, to sell the shares offered on terms agreed upon by such sales agent and us. The shares of common stock will be offered and sold through only one sales agent on any given day. See Plan of Distribution in this prospectus supplement for further information.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AVA. The reported last sale price of our common stock on August 8, 2012, as reported in the consolidated reporting system, was \$26.53 per share.

See Risk Factors beginning on page S-3 for reference to certain factors you should consider before buying our common stock.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the

contrary is a criminal offense.

BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC

UBS INVESTMENT BANK

The date of this prospectus supplement is August 9, 2012

Table of Contents

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus incorporate by reference important business, financial and other information about Avista Corporation (sometimes called "Avista") that is not included in or delivered with the prospectus. This information is available to you as set forth in the accompanying prospectus under "Where You Can Find More Information."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-3
<u>Safe Harbor for Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-4
<u>The Company</u>	S-5
<u>Supplement to Description of Common Stock</u>	S-5
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	S-6
<u>General</u>	S-6
<u>Conflict of Interest</u>	S-7
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-7
<u>Experts</u>	S-7

Prospectus

<u>About this Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	2
<u>Avista Corporation</u>	2
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	2
<u>Description of the Bonds</u>	2
<u>Description of the Notes</u>	10
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	19
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	21
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	24
<u>Legal Matters</u>	25
<u>Experts</u>	25

We have not authorized anyone to give you any information other than this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the respective dates of these documents. We are not offering to sell these securities and we are not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction in which offers are not permitted.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

General

Investing in common stock involves risk. You should review all the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before deciding to invest. See *Where You Can Find More Information* in the accompanying prospectus. In particular, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties discussed in *Risk Factors*, *Forward-Looking Statements* and *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* in our annual report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and incorporated herein by reference.

Risks Related to an Investment in Avista Common Stock

The market price of our common stock fluctuates continuously.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and is traded on that exchange and elsewhere. The market price fluctuates continuously.

The fluctuation in the market price of our common stock is caused by a variety of factors, most of which are beyond our control. These factors include, but are not limited to:

any and all factors that affect the U.S. and global financial markets generally including, but not limited to, general U.S. and global economic conditions;

events or circumstances relating to us, particularly those related to the risk factors discussed in our periodic reports filed with the SEC;

periodic variations in our operating results, the perceived value of our assets or our business prospects, or the perceptions or expectations of investors or securities analysts as to such variations;

periodic developments in, or changes in the prospects for, the electric and natural gas utility industries, or the perceptions or expectations of investors or securities analysts as to such developments or changes;

our ability to continue to pay dividends or any change in the level of dividends, or the perceptions or expectations of investors or securities analysts as to dividends; and

future sales by us of equity and other securities.

Any reduction, interruption or elimination of the quarterly dividend on our common stock would likely have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

The payment of dividends on our common stock is solely within the discretion of our Board of Directors. The Board considers the level of dividends on a regular basis, taking into account numerous factors including, without limitation

our results of operation, cash flows and financial condition;

the success of our business strategies; and

general economic and competitive conditions.

Our credit facility has a financial covenant that limits the percentage of debt in relation to our overall capital structure. This could have the effect of restricting our ability to pay dividends. We are currently in compliance with this provision. In addition, the terms of our preferred stock contained in our articles of incorporation prohibit the payment of dividends on our common stock unless all accumulated dividends on preferred stock have been paid. There are currently no shares of preferred stock outstanding. We may agree to similar, or more stringent, financial covenants or provisions in credit or other agreements in the future, and we may issue preferred stock in the future.

S-3

Table of Contents

The market price of our common stock could be adversely affected by future sales of our common stock.

Except as described under **Plan of Distribution** and except for required regulatory approvals, we are not restricted from issuing additional shares of common stock, whether in this offering or in any future offering. We are also not restricted from issuing other securities that are convertible into, or exercisable for, or exchangeable for, shares of our common stock. The market price of our common stock could be adversely affected by sales of substantial amounts of our common stock or any such other securities, or the perception that these sales may occur.

The shares of our common stock are structurally junior to all our other securities.

If we were to be reorganized, liquidated or dissolved in a bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceeding, holders of debt securities and other indebtedness, including trade payables, and holders of preferred stock would receive distributions of our available assets prior to holders of our common stock. It is possible that, after making such distributions, insufficient assets, or no assets at all, would remain available for distribution to holders of our common stock.

Furthermore, we are likely to incur additional indebtedness and may issue shares of preferred stock in the future. The market price of our common stock could be adversely affected by the incurrence of additional indebtedness or the issuance of preferred stock in substantial amounts.

SAFE HARBOR FOR FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

From time to time, we make forward-looking statements such as statements regarding projected or future financial performance, cash flows, capital expenditures, dividends, capital structure, other financial items, strategic goals and objectives, and plans for operations. These statements are based upon underlying assumptions (many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions). These statements are made both in our reports filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and elsewhere. Forward-looking statements are all statements except those of historical fact, including, without limitation, those that are identified by the use of words such as, but not limited to, **will**, **may**, **could**, **should**, **intends**, **plans**, **seeks**, **anticipates**, **estimates**, **expects**, **forecasts**, **projects**, **predicts**, and similar expressions.

Forward-looking statements are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and other factors. Most of these factors are beyond our control, and many of them could have a significant effect on our operations, results of operations, financial condition or cash flows. This could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in our statements. Such risks, uncertainties and other factors include, among others, those listed or referred to under the caption **Risk Factors** in this prospectus supplement.

Our expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith. We believe they are reasonable based on, among other considerations, an examination of historical operating trends, data contained in our records and other data available from third parties. However, there can be no assurance that our expectations, beliefs or projections will be achieved or accomplished. Furthermore, any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which such statement is made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date on which such statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law. New risks, uncertainties and other factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all such factors, nor can we assess the effect of each such factor on our business or the extent that any such factor or combination of factors may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement.

Table of Contents

THE COMPANY

Avista is an energy company engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of energy and, through its subsidiaries, in other energy-related businesses. Our corporate headquarters are in Spokane, Washington, the hub of the Inland Northwest. For more information, see the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference.

SUPPLEMENT TO DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

This prospectus supplement amends various portions of the information contained under the caption **DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK** in the accompanying prospectus.

The second paragraph under the heading **Voting Rights** on page 21 of the accompanying prospectus is deleted and replaced with the following:

In an uncontested election of directors, each vote may be cast for or against one or more candidates, or a shareholder may abstain with respect to one or more candidates. A candidate is elected to the Board of Directors only if the number of votes for such candidate exceeds the number of votes against such candidate. Shares otherwise present at the meeting but for which there is an abstention or as to which no authority or direction is given or specified with respect to a candidate are not counted as votes for or against. If an incumbent director does not receive a majority of votes cast, he or she would continue to serve a term that would terminate on the date that is the earliest of (a) the date of the commencement of the term of a new director selected by the Board to fill the office held by such director, (b) the effective date of the resignation of such director and (c) the later of (i) the last day of the sixth calendar month commencing after the election and (ii) December 31 of the calendar year in which the election occurred. In a contested election that is, an election in which the number of candidates exceeds the total number of directors to be elected shareholders would be allowed to vote for one or more candidates (not to exceed the number of directors to be elected) or withhold votes with respect to one or more candidates. The candidates elected would be those receiving the largest number of votes (up to the number of directors to be elected). Shareholders are not allowed to cumulate their votes in any election of directors (whether or not contested).

The following paragraph is added after the new second paragraph under the heading **Voting Rights** on page 21 of the accompanying prospectus:

The approval of the holders of the majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock is required to create a new class of stock, including, for example, preference stock or any other class of stock senior to the Common Stock. In addition, in any circumstance in which Washington law would require the approval of shareholders to authorize (1) the merger of the Company with or into another entity or a statutory share exchange with another entity, (2) a sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of property of the Company or (3) the dissolution of the Company, the requisite shareholder approval (in addition to any required approval by the holders of Preferred Stock) shall be the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock, unless Washington law shall require a higher standard.

The heading **Classified Board of Directors** on page 22 of the accompanying prospectus and the information under that heading are deleted and replaced with the following:

Board of Directors

The Articles provide that the number of directors of the Company will be that number, not to exceed eleven, as the Board of Directors specifies from time to time in the Bylaws, subject to the rights of holders of the Preferred Stock to elect directors in certain circumstances. Both the Articles and the Bylaws provide that all directors will be elected at each annual meeting for a term that will expire at the next succeeding annual meeting. Vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by the Board. Directors may be removed only for cause and only if the number of votes cast by holders of Common Stock for the removal of a director exceeds the number of votes cast against such removal.

Table of Contents

The Articles and the Bylaws further require an affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock to alter, amend or repeal the provisions relating to the Board of Directors and the filling of vacancies on, and the removal of members from, the Board of Directors.

In addition, all references to a classified board of directors in the accompanying prospectus, including the reference in the first sentence under the heading "Anti-Takeover Effect" on pages 23-24, and the entire second paragraph of that section, are deleted.

The last paragraph under the heading "Miscellaneous" on page 23 of the accompanying prospectus is deleted and replaced with the following:

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for the Common Stock is Computershare Shareowner Services LLC, 480 Washington Boulevard, 29th Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07310.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

General

Avista has entered into separate, but substantially identical, sales agency agreements with BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC and UBS Securities LLC, as our sales agents, under which we may issue and sell up to 2,726,390 shares of Avista Common Stock.

The sales, if any, of the shares of Avista Common Stock under the sales agency agreement with either sales agent will be made in at the market offerings as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act of 1933, including sales made directly on the New York Stock Exchange, the principal existing trading market for Avista Common Stock, or through an electronic communications network, or, if we and the applicable sales agent agree in writing, sales made to or through a market maker or in privately negotiated transactions.

From time to time during the term of the sales agency agreement with either sales agent, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein, we may deliver an issuance notice to that sales agent specifying:

the length of the selling period, which may not exceed 20 trading days;

the number of shares of Avista Common Stock to be sold, which may not exceed 500,000 shares during any selling period without the applicable sales agent's prior written consent; and

the minimum price below which sales may not be made.

We will submit orders to only one sales agent relating to the sale of Avista Common Stock on any given day.

Upon receipt of an issuance notice from Avista, and subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable sales agency agreement, each sales agent has agreed to use its commercially reasonable efforts, consistent with its normal trading and sales practices, to sell the number of shares we specify in that notice, on such terms. We or either sales agent may suspend the offering of shares Avista Common Stock by that sales agent at any time upon proper notice to the other, and the selling period will immediately terminate. The settlement between us and a purchaser of shares of Avista Common Stock will occur on the third trading day following the date on which the sale was made. The obligation of each sales agent under the applicable sales agency agreement to sell shares pursuant to any issuance notice is subject to a number of conditions, which each sales agent reserves the right to waive in its sole discretion.

We will pay each sales agent a commission equal to 1.0% of the gross sales price per share of all shares sold through it as agent under the applicable sales agency agreement. We have also agreed to reimburse each sales agent for its reasonable documented out-of-pocket expenses, including fees and expenses of counsel, in connection with entering into the applicable sales agency agreement and performing its obligations thereunder.

In connection with the sales of Avista Common Stock as contemplated in this Prospectus Supplement, each sales agent may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, and the compensation paid to each sales agent may be deemed to be underwriting

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

commissions or discounts. We have agreed to indemnify each sales agent against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933.

S-6

Table of Contents

Sales of Avista Common Stock as contemplated herein will be settled through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company or by such other means as the Company and the applicable sales agent may agree upon.

The offering of shares of Avista Common Stock pursuant to the sales agency agreements will terminate upon the earliest of (1) the sale of 2,726,390 shares of our common stock pursuant to the sales agency agreements, (2) the termination of both of the sales agency agreements by us or the sales agents and (3) December 1, 2015. The termination of one of the sales agency agreements by either us or the sales agent under that agreement, as contemplated in clause (2) above, will not, in and of itself, result in the termination of the other sales agency agreement.

We have agreed under each sales agency agreement not to directly or indirectly sell, offer to sell, contract to sell, grant any option to sell or otherwise dispose of, shares of Avista Common Stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of Avista Common Stock, warrants or any rights to purchase or acquire Avista Common Stock for a period beginning on the first trading day prior to the delivery of an issuance notice to the sales agent under that agreement and ending on the first trading day immediately following the last settlement date for Avista Common Stock sold pursuant to that issuance notice, without the prior written consent of that sales agent. The particular sales agent may give this consent at any time without public notice. The restriction described in this paragraph does not apply to sales of:

shares we offer or sell pursuant to the applicable sales agency agreement;

shares we issue in connection with acquisitions;

shares we issue upon conversion of convertible securities, or the exercise of warrants, options or other rights; or

shares and options to purchase shares we issue, in either case, pursuant to any employee or director stock option or benefit plan, any stock purchase or ownership plan or our dividend reinvestment and direct stock purchase plan.

The sales agents and their affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, investment banking, commercial banking, corporate trust services and other services for us from time to time for which they have received, or may be entitled to receive, customary fees and reimbursement of expenses.

Conflict of Interest

In the event that 5% or more of the net proceeds from this offering (not including underwriting compensation) are directed at any sales agent or its affiliates or associated persons in the manner contemplated by Rule 5121 of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., then this offering will be conducted in accordance with that rule.

LEGAL MATTERS

The legality of the shares offered hereby and certain other matters will be passed upon for Avista by Marian M. Durkin, Esq., Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of Avista, and Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, counsel to Avista. In giving its opinion, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP may rely as to matters of Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon law upon the opinion of Marian M. Durkin, Esq. Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles, California, will act as counsel to the sales agents.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K (Annual Report) and the effectiveness of Avista Corporation's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which reports (1) express an unqualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements and includes an explanatory paragraph referring to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update No. 2009-17, Consolidations - Improvements to Financial

Table of Contents

Reporting by Enterprises Involved in Variable Interest Entities and (2) express an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting) which are herein incorporated by reference. Such financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

With respect to the unaudited interim consolidated financial information, which is incorporated herein by reference, Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, have applied limited procedures in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) for a review of such information. However, as stated in their reports included in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and incorporated by reference herein, they did not audit and they do not express an opinion on that interim financial information. Accordingly, the degree of reliance on their reports on such information should be restricted in light of the limited nature of the review procedures applied. Deloitte & Touche LLP are not subject to the liability provisions of Section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933 for their reports on the unaudited interim financial information because those reports are not reports or a part of the registration statement prepared or certified by an accountant within the meaning of Sections 7 and 11 of the Act.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

AVISTA CORPORATION

Debt Securities

Preferred Stock

(no par value)

Common Stock

(no par value)

Avista Corporation may offer these securities from time to time on terms and at prices to be determined at the time of sale. The supplement to this prospectus relating to each offering will describe the specific terms of the securities being offered, as well as the terms of the offering and sale including the offering price.

Avista Corporation may sell these securities to or through underwriters, dealers or agents or directly to one or more purchasers.

Outstanding shares of Avista Corporation's common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AVA. New shares of common stock will also be listed on the NYSE.

See Risk Factors on page 2 for reference to certain factors you should consider before investing in the securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this Prospectus is December 9, 2009.

Table of Contents

This prospectus incorporates by reference important business and financial information about Avista Corporation that is not included in or delivered with this prospectus. See **Where You Can Find More Information** . You may obtain copies of documents containing such information from us, without charge, by either calling or writing to us at:

Avista Corporation

Post Office Box 3727

Spokane, Washington 99220

Attention: Treasurer

Telephone: (509) 489-0500

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>About this Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	2
<u>Avista Corporation</u>	2
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	2
<u>Description of the Bonds</u>	2
<u>Description of the Notes</u>	10
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	19
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	21
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	24
<u>Legal Matters</u>	25
<u>Experts</u>	25

We have not authorized anyone to give you any information other than this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement relating to an offering of specific securities and any written communication from us or any underwriters or agents specifying the final terms of such securities. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement and any such written communication is accurate only as of the respective dates of these documents. We are not offering to sell any securities and we are not soliciting offers to buy any securities in any jurisdiction in which offers are not permitted.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that Avista Corporation filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), using the shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. That prospectus supplement may include or incorporate by reference a detailed and current discussion of any risk factors and will discuss any special considerations applicable to those securities, including the plan of distribution. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under "Where You Can Find More Information". If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information contained in that prospectus supplement.

References in the prospectus to the terms "we", "us" or "Avista" or other similar terms mean Avista Corporation, unless we state otherwise or the context indicates otherwise.

We may use this prospectus to offer from time to time:

Secured bonds issued under a Mortgage and Deed of Trust, dated as of June 1, 1939 (the "Original Mortgage") between Avista and Citibank, N.A., as trustee (the "Mortgage Trustee"), the Original Mortgage, as amended and supplemented from time to time, being hereinafter called the "Mortgage". The secured bonds offered by this prospectus are hereinafter called "Bonds".

Unsecured notes, debentures or other debt securities issued under an Indenture, dated as of April 1, 1998 (the "Original Indenture") between Avista and The Bank of New York Mellon, as successor trustee (the "Indenture Trustee"), the Original Indenture, as amended and supplemented from time to time, being hereinafter called the "Indenture". The unsecured notes, debentures and other debt securities offered by this prospectus are hereinafter called "Notes" and, together with the Bonds, are hereinafter called "Debt Securities".

Shares of preferred stock, no par value (the "Preferred Stock"). The Preferred Stock offered by this prospectus is hereinafter called the "New Preferred Stock". The terms of the Preferred Stock include those stated in Avista's Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended (the "Articles"), and its Bylaws (the "Bylaws") and those made applicable thereto by the Washington Business Corporation Act (the "Washington BCA").

Shares of common stock, no par value (the "Common Stock"). The terms of the Common Stock include those stated in the Articles and the Bylaws and those made applicable thereto by the Washington BCA.

The shares of Common Stock offered by this prospectus, together with the Debt Securities and the New Preferred Stock, are hereinafter called "Securities".

For more detailed information about the Securities, you can read the exhibits to the registration statement. Those exhibits have been either filed with the registration statement or incorporated by reference to earlier SEC filings listed in the registration statement. See "Where You Can Find More Information".

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in the Securities involves risk. You should review all the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before deciding to invest. See *Where You Can Find More Information* herein. In particular, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties discussed in *Risk Factors*, *Forward-Looking Statements* and *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* in our annual and quarterly reports incorporated herein by reference.

In addition, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement which relate to the specific Securities offered thereby.

AVISTA CORPORATION

Avista Corporation, which was incorporated in the Territory of Washington in 1889 (sometimes called *Avista*), is an energy company engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of energy and, through its subsidiaries, in other energy-related businesses. Our corporate headquarters are in Spokane, Washington, center of the Inland Northwest geographic region. Agriculture, mining and lumber were the primary industries in the Inland Northwest for many years; today health care, education, finance, electronic and other manufacturing, tourism and service sectors are growing in importance.

Avista has two reportable business segments, as follows:

Avista Utilities an operating division of Avista Corporation that comprises our regulated utility operations. Avista Utilities generates, transmits and distributes electric energy and distributes natural gas. It also engages in wholesale purchases and sales of electric and natural gas.

Advantage IQ an indirect, majority-owned subsidiary of Avista Corporation that provides sustainable utility expense management solutions, partnering with multi-site companies across North America to assess and manage utility costs and usage. Advantage IQ's primary product lines include processing, payment and auditing of energy, telecom, waste, water/sewer and lease bills as well as strategic management services.

Avista Corporation has other businesses, including sheet metal fabrication, venture fund investments and real estate investments. These activities do not represent a reportable business segment.

Advantage IQ and all the other companies in non-utility businesses are subsidiaries of Avista Capital, Inc., which is a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Avista Corporation.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we indicate differently in a supplement to this prospectus, Avista intends to use the net proceeds from the issuance and sale of the Securities offered by this prospectus for any or all of the following purposes: (a) to fund Avista Utilities' construction, facility improvement and maintenance programs, (b) to refinance maturing long-term debt, (c) to continue to fund retirements (through redemption, purchase or acquisition) of longer-term debt, (d) to repay short-term debt, (e) to accomplish other general corporate purposes permitted by law and (f) to reimburse Avista's treasury for funds previously expended for any of these purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS

Avista may issue the Bonds in one or more series, or in one or more tranches within a series. The terms of the Bonds will include those stated in the Mortgage and those made part of the Mortgage by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the *Trust Indenture Act*). The following summary is not complete and is subject in all respects to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the Mortgage and the Trust Indenture Act. The Bonds, together with all other debt securities outstanding under the Mortgage, are hereinafter called, collectively, the *Mortgage Securities*. Avista has filed the Mortgage, as well as a form of supplemental indenture to the Mortgage to establish a series of Bonds, as exhibits to the registration statement of

Table of Contents

which this prospectus is a part. Capitalized terms used under this heading which are not otherwise defined in this prospectus have the meanings set forth in the Mortgage. Wherever particular provisions of the Mortgage or terms defined in the Mortgage are referred to, those provisions or definitions are incorporated by reference as part of the statements made in this prospectus and those statements are qualified in their entirety by that reference. Sections 125 through 150 of the Mortgage appear in the first supplemental indenture to the Original Mortgage. References to article and section numbers, unless otherwise indicated, are references to article and section numbers of the Mortgage.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of the Bonds of each series:

the title of the Bonds;

any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds;

the date or dates on which the principal of the Bonds is payable or the method of determination thereof and the right, if any, to extend such date or dates;

(a) the rate or rates at which the Bonds will bear interest, if any, or the method by which such rate or rates, if any, will be determined, (b) the date or dates from which any such interest will accrue, (c) the interest payment dates on which any such interest will be payable, (d) the right, if any, of Avista to defer or extend an interest payment date, (e) the regular record date for any interest payable on any interest payment date and (f) the person or persons to whom the interest on the Bonds will be payable on any interest payment date, if other than the person or persons in whose names the Bonds are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for such interest;

any period or periods within which, or date or dates on which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which the Bonds may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the option of Avista;

(a) the obligation or obligations, if any, of Avista to redeem or purchase any of the Bonds pursuant to any sinking fund or other mandatory redemption provisions or at the option of the Holder (as defined below), (b) the period or periods within which, or date or dates on which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which the Bonds will be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and (c) applicable exceptions to the requirements of a notice of redemption in the case of mandatory redemption or redemption at the option of the Holder;

the terms, if any, upon which the Bonds may be converted into other securities of Avista;

the denominations in which any of the Bonds will be issuable if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000;

if the Bonds are to be issued in global form, the identity of the depositary; and

any other terms of the Bonds.

Payment and Paying Agents

Except as may be provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, Avista will pay interest, if any, on each Bond on each interest payment date to the person in whose name such Bond is registered (for purposes of this section of the prospectus, the registered holder of any Mortgage

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

Security is herein referred to as a Holder) as of the close of business on the regular record date relating to such interest payment date; provided, however, that Avista will pay interest at maturity (whether at stated maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, Maturity) to the person to whom principal is paid.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, Avista will pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the Bonds at Maturity upon presentation of the Bonds at the corporate trust office of Citibank, N.A. in New York, New York, as paying agent for Avista. Avista may change the place of payment of the Bonds, may appoint one or more additional paying agents (including Avista) and may remove any paying agent, all at its discretion.

Table of Contents

Registration; Registration of Transfer

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the Bonds will be issued only in fully registered form. The registered holder of a Bond will be treated as the owner of the Bond for all purposes under the Mortgage. Only registered holders will have rights under the Mortgage. (Mortgage, Sec. 83)

The transfer of Bonds may be registered, and Bonds may be exchanged for other Bonds, upon surrender thereof at the principal office of Citibank, N.A., as Avista's office or agency for such purposes. Avista may change such office or agency, and may designate an additional office or agency, in its discretion.

Except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, no service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of Bonds, but Avista may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge incident thereto. Avista will not be required to make any transfer or exchange of any Bonds for a period of 10 days next preceding any selection of Bonds for redemption, nor will it be required to make transfers or exchanges of any Bonds which have been selected for redemption in whole or in part or as to which Avista shall have received a notice for the redemption thereof in whole or in part at the option of the Holder.

Redemption

The applicable prospectus supplement will indicate the extent, if any, to which the Bonds will be subject to (a) general redemption at the option of Avista or (b) special redemption by the application (either at the option of Avista or pursuant to the requirements of the Mortgage) of (x) cash deposited with the Mortgage Trustee as described under Special Provisions for Retirement of Bonds below or (y) cash deposited with the Mortgage Trustee in connection with the release of property from the lien of the Mortgage.

Notice of redemption will be given by mail not less than 30 days prior to the date fixed for redemption. (Mortgage, Sec. 52)

If less than all the Bonds of a series are to be redeemed, the particular Bonds to be redeemed will be selected by the Mortgage Trustee by lot, according to such method as it shall deem proper in its discretion. (Mortgage, Sec. 52)

Any notice of redemption at the option of Avista may state that such redemption will be conditional upon receipt by the Mortgage Trustee, on or before the date fixed for such redemption, of money sufficient to pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on such Bonds and that if such money has not been so received, such notice will be of no force or effect and Avista will not be required to redeem such Bonds. (Mortgage, Sec. 52)

Issuance of Additional Mortgage Securities

In addition to the Bonds, other debt securities may be issued under the Mortgage. The present principal amount of debt securities which may be outstanding under the Mortgage is \$10,000,000,000. However, Avista has reserved the right to amend the Mortgage (without any consent of or other action of Holders of any Mortgage Securities now or hereafter outstanding) to remove this limitation.

Mortgage Securities of any series may be issued from time to time on the basis of:

70% of cost or fair value to Avista (whichever is less) of property additions which have not previously been made the basis of any application under the Mortgage and therefore do not constitute funded property after adjustments to offset property retirements;

an equal principal amount of Mortgage Securities which have been or are to be paid, redeemed or otherwise retired and have not previously been made the basis of any application under the Mortgage; or

deposit of cash.

Property additions generally include electric, natural gas, steam or water property acquired after May 31, 1939, but may not include property used principally for the production or gathering of natural gas. Any such property additions may be used if their ownership and operation is

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

within the corporate purposes of Avista regardless of whether or not Avista has all the necessary permission it may need at any time from governmental authorities to operate such property additions.

Table of Contents

The Mortgage provides that no reduction in the book value of the property recorded in the plant account of Avista shall constitute a property retirement, otherwise than in connection with physical retirements of property abandoned, destroyed or disposed of, and otherwise than in connection with the removal of such property in its entirety from the plant account.

No Mortgage Securities may be issued on the basis of property additions subject to prior liens, unless the prior lien bonds secured thereby have been qualified by being deducted from the Mortgage Securities otherwise issuable and do not exceed 70% of such property additions, and unless the Mortgage Securities then to be outstanding which have been issued against property subject to continuing prior liens and certain other items would not exceed 15% of the Mortgage Securities outstanding.

The amount of prior liens on mortgaged property acquired after the date of delivery of the Mortgage may be increased subsequent to the acquisition of such property provided that, if any property subject to such prior lien shall have been made the basis of any application under the Mortgage, all the additional obligations are deposited with the Mortgage Trustee or other holder of a prior lien.

(Mortgage, Secs. 4 through 8, 20 through 30 and 46; First Supplemental, Sec. 2; Eleventh Supplemental, Sec. 5; Twelfth Supplemental, Sec. 1; Fourteenth Supplemental, Sec. 4; Seventeenth Supplemental, Sec. 3; Eighteenth Supplemental, Secs. 1, 2 and 6; Twenty-sixth Supplemental, Sec. 2; Twenty-ninth Supplemental, Art. II)

Net Earnings Test

In general, Avista may not issue Mortgage Securities on the basis of property additions or cash unless net earnings for 12 consecutive months out of the preceding 18 calendar months (before income taxes, depreciation and amortization of property, property losses and interest on any indebtedness and amortization of debt discount and expense) are at least twice the annual interest requirements on all Mortgage Securities at the time outstanding, including the additional issue, and on all indebtedness of prior rank.

Avista is not required to satisfy the net earnings requirement prior to the issuance of Mortgage Securities on the basis of retired Mortgage Securities unless:

the annual interest requirements on the retired Mortgage Securities on the basis of which the new Mortgage Securities are to be issued have been excluded from a net earnings certificate delivered to the Mortgage Trustee since the retirement of such Mortgage Securities; or

the retired Mortgage Securities on the basis of which the new Mortgage Securities are to be issued mature by their terms at a date more than two years after the date for authentication and delivery of the new Mortgage Securities and the new Mortgage Securities bear interest at a higher rate than such retired Mortgage Securities.

In general, the Mortgage permits the inclusion of the following items in net earnings:

revenues collected or accrued subject to possible refund;

any portion of the allowance for funds used during construction; and

any portion of the allowance for funds used to conserve energy (or any analogous amount), which is not included in other income (or any analogous item) in Avista's books of account.

The Mortgage also provides that, in calculating net earnings, no deduction from revenues or other income shall be made for:

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

expenses or provisions for any non-recurring charge to income of whatever kind or nature (including, without limitation, the recognition of expense due to the non-recoverability of investment); or

provisions for any refund of revenues previously collected or accrued subject to possible refund.

In general, the interest requirement on a new series of Mortgage Securities bearing interest at a variable interest rate or rates is determined by reference to the rate or rates to be in effect at the time of the initial issuance. However, if any outstanding Mortgage Securities or prior ranking indebtedness bears interest at a variable rate or rates, the annual interest requirements thereon are determined by reference to the rate or rates in effect on the date next preceding the date of issue of the new series of Mortgage Securities.

Table of Contents

Security; Structural Subordination

The Bonds, together with all other Mortgage Securities now or hereafter issued under the Mortgage, will be secured by the Mortgage, which constitutes a first mortgage lien on Avista's facilities for the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy and the storage and distribution of natural gas and substantially all of Avista's assets (except as stated below), subject to:

leases of minor portions of Avista's property to others for uses that do not interfere with Avista's business;

leases of certain property of Avista not used in its utility business;

excepted encumbrances, as defined in the Mortgage; and

encumbrances, defects and irregularities deemed immaterial by Avista in the operation of Avista's business.

There are excepted from the lien all cash and securities (including, without limitation, securities issued by Avista's subsidiaries); merchandise, equipment, materials or supplies held for sale or consumption in Avista's operations; receivables, contracts, leases and operating agreements; electric energy, and other material or products (including gas) generated, manufactured, produced or purchased by Avista, for sale, distribution or use in the ordinary course of its business. (Mortgage, Granting Clauses)

The Mortgage contains provisions for subjecting to the lien thereof all property (other than property of the kinds excepted from such lien) acquired by Avista after the execution and delivery thereof, subject to purchase money liens and liens existing thereon at the time of acquisition and, subject to limitations in the case of consolidation, merger or sale of substantially all of Avista's assets. (Mortgage, Granting Clauses and Art. XV)

The Mortgage provides that the lien of the Mortgage shall not automatically attach to the properties of another corporation which shall have consolidated or merged with Avista in a transaction in which Avista shall be the surviving or resulting corporation. (Mortgage, Sec. 87)

The Mortgage provides that the Mortgage Trustee shall have a lien upon the mortgaged property, prior to the Mortgage Securities, for the payment of its reasonable compensation and expenses and for indemnity. (Mortgage, Secs. 92 and 97; First Supplemental, Art. XXV)

Although its utility operations are conducted directly by Avista, all of the other operations of Avista are conducted through its subsidiaries. The lien of the Mortgage does not cover the assets of the subsidiaries or the securities of the subsidiaries held by Avista. Any right of Avista, as a shareholder, to receive assets of any of its direct or indirect subsidiaries upon such subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization (and the right of the Holders of the Bonds and other creditors of Avista to participate in those assets) is junior to the claims against such assets of that subsidiary's creditors. As a result, the obligations of Avista to the holders of the Bonds and other creditors are effectively subordinated in right of payment to all indebtedness and other liabilities and commitments (including trade payables and lease obligations) of Avista's direct and indirect subsidiaries.

Maintenance

The Mortgage provides that Avista will cause (or, with respect to property owned in common with others, make reasonable effort to cause) the mortgaged property to be maintained and kept in good repair, working order and condition, and will cause (or, with respect to property owned in common with others, make reasonable effort to cause) to be made such repairs, renewals and replacements of the mortgaged property as, in Avista's sole judgment, may be necessary to operate the mortgaged property in accordance with common industry practice. Avista may discontinue, or cause or consent to the discontinuance of, the operation and maintenance of any of its properties if such discontinuance is, in the sole judgment of Avista, desirable in the conduct of its business. (Mortgage, Sec. 38)

Special Provisions for Retirement of Bonds

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

If, during any 12-month period, any of the mortgaged property is taken by eminent domain and/or sold to any governmental authority and/or sold pursuant to an order of a governmental authority, with the result that Avista receives \$15,000,000 or more in cash or in principal amount of purchase money obligations, Avista is

Table of Contents

required to apply such cash and the proceeds of such obligations (subject to certain conditions and deductions, and to the extent not otherwise applied) to the redemption of Mortgage Securities which are, by their, terms, redeemable before maturity by the application of such cash and proceeds. (Mortgage, Sec. 64; Tenth Supplemental, Sec. 4)

Release and Substitution of Property

Unless Avista is in default in the payment of the interest on any Mortgage Securities then outstanding under the Mortgage, or a Completed Default shall have occurred and is continuing, Avista may obtain the release from the lien of the Mortgage of any mortgaged property upon the deposit of cash equal to the amount, if any, that the fair value of the property to be released exceeds the aggregate of:

- (1) the principal amount of any obligations secured by purchase money mortgage upon the property released and delivered to the Mortgage Trustee;
- (2) the cost or fair value (whichever is less) of property additions which do not constitute funded property, after certain deductions and additions;
- (3) an amount equal to 10/7ths of the principal amount of Mortgage Securities that Avista would be entitled to issue on the basis of retired securities (with such entitlement being waived by operation of such release); and
- (4) the principal amount of obligations secured by purchase money mortgage upon the property released, and/or an amount in cash delivered to the trustee or other holder of a lien prior to the lien of the Mortgage.

The use of obligations secured by purchase money mortgage as a credit in connection with the release of property, as described in clauses (1) and (4) above, is subject to the following limitations:

- (1) the aggregate credit which may be used as described in clauses (1) and (4) above in respect of any property being released may not exceed 70% of the fair value of such property; and
- (2) the aggregate principal amount of such obligations described in (1) and (4) above and all other obligations secured by purchase money mortgage delivered to the Mortgage Trustee pursuant to said clauses (1) and (4) and then held as part of the mortgaged property by the Mortgage Trustee or the trustee or other holder of a prior lien shall not exceed 40% of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding Mortgage Securities.

To the extent that property so released does not constitute funded property, the property additions used to effect the release will not, in certain cases, be deemed to constitute funded property, and the waiver of the right to issue Mortgage Securities to effect the release will, in certain cases, cease to be effective as such a waiver, all upon the satisfaction of certain conditions specified in the Mortgage. The Mortgage contains similar provisions as to cash proceeds of such property. The Mortgage also contains special provisions with respect to prior lien bonds pledged and disposition of moneys received on pledged bonds secured by a prior lien. (Mortgage, Secs. 5; 31, 32, 46 through 50, 59, 60, 61, 118 and 134)

Modification

Modifications Without Consent

Avista and the Mortgage Trustee may enter into one or more supplemental indentures without the consent of any Holders for any of the following purposes:

to evidence the succession of another corporation to Avista and the assumption by such successor of the covenants of Avista in the Mortgage and the Mortgage Securities;

to add additional covenants of Avista and additional defaults, which may be applicable only to the Mortgage Securities of specified series;

Table of Contents

to correct the description of property subject to the lien of the Mortgage or to subject additional property to such lien;

to change or eliminate any provision of the Mortgage or to add any new provision to the Mortgage; provided, that no such change, elimination or addition shall adversely affect the interests of the Holders in any material respect;

to establish the form or terms of Mortgage Securities of any series;

to provide for procedures to utilize a non-certificated system of registration for all or any series of Mortgage Securities;

to change any place or places for payment, registration of transfer or exchange, or notices to and demands upon Avista, with respect to all or any series of Mortgage Securities;

to increase or decrease the maximum principal amount of Mortgage Securities issuable under the Mortgage;

to make any other changes which do not adversely affect interests of the Holders in any material respect; or

to evidence any change required or permitted under the Trust Indenture Act.

(Mortgage, Sec. 120; Twenty-sixth Supplemental Indenture, Sec. 2; Twenty-ninth Supplemental Indenture, Article II)

Modification With Consent

In general, the Mortgage, the rights and obligations of Avista and the rights of the Holders may be modified with the consent of 60% in principal amount of the Mortgage Securities outstanding, and, if less than all series of Mortgage Securities are affected, the consent also of 60% in principal amount of the Mortgage Securities of each series affected. However, no modification of the terms of payment of principal or interest, and no modification affecting the lien or reducing the percentage required for modification, is effective against any Holder without its consent. (Mortgage, Art. XVIII, Sec. 149; First Supplemental, Sec. 10)

Satisfaction and Discharge

Mortgage Securities will be deemed to have been paid for purposes of satisfaction of the lien of the Mortgage if there shall have been irrevocably deposited with the Mortgage Trustee for the payment or redemption of such Mortgage Securities:

money in an amount which will be sufficient,

Government Obligations, none of which shall contain provisions permitting the redemption thereof at the option of the issuer thereof, the principal of and the interest on which when due, and without regard to reinvestment thereof, will provide moneys which will be sufficient, or

a combination of money and Government Obligations which will be sufficient, to pay when due the principal of, premium, if any, and interest due and to become due on all outstanding Mortgage Securities on the maturity date or redemption date of such Mortgage Securities. For this purpose, Government Obligations include direct obligations of the government of the United States or obligations guaranteed by the government of the United States. (Mortgage, Sec. 106)

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

The Mortgage Trustee may, and upon request of Avista shall, cancel and discharge the lien of the Mortgage and reconvey the Mortgaged Property to Avista whenever all indebtedness secured thereby has been paid.

The right of Avista to cause its entire indebtedness in respect of the Mortgage Securities of any series to be deemed to be satisfied and discharged as described above will be subject to the satisfaction of conditions specified in the instrument creating such series.

Table of Contents

Completed Defaults

Any of the following events will constitute a Completed Default under the Mortgage:

failure to pay principal of, or premium, if any, on any Mortgage Security when due;

failure to pay interest on any Mortgage Security within sixty (60) days after the same becomes due;

failure to pay interest on, or principal of, any qualified prior lien bonds beyond any grace period specified in the prior lien securing such prior lien bond;

failure to perform, or breach of, any other covenants of Avista for a period of 90 days after notice to us from the Mortgage Trustee; and

certain events relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of Avista. (Mortgage, Secs. 44 and 65; Forty-second Supplemental Indenture, Article II)

The Mortgage Trustee may withhold notice of default (except in payment of principal, interest or funds for retirement of Mortgage Securities) if it determines that it is in the interest of the Holders. (Mortgage, Sec. 135)

Remedies

Acceleration of Maturity

If a Completed Default occurs and is continuing, the Mortgage Trustee may, and upon written request of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of Mortgage Securities then outstanding shall, declare the principal of, and accrued interest on, all outstanding Mortgage Securities immediately due and payable; provided, however, that the Holders of a majority in principal amount of outstanding Mortgage Securities may annul such declaration if before any sale of the mortgaged property:

all agreements with respect to which default shall have been made shall be fully performed or otherwise cured; and

all overdue interest and all reasonable expenses of the Mortgage Trustee, its agents and attorneys shall have been paid by Avista, except for the principal of any Mortgage Securities that would not have been due except for such acceleration. (Mortgage, Sec. 65; First Supplemental Indenture, Article XXV)

Possession of Mortgaged Property

Under certain circumstances and to the extent permitted by law, if a Completed Default occurs and is continuing, the Mortgage Trustee has the power to take possession of, and to hold, operate and manage, the mortgaged property, or with or without entry, sell the mortgaged property. If the mortgaged property is sold, whether by the Mortgage Trustee or pursuant to judicial proceedings, the principal of the outstanding Mortgage Securities, if not previously due, will become immediately due. (Mortgage, Secs. 66, 67 and 71)

Right to Direct Proceedings

If a Completed Default occurs and is continuing, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Mortgage Securities then outstanding will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceedings to be taken for any sale of the mortgaged property, the foreclosure of the Mortgage, or for the appointment of a receiver or any other proceeding under the Mortgage, provided that such direction does

not conflict with any rule of law or with the Mortgage. (Mortgage, Sec. 69)

No Impairment of Right to Receive Payment

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Mortgage, the right of any Holder to receive payment of the principal of and interest on such Mortgage Security, or to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment, shall not be impaired or affected without the consent of such Holder. (Mortgage, Sec. 148)

Table of Contents

Notice of Default

No Holder may enforce the lien of the Mortgage unless such Holder shall have given the Mortgage Trustee written notice of a Completed Default and unless the Holders of 25% in principal amount of the Mortgage Securities have requested the Mortgage Trustee in writing to act and have offered the Mortgage Trustee adequate security and indemnity and a reasonable opportunity to act. (Mortgage, Sec. 79)

Remedies Limited by State Law

The laws of the various states in which the property subject to the lien of the Mortgage is located may limit or deny the ability of the Mortgage Trustee and/or the Holders to enforce certain rights and remedies provided in the Mortgage in accordance with their terms.

Concerning the Mortgage Trustee

The Mortgage Trustee has, and is subject to, all the duties and responsibilities specified with respect to an indenture trustee under the Trust Indenture Act. Subject to such provisions, the Mortgage Trustee is not under any obligation to take any action in respect of any default or otherwise, or toward the execution or enforcement of any of the trusts created by the Mortgage, or to institute, appear in or defend any suit or other proceeding in connection therewith, unless requested in writing so to do by the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Mortgage Securities then outstanding. Anything in the Mortgage to the contrary notwithstanding, the Mortgage Trustee is under no obligation or duty to perform any act thereunder (other than the delivery of notices) or to institute or defend any suit in respect hereof, unless properly indemnified to its satisfaction. (Mortgage, Sec. 92)

The Mortgage Trustee may at any time resign and be discharged of the trusts created by the Mortgage by giving written notice to Avista and thereafter publishing notice thereof, specifying a date when such resignation shall take effect, as provided in the Mortgage, and such resignation shall take effect upon the day specified in such notice unless a successor trustee shall have previously been appointed by the Holders or Avista and in such event such resignation shall take effect immediately upon the appointment of such successor trustee. The Mortgage Trustee may be removed at any time by the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Mortgage Securities then outstanding. (Mortgage, Secs. 100 and 101)

If Avista appoints a successor trustee and such successor trustee has accepted the appointment, the Mortgage Trustee will be deemed to have resigned as of the date of such successor trustee's acceptance. (Mortgage, Sec. 102)

Evidence of Compliance with Mortgage Provisions

Compliance with provisions of the Mortgage is evidenced by written statements of Avista's officers or persons selected or paid by Avista. In certain matters, statements must be made by an independent accountant or engineer. Various certificates and other papers are required to be filed annually and upon the happening of certain events, including an annual certificate with reference to compliance with the terms of the Mortgage and absence of Completed Defaults.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

Avista may issue the Notes in one or more series, or in one or more tranches within a series. The terms of the Notes will include those stated in the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by the Trust Indenture Act. The following summary is not complete and is subject in all respects to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the Indenture and the Trust Indenture Act. The Notes, together with all other debt securities outstanding under the Indenture, are hereinafter called, collectively, the Indenture Securities. Avista has filed the Indenture, as well as a form of officer's certificate to establish a series of Notes, as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Capitalized terms used under this heading which are not otherwise defined in this prospectus have the meanings set forth in the Indenture. Wherever particular provisions of the Indenture or terms defined in the Indenture are referred to, those provisions or definitions are incorporated by reference as part of the statements made in this prospectus and those statements are qualified in their entirety by that reference. References to article and section numbers, unless otherwise indicated, are references to article and section numbers of the Indenture.

Table of Contents

The applicable prospectus supplement or prospectus supplements will describe the following terms of the Notes of each series or tranche:

the title of the Notes;

any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the Notes;

the date or dates on which the principal of the Notes is payable or the method of determination thereof and the right, if any, to extend such date or dates;

(a) the rate or rates at which the Notes will bear interest, if any, or the method by which such rate or rates, if any, will be determined, (b) the date or dates from which any such interest will accrue, (c) the interest payment dates on which any such interest will be payable, (d) the right, if any, of Avista to defer or extend an interest payment date, (e) the regular record date for any interest payable on any interest payment date and (f) the person or persons to whom interest on the Notes will be payable on any interest payment date, if other than the person or persons in whose names the Notes are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for such interest;

any period or periods within which, or date or dates on which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which the Notes may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the option of Avista;

(a) the obligation or obligations, if any, of Avista to redeem or purchase any of the Notes pursuant to any sinking fund or other mandatory redemption provisions or at the option of the Holder, (b) the period or periods within which, or date or dates on which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which the Notes will be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and (c) applicable exceptions to the requirements of a notice of redemption in the case of mandatory redemption or redemption at the option of the Holder;

the denominations in which any of the Notes will be issuable if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000;

if the Notes are to be issued in global form, the identity of the depositary;

the terms, if any, upon which the Notes may be converted into other securities of Avista; and

any other terms of the Notes.

Payment and Paying Agents

Except as may be provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, Avista will pay interest, if any, on each Note on each interest payment date to the person in whose name such Note is registered (for the purposes of this section of the prospectus, the registered holder of any Indenture Security is herein referred to as a Holder) as of the close of business on the regular record date relating to such interest payment date; provided, however, that Avista will pay interest at maturity (whether at stated maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, Maturity) to the person to whom principal is paid. However, if there has been a default in the payment of interest on any Note, such defaulted interest may be payable to the Holder of such Note as of the close of business on a date selected by the Indenture Trustee which is not more than 30 days and not less than 10 days before the date proposed by Avista for payment of such defaulted interest or in any other lawful manner not inconsistent with the requirements of any securities exchange on which such Note may be listed, if the Indenture Trustee deems such manner of payment practicable. (Indenture, Sec. 307)

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, Avista will pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the Notes at Maturity upon presentation of the Notes at the corporate trust office of The Bank of New York in New York, New York, as paying agent for Avista. Avista may change the place of payment of the Notes, may appoint one or more additional paying agents (including Avista) and may remove any paying agent, all at its discretion. (Indenture, Sec. 502)

Table of Contents

Registration; Registration of Transfer

The Notes will be issued only in fully registered form. The registered Holder of a Note will be treated as the owner of the Note for all purposes under the Indenture. Only registered Holders will have rights under the Indenture. (Indenture, Sec. 308)

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, Holders may register the transfer of Notes, and may exchange Notes for other Notes of the same series and tranche, of authorized denominations and having the same terms and aggregate principal amount, at the corporate trust office of The Bank of New York in New York, New York, as security registrar for the Notes. Avista may change the place for registration of transfer and exchange of the Notes, may appoint one or more additional security registrars (including Avista) and may remove any security registrar, all at its discretion. (Indenture, Sec. 502)

Except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, no service charge will be made for any transfer or exchange of the Notes, but Avista may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with any registration of transfer or exchange of the Notes. Avista will not be required to execute or to provide for the registration of transfer or the exchange of (a) any Note during a period of 15 days before giving any notice of redemption or (b) any Note selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any Note being redeemed in part. (Indenture, Sec. 305)

Redemption

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any terms for the optional or mandatory redemption of Notes. Except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement with respect to Notes redeemable at the option of the Holder, Notes will be redeemable by Avista only upon notice by mail not less than 30 nor more than 60 days before the date fixed for redemption. If less than all the Notes of a series, or any tranche thereof, are to be redeemed by Avista, the particular Notes to be redeemed will be selected by such method as shall be provided for such series or tranche, or in the absence of any such provision, by such method of random selection as the Security Registrar deems fair and appropriate. (Indenture, Secs. 403 and 404)

Any notice of redemption at the option of Avista may state that such redemption will be conditional upon receipt by the paying agent or agents, on or before the date fixed for such redemption, of money sufficient to pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on such Notes and that if such money has not been so received, such notice will be of no force or effect and Avista will not be required to redeem such Notes. (Indenture, Sec. 404)

Unsecured Obligations; Structural Subordination

The Indenture is not a mortgage or other lien on assets of Avista or its subsidiaries. In addition to the Notes, other debt securities may be issued under the Indenture, without any limit on the aggregate principal amount. Each series of Indenture Securities will be unsecured and will rank pari passu with all other series of Indenture Securities, except as otherwise provided in the Indenture, and with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of Avista. Except as otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the Indenture does not limit the incurrence or issuance by Avista of other secured or unsecured debt, whether under the Indenture, under any other indenture that Avista may enter into in the future or otherwise.

Although its utility operations are conducted directly by Avista, all of the other operations of Avista are conducted through its subsidiaries. Any right of Avista, as a shareholder, to receive assets of any of its direct or indirect subsidiaries upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization (and the right of the Holders and other creditors of Avista to participate in those assets) is junior to the claims against such assets of that subsidiary's creditors. As a result, the obligations of Avista to the Holders and other creditors are effectively subordinated in right of payment to all indebtedness and other liabilities and commitments (including trade payables and lease obligations) of Avista's direct and indirect subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

Satisfaction and Discharge

Any Indenture Securities, or any portion of the principal amount thereof, will be deemed to have been paid for purposes of the Indenture and, at Avista's election, the entire indebtedness of Avista in respect thereof will be deemed to have been satisfied and discharged, if there shall have been irrevocably deposited in trust with the Indenture Trustee or any paying agent (other than Avista):

money in an amount which will be sufficient, or

in the case of a deposit made before the maturity of such Indenture Securities, Eligible Obligations, which do not contain provisions permitting the redemption or other prepayment thereof at the option of the issuer thereof, the principal of and the interest on which when due, without any regard to reinvestment thereof, will provide moneys which, together with the money, if any, deposited with or held by the Indenture Trustee or such Paying Agent, will be sufficient, or

a combination of money and Eligible Obligations which will be sufficient, to pay when due the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, due and to become due on such Indenture Securities. For this purpose, Eligible Obligations include direct obligations of, or obligations unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States, entitled to the benefit of the full faith and credit thereof and certificates, depositary receipts or other instruments which evidence a direct ownership interest in such obligations or in any specific interest or principal payments due in respect thereof and such other obligations or instruments as shall be specified in an accompanying prospectus supplement. (Indenture, Sec. 601)

The right of Avista to cause its entire indebtedness in respect of the Indenture Securities of any series to be deemed to be satisfied and discharged as described above will be subject to the satisfaction of conditions specified in the instrument creating such series.

The Indenture will be deemed to have been satisfied and discharged when no Indenture Securities remain outstanding thereunder and Avista has paid or caused to be paid all other sums payable by Avista under the Indenture. (Indenture, Sec. 602)

Events of Default

Any one or more of the following events with respect to a series of Indenture Securities that has occurred and is continuing will constitute an Event of Default with respect to such series of Indenture Securities:

failure to pay interest on any Indenture Security of such series within 60 days after the same becomes due and payable; provided, however, that no such failure shall constitute an Event of Default if Avista has made a valid extension of the interest payment period with respect to the Indenture Securities of such series if so provided with respect to such series;

failure to pay the principal of or premium, if any, on any Indenture Security of such series within 3 business days after its Maturity; provided, however, that no such failure will constitute an Event of Default if Avista has made a valid extension of the Maturity of the Indenture Securities of such series, if so provided with respect to such series;

failure to perform, or breach of, any covenant or warranty of Avista contained in the Indenture for 90 days after written notice to Avista from the Indenture Trustee or to Avista and the Indenture Trustee by the Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding Indenture Securities of such series as provided in the Indenture unless the Indenture Trustee, or the Indenture Trustee and the Holders of a principal amount of Indenture Securities of such series not less than the principal amount of Indenture Securities the Holders of which gave such notice, as the case may be, agree in writing to an extension of such period before its expiration; provided, however, that the Indenture Trustee, or the Indenture Trustee and the Holders of such principal amount of Indenture Securities of such series, as the case may be, will be deemed to have agreed to an extension of such period if corrective action is initiated by Avista within such period and is

being diligently pursued;

default under any bond, debenture, note or other evidence of indebtedness of Avista for borrowed money (including Indenture Securities of other series) or under any mortgage, indenture, or other instrument to evidence any indebtedness of Avista for borrowed money, which default (1) constitutes a failure to make

Table of Contents

any payment in excess of \$5,000,000 of the principal of, or interest on, such indebtedness or (2) has resulted in such indebtedness in an amount in excess of \$10,000,000 becoming or being declared due and payable prior to the date it would otherwise have become due and payable, without such payment having been made, such indebtedness having been discharged, or such acceleration having been rescinded or annulled, within a period of 90 days after written notice to Avista by the Indenture Trustee or to Avista and the Indenture Trustee by the Holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding Securities of such series as provided in the Indenture; or

certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of Avista (Indenture, Sec. 701).

Remedies

Acceleration of Maturity

If an Event of Default applicable to the Indenture Securities of any series occurs and is continuing, then either the Indenture Trustee or the Holders of not less than 33% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Indenture Securities of such series may declare the principal amount (or, if any of the outstanding Indenture Securities of such series are Discount Securities, such portion of the principal amount thereof as may be specified in the terms thereof) of all of the outstanding Indenture Securities of such series to be due and payable immediately by written notice to Avista (and to the Indenture Trustee if given by the Holders); provided, however, that if an Event of Default occurs and is continuing with respect to more than one series of Indenture Securities, the Indenture Trustee or the Holders of not less than 33% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Indenture Securities of all such series, considered as one class, may make such declaration of acceleration and not the Holders of any one such series.

At any time after such a declaration of acceleration with respect to the Indenture Securities of any series has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained, such declaration and its consequences will, without further act, be deemed to have been rescinded and annulled, if:

Avista has paid or deposited with the Indenture Trustee a sum sufficient to pay

all overdue interest, if any, on all Indenture Securities of such series;

the principal of and premium, if any, on any Indenture Securities of such series which have become due otherwise than by such declaration of acceleration and interest, if any, thereon at the rate or rates prescribed therefor in such Indenture Securities;

interest, if any, upon overdue interest, if any, at the rate or rates prescribed therefor in such Indenture Securities, to the extent that payment of such interest is lawful; and

all amounts due to the Indenture Trustee under the Indenture in respect of compensation and reimbursement of expenses; and

all Events of Default with respect to Indenture Securities of such series, other than the non-payment of the principal of the Indenture Securities of such series which has become due solely by such declaration of acceleration, have been cured or waived as provided in the Indenture. (Indenture, Sec. 702)

Right to Direct Proceedings

If an Event of Default with respect to the Indenture Securities of any series occurs and is continuing, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Indenture Securities of such series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceedings for any remedy available to the Indenture Trustee in exercising any trust or power conferred on the Indenture Trustee; provided, however, that if an Event of Default occurs and is continuing with respect to more than one series of Indenture Securities, the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Indenture Securities of all such series, considered as one class, will have the right to

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

make such direction, and not the Holders of any one of such series; and provided, further, that (a) such direction does not conflict with any rule of law or with the Indenture, and could not involve the Indenture Trustee in personal liability in circumstances where indemnity would not, in the Indenture Trustee's sole discretion, be adequate and (b) the Indenture Trustee may take any other action deemed proper by the Indenture Trustee which is not inconsistent with such direction. (Indenture, Sec. 712)

Table of Contents

Limitation on Right to Institute Proceedings

No Holder will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the Indenture or for the appointment of a receiver or for any other remedy thereunder unless:

such Holder has previously given to the Indenture Trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the Indenture Securities of any one or more series;

the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Indenture Securities of all series in respect of which such Event of Default has occurred, considered as one class, have made written request to the Indenture Trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default and have offered the Indenture Trustee reasonable indemnity against costs and liabilities to be incurred in complying with such request; and

for 60 days after receipt of such notice, the Indenture Trustee has failed to institute any such proceeding and no direction inconsistent with such request has been given to the Indenture Trustee during such 60 day period by the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of Indenture Securities then outstanding.

Furthermore, no Holder of any series of Indenture Securities will be entitled to institute any such action if and to the extent that such action would disturb or prejudice the rights of other Holders of such series. (Indenture, Sec. 707)

No Impairment of Right to Receive Payment

Notwithstanding that the right of a Holder to institute a proceeding with respect to the Indenture is subject to certain conditions precedent, each Holder will have the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to receive payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on such Indenture Security when due and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment. Such rights may not be impaired or affected without the consent of such Holder. (Indenture, Sec. 708)

Notice of Default

The Indenture Trustee is required to give the Holders notice of any default under the Indenture to the extent required by the Trust Indenture Act, unless such default shall have been cured or waived, except that no such notice to Holders of a default of the character described in the third bulleted paragraph under Events of Default may be given until at least 75 days after the occurrence thereof. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term default means any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become, an Event of Default. The Trust Indenture Act currently permits the Indenture Trustee to withhold notices of default (except for certain payment defaults) if the Indenture Trustee in good faith determines the withholding of such notice to be in the interests of the Holders. (Indenture, Sec. 802)

Consolidation, Merger, Sale of Assets and Other Transactions

Avista may not consolidate with or merge into any other Person, or convey or otherwise transfer, or lease, all of its properties, as or substantially as an entirety, to any Person, unless:

the Person formed by such consolidation or into which Avista is merged or the Person which acquires by conveyance or other transfer, or which leases (for a term extending beyond the last Stated Maturity of the Indenture Securities then outstanding), all of the properties of Avista, as or substantially as an entirety, shall be a Person organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any State or Territory thereof or the District of Columbia or under the laws of Canada or any Province thereof; and

such Person shall expressly assume the due and punctual payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all the Indenture Securities then outstanding and the performance and observance of every covenant and condition of the Indenture to be

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

performed or observed by Avista.

In the case of the conveyance or other transfer of all of the properties of Avista, as or substantially as an entirety, to any person as contemplated above, Avista would be released and discharged from all obligations under the Indenture and on all Indenture Securities then outstanding unless Avista elects to waive such release

Table of Contents

and discharge. Upon any such consolidation or merger or any such conveyance or other transfer of properties of Avista, the successor, transferee or lessee would succeed to, and be substituted for, and would be entitled to exercise every power and right of, Avista under the Indenture. (Indenture, Secs. 1001, 1002 and 1003)

For purposes of the Indenture, the conveyance, transfer or lease by Avista of all of its facilities (a) for the generation of electric energy, (b) for the transmission of electric energy, (c) for the distribution of electric energy and/or natural gas, in each case considered alone, (d) all of its facilities described in clauses (a) and (b), considered together, or (e) all of its facilities described in clauses (b) and (c), considered together, will in no event be deemed to constitute a conveyance or other transfer of all the properties of Avista, as or substantially as an entirety, unless, immediately following such conveyance, transfer or lease, Avista owns no unleased properties in the other such categories of property not so conveyed or otherwise transferred or leased.

The Indenture will not prevent or restrict:

any consolidation or merger after the consummation of which Avista would be the surviving or resulting entity; or

any conveyance or other transfer, or lease, of any part of the properties of Avista which does not constitute the entirety, or substantially the entirety, thereof. (Indenture, Sec. 1004)

If Avista conveys or otherwise transfers any part of its properties which does not constitute the entirety, or substantially the entirety, thereof to another Person meeting the requirements set forth in the first paragraph under this heading, and if:

such transferee expressly assumes the due and punctual payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all Indenture Securities then outstanding and the performance and observance of every covenant and condition of the Indenture to be performed or observed by Avista; and

there is delivered to the Indenture Trustee an independent expert's certificate (i) describing the property so conveyed or transferred and identifying the same as facilities for the generation, transmission or distribution of electric energy or for the storage, transportation or distribution of natural gas and (ii) stating that the aggregate principal amount of the Indenture Securities then outstanding does not exceed 70% of the fair value of such property,

then Avista would be released and discharged from all obligations and covenants under the Indenture and on all Indenture Securities then outstanding unless Avista elects to waive such release and discharge. In such event, the transferee would succeed to, and be substituted for, and would be entitled to exercise every right and power of, Avista under the Indenture. (Indenture, Sec. 1005)

Modification of Indenture

Modifications Without Consent

Avista and the Indenture Trustee may enter into one or more supplemental indentures, without the consent of any Holders, for any of the following purposes:

to evidence the succession of another Person to Avista and the assumption by any such successor of the covenants of Avista in the Indenture and in the Indenture Securities;

to add one or more covenants of Avista or other provisions for the benefit of all Holders or for the benefit of the Holders of, or to remain in effect only so long as there shall be outstanding, Indenture Securities of one or more specified series, or one or more tranches thereof, or to surrender any right or power conferred upon Avista by the Indenture;

to change or eliminate any provisions of the Indenture or to add any new provisions to the Indenture, provided that if such change, elimination or addition adversely affects the interests of the Holders of the Indenture Securities of any series or tranche in any material respect, such change, elimination or addition will become effective with respect to such series or tranche only when no Indenture Security of such series or tranche remains outstanding;

Table of Contents

to provide collateral security for the Indenture Securities or any series thereof;

to establish the form or terms of the Indenture Securities of any series or tranche as permitted by the Indenture;

to provide for the authentication and delivery of bearer securities and coupons appertaining thereto representing interest, if any, thereon and for the procedures for the registration, exchange and replacement thereof and for the giving of notice to, and the solicitation of the vote or consent of, the Holders thereof, and for any and all other matters incidental thereto;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee with respect to the Indenture Securities of one or more series;

to provide for the procedures required to permit the utilization of a non-certificated system of registration for all, or any series or tranche of, the Indenture Securities; or

to change any place or places where (a) the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all or any series of Indenture Securities, or any tranche thereof, will be payable, (b) all or any series of Indenture Securities, or any tranche thereof, may be surrendered for registration of transfer, (c) all or any series of Indenture Securities, or any tranche thereof, may be surrendered for exchange and (d) notices and demands to or upon Avista in respect of all or any series of Indenture Securities, or any tranche thereof, and the Indenture may be served; or

to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision therein which may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision therein, to make any other changes to the provisions thereof or to add any other provisions with respect to matters and questions arising under the Indenture, so long as such other changes or additions do not adversely affect the interests of the Holders of any series or tranche in any material respect.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, if the Trust Indenture Act is amended after the date of the Original Indenture in such a way as to require changes to the Indenture or the incorporation therein of additional provisions or so as to permit changes to, or the elimination of, provisions which, at the date of the Original Indenture or at any time thereafter, were required by the Trust Indenture Act to be contained in the Indenture, the Indenture will be deemed to have been amended so as to conform to such amendment or to effect such changes or elimination, and Avista and the Indenture Trustee may, without the consent of any Holders, enter into one or more supplemental indentures to evidence or effect such amendment. (Indenture, Sec. 1101)

Modifications Requiring Consent

Except as provided above, the consent of the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Indenture Securities of all series then outstanding, considered as one class is required for the purpose of adding any provisions to, or changing in any manner, or eliminating any of the provisions of, the Indenture pursuant to one or more supplemental indentures; provided, however, that if less than all of the series of Indenture Securities outstanding are directly affected by a proposed supplemental indenture, then the consent only of the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of outstanding Indenture Securities of all series so directly affected, considered as one class, will be required; and provided, further, that if the Indenture Securities of any series have been issued in more than one tranche and if the proposed supplemental indenture directly affects the rights of the Holders of one or more, but less than all, of such tranches, then the consent only of the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Indenture Securities of all tranches so directly affected, considered as one class, will be required; and provided, further, that no such amendment or modification may:

change the Stated Maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of or interest on, any Indenture Security other than pursuant to the terms thereof, or reduce the principal amount thereof or the rate of interest thereon (or the amount of any installment of interest thereon) or change the method of calculating such rate or reduce any premium payable upon the redemption thereof, or reduce the amount of the principal of any Discount Security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of Maturity or

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

change the coin or currency (or other property) in which any Indenture Security or any premium or the interest

Table of Contents

thereon is payable, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after the Stated Maturity of any Indenture Security (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date) without, in any such case, the consent of the Holder of such Indenture Security;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding Indenture Securities of any series, or any tranche thereof, the consent of the Holders of which is required for any such supplemental indenture, or the consent of the Holders of which is required for any waiver of compliance with any provision of the Indenture or of any default thereunder and its consequences;

reduce the requirements for quorum or voting, without, in any such case, the consent of the Holder of each outstanding Indenture Security of such series or tranche; or

modify certain of the provisions of the Indenture relating to supplemental indentures, waivers of certain covenants and waivers of past defaults with respect to the Indenture Securities of any series, or any tranche thereof, without the consent of the Holder of each outstanding Indenture Security of such series or tranche.

A supplemental indenture which changes or eliminates any covenant or other provision of the Indenture which has expressly been included solely for the benefit of the Holders of, or which is to remain in effect only so long as there shall be outstanding, Indenture Securities of one or more specified series, or one or more tranches thereof, or modifies the rights of the Holders of such series or tranche with respect to such covenant or other provision, will be deemed not to affect the rights under the Indenture of the Holders of any other series or tranche.

If the supplemental indenture or other document establishing any series or tranche of Indenture Securities so provides, and as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and/or pricing supplement, the Holders of such Indenture Securities will be deemed to have consented, by virtue of their purchase of such Indenture Securities, to a supplemental indenture containing the additions, changes or eliminations to or from the Indenture which are specified in such supplemental indenture or other document. No Act of such Holders will be required to evidence such consent and such consent may be counted in the determination of whether the Holders of the requested principal amount of Indenture Securities have consented to such supplemental indenture. (Indenture, Sec. 1102)

Duties of the Indenture Trustee; Resignation; Removal

The Indenture Trustee has, and is subject to, all the duties and responsibilities specified with respect to an indenture trustee under the Trust Indenture Act. Subject to such provisions, the Indenture Trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by the Indenture at the request of any Holder, unless such Holder offers it reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred thereby. The Indenture Trustee will not be required to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur personal financial liability in the performance of its duties if the Indenture Trustee reasonably believes that repayment or adequate indemnity is not reasonably assured to it. (Indenture, Secs. 801 and 803)

The Indenture Trustee may resign at any time with respect to the Indenture Securities of one or more series by giving written notice thereof to Avista or may be removed at any time with respect to the Indenture Securities of one or more series by Act of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Indenture Securities of such series delivered to the Indenture Trustee and Avista. No resignation or removal of the Indenture Trustee and no appointment of a successor trustee will become effective until the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee in accordance with the requirements of the Indenture. So long as no Event of Default or event which, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, if Avista has delivered to the Indenture Trustee with respect to one or more series a resolution of its Board of Directors appointing a successor trustee with respect to that or those series and such successor has accepted such appointment in accordance with the terms of the Indenture, the Indenture Trustee with respect to that or those series will be deemed to have resigned and the successor will be deemed to have been appointed as trustee in accordance with the Indenture. (Indenture, Sec. 810)

Table of Contents

Evidence of Compliance

Compliance with the Indenture provisions is evidenced by written statements of Avista officers or persons selected or paid by Avista. In certain cases, Avista must furnish opinions of counsel and certifications of an engineer, appraiser or other expert (who in some cases must be independent). In addition, the Indenture requires that Avista give the Indenture Trustee, not less than annually, a brief statement as to Avista's compliance with the conditions and covenants under the Indenture.

Governing Law

The Indenture and the Indenture Securities are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

General

The authorized capital stock of Avista Corporation, as set forth in the Articles, consists of 10,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, cumulative, without nominal or par value, which is issuable in series, and 200,000,000 shares of Common Stock, without nominal or par value. Following is a brief description of certain of the rights and privileges of the Preferred Stock.

Avista may issue shares of New Preferred Stock in one or more additional series. The terms of the New Preferred Stock will include those stated in the Articles and the Bylaws and those made applicable thereto by the Washington BCA. The following summary is not complete and is subject in all respects to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the Articles, the Bylaws and the Washington BCA. Avista has filed the Articles, as well as a form of amendment thereto to establish a series of New Preferred Stock, and the Bylaws as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Whenever particular provisions of the Articles or the Bylaws are referred to, those provisions are incorporated by reference as part of the statements made in this prospectus and those statements are qualified in their entirety by that reference.

The Articles provide that the Preferred Stock may be divided into and issued from time to time in one or more series. All shares of Preferred Stock constitute one and the same class of stock, are of equal rank and will otherwise be identical except as to the designation thereof, the date or dates from which dividends on shares thereof will be cumulative, and except that each series may vary as to, and the applicable prospectus supplement will describe:

the rate or rates of dividends, if any, which may be expressed in terms of a formula or other method by which such rate or rates will be calculated from time to time, and the date or dates on which dividends may be payable,

whether shares may be redeemed and, if so, the redemption price and terms and conditions of redemption,

the amount payable on voluntary and involuntary liquidation,

sinking fund provisions, if any, for the redemption or purchase of shares, and

the terms and conditions, if any, on which shares may be converted.

When Preferred Stock is initially issued, the number of shares constituting such series, its distinguishing serial designation and its particular characteristics (insofar as there may be variations between series) may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Dividend Rights

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

The New Preferred Stock of each series will be entitled, on a parity with each other series of Preferred Stock and in preference to the Common Stock, to receive, but only when and as declared by the Board of Directors, dividends at the rate determined for such series and set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such dividends

Table of Contents

will be cumulative from the date of issuance of the New Preferred Stock and will be payable on the fifteenth day of March, June, September and December in each year, except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Liquidation Rights

The New Preferred Stock of each series will be entitled, upon dissolution or liquidation, on a parity with each other series of Preferred Stock and in preference to the Common Stock, to a liquidation preference per share determined for such series plus an amount equivalent to accrued and unpaid dividends thereon, if any, to the date of such event. The liquidation preference of each series of New Preferred Stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Voting Rights

Except for those purposes for which the right to vote is expressly conferred by the Articles or the Washington BCA, the holders of Preferred Stock have no power to vote.

Under the Articles, whenever and as often as, at any date, dividends payable on any shares of Preferred Stock (including any New Preferred Stock) shall be in arrears in an amount equal to the aggregate amount of dividends accumulated on such shares over the eighteen (18) month period ended on such date, the holders of the Preferred Stock, voting separately and as a single class, are entitled to elect a majority of the Board of Directors, and the holders of the Common Stock, voting separately and as a single class, shall be entitled to elect the remaining directors. Such voting rights of the holders of the Preferred Stock cease when all defaults in the payment of dividends on the Preferred Stock of any and all series have been cured. See Description of Common Stock Voting Rights for additional information with respect to the election of directors.

In addition, under the Articles the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the shares of the Preferred Stock is required:

- (a) for the adoption of any amendment of the Articles which would: (i) create or authorize any new class of stock ranking prior to or on a parity with the Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon dissolution, liquidation or winding up; (ii) increase the authorized number of shares of the Preferred Stock; or (iii) change any of the rights or preferences of the Preferred Stock at the time outstanding, provided that if any such change would affect the holders of less than the Preferred Stock of all series then outstanding, only the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the shares of all series so affected is required; and
- (b) for the issuance of Preferred Stock, or of any other class of stock ranking prior to or on a parity with such Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon dissolution, liquidation or winding up, unless the net income of Avista available for the payment of dividends for a period of 12 consecutive calendar months within the 15 calendar months immediately preceding the issuance of such shares is at least equal to one and one-half times the annual dividend requirements on shares of Preferred Stock and on all shares of all other classes of stock ranking prior to or on a parity with the Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon dissolution, liquidation or winding up, which will be outstanding immediately after the issuance of such shares, including the shares proposed to be issued; provided, however, that if the shares of Preferred Stock or any such prior or parity stock shall have a variable dividend rate, the annual dividend requirement of such shares shall be determined by reference to the weighted average dividend rate on such shares during the 12-month period for which the net income of Avista available for the payment of dividends shall have been determined; and provided, further, that if the shares of the series to be issued are to have a variable dividend rate, the annual dividend requirement on such shares shall be determined by reference to the initial dividend rate upon the issuance of such shares.

Under the Washington BCA, the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Preferred Stock is required in connection with certain changes in the capital structure of Avista or in certain rights and preferences of the Preferred Stock, including certain of the changes described in (a) above. In addition, the Washington BCA requires the approval of certain mergers, share exchanges and other major corporate transactions by the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

Pre-emptive Rights

No holder of Preferred Stock has any pre-emptive rights.

Miscellaneous

The Articles contain no restriction on the redemption or repurchase by Avista of shares of Preferred Stock while there is any arrearage in the payment of dividends on, or sinking fund payments in respect of, the Preferred Stock.

Upon issuance as contemplated by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, the New Preferred Stock will be fully paid and nonassessable. The holders of the New Preferred Stock will not be subject to liability for further calls or assessment by, or for liabilities of, Avista.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

General

The authorized capital stock of Avista, as set forth in the Articles, consists of 10,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, cumulative, without nominal or par value, which is issuable in series, and 200,000,000 shares of Common Stock without nominal or par value. Following is a brief description of certain of the rights and privileges of the Common Stock.

Avista may issue additional shares of its Common Stock from time to time. The terms of the Common Stock include those stated in the Articles and the Bylaws and those made applicable thereto by the Washington BCA. The following summary is not complete and is subject in all respects to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the Articles, the Bylaws and the Washington BCA. Avista has filed the Articles and the Bylaws as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. Whenever particular provisions of the Articles or the Bylaws are referred to, those provisions are incorporated as part of the statements made in this prospectus and those statements are qualified in their entirety by that reference.

Dividend Rights

After full provision for all Preferred Stock dividends declared or in arrears, the holders of Common Stock are entitled to receive such dividends as may be lawfully declared from time to time by Avista's Board of Directors.

Voting Rights

The holders of the Common Stock have sole voting power, except as indicated below or as otherwise provided by law. Each holder of Common Stock is entitled to one vote per share.

In an uncontested election of directors, each vote may be cast for or against one or more candidates, or a shareholder may abstain with respect to one or more candidates. A candidate is elected to the Board of Directors only if the number of votes for such candidate exceeds the number of votes against such candidate; and abstentions are not counted as votes for or against. If an incumbent director does not receive a majority of votes cast, he or she would continue to serve a term that would terminate on the date that is the earliest of (a) the date of the commencement of the term of a new director selected by the Board to fill the office held by such director, (b) the effective date of the resignation of such director and (c) the date of the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders. In a contested election—that is, an election in which the number of candidates exceeds the total number of directors to be elected—shareholders would be allowed to vote for one or more candidates (not to exceed the number of directors to be elected) or withhold votes with respect to one or more candidates. The candidates elected would be those receiving the largest number of votes (up to the number of directors to be elected). Shareholders are not allowed to cumulate their votes in any election of directors (whether or not contested).

Under the Articles, whenever and as often as, at any date, dividends payable on any shares of Preferred Stock (including any New Preferred Stock) shall be in arrears in an amount equal to the aggregate amount of dividends accumulated on such shares of Preferred Stock over the eighteen (18) month period ended on such date, the holders of the Preferred Stock, voting separately and as a single class, are entitled to elect a majority of

Table of Contents

the Board of Directors, and the holders of the Common Stock, voting separately and as a single class, will be entitled to elect the remaining directors. Such voting rights of the holders of the Preferred Stock cease when all defaults in the payment of dividends on the Preferred Stock have been cured.

In addition, the consent of various proportions of the Preferred Stock at the time outstanding is required to adopt any amendment to the Articles which would authorize any new class of stock ranking prior to or on a parity with the Preferred Stock as to certain matters, to increase the authorized number of shares of the Preferred Stock, to change any of the rights or preferences of outstanding Preferred Stock or to issue additional shares of Preferred Stock unless an earnings test is satisfied.

Under the Washington BCA, the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Preferred Stock is required in connection with certain changes in the capital structure of Avista or in certain rights and preferences of the Preferred Stock, including certain of the changes referred to in the preceding paragraph. In addition, the Washington BCA requires approval of certain mergers, share exchanges and other major corporate transactions by the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding Preferred Stock.

Classified Board of Directors

Both the Articles and the Bylaws provide for a Board of Directors divided into three classes. Each director of a class will generally serve for a term of three years, with only one class of directors being elected in each year. The classification of the Board of Directors reduces the impact of cumulative voting rights.

The Articles and Bylaws also generally provide that directors may be removed only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock. The Articles and Bylaws further require an affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock to alter, amend or repeal the provisions relating to the classification of the Board of Directors and the removal of members from, and the filling of vacancies on, the Board of Directors.

Fair Price Provision

The Articles contain a fair price provision which requires the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock for the consummation of certain business combinations, including mergers, consolidations, recapitalizations, certain dispositions of assets, certain issuances of securities, liquidations and dissolutions involving Avista and a person or entity who is or, under certain circumstances, was, a beneficial owner of 10% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock (an Interested Shareholder) unless

such business combination has been approved by a majority of the directors unaffiliated with the Interested Shareholder, or

certain minimum price and procedural requirements are met. The Articles provide that the fair price provision may be altered, amended or repealed only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock.

Statutory Limitation on Significant Business Transactions

General

The Washington BCA contains provisions that limit our ability to engage in significant business transactions with an acquiring person, each as defined below. We have no right to waive the applicability of these provisions.

Significant Business Transactions Within Five Years of Share Acquisition Time

Subject to certain exceptions, for five years after an acquiring person's share acquisition time, Avista may not engage in any significant business transaction with such acquiring person unless

before such share acquisition time, a majority of the Board of Directors approves either:

such significant business transaction ; or

the purchase of shares made by such acquiring person ; or

Table of Contents

at or subsequent to such share acquisition time, such significant business transaction has been approved by

a majority of the Board of Directors and

the holders of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the outstanding shares of Common Stock (except shares beneficially owned by or under the voting control of the acquiring person).

Significant Business Transactions More Than Five Years After Share Acquisition Time

Avista may not engage in certain significant business transactions (including mergers, share exchanges and consolidations) with any acquiring person unless:

the transaction complies with certain fair price provisions specified in the statute; or

no earlier than five years after the acquiring person's share acquisition time, the significant business transaction is approved at an annual or special meeting of shareholders (in which the acquiring person's shares may not be counted in determining whether the significant business transaction has been approved).

Definitions

As used in this section:

Significant business transaction means any of various specified transactions involving an acquiring person, including:

a merger, share exchange, or consolidation of Avista or any of its subsidiaries with an acquiring person or its affiliate;

a sale, lease, transfer or other disposition to an acquiring person or its affiliate of assets of Avista or any of its subsidiaries having an aggregate market value equal to 5% or more of all of the assets determined on a consolidated basis, or all the outstanding shares of Avista, or representing 5% or more of its earning power or net income determined on a consolidated basis;

termination, at any time over the five-year period following the share acquisition time, of 5% or more of the employees of Avista as a result of the acquiring person's acquisition of 10% or more of the shares of Avista; and

the issuance or redemption by Avista or any of its subsidiaries of shares (or of options, warrants, or rights to acquire shares) of Avista or any of its subsidiaries to or beneficially owned by an acquiring person or its affiliate except pursuant to an offer, dividend distribution or redemption paid or made *pro rata* to all shareholders (or holders of options, warrants or rights).

Acquiring person means, with certain exceptions, a person (or group of persons) other than Avista or its subsidiaries who beneficially owns 10% or more of the outstanding Common Stock of Avista.

Share acquisition time means the time at which a person first becomes an acquiring person of Avista.

Anti-Takeover Effect

The provisions of the Articles and the Bylaws described above under *Classified Board of Directors* and *Fair Price Provision*, together with the provisions of the Washington BCA described above under *Statutory Limitations on Significant Business Transactions*, considered either

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

individually or in the aggregate, may have an anti-takeover effect. These provisions could discourage a future takeover attempt which is not approved by Avista's Board of Directors but which individual shareholders might deem to be in their best interests or in which shareholders would receive a premium for their shares over current market prices. As a result, shareholders who might desire to participate in such a transaction might not have an opportunity to do so.

The provisions described above under Classified Board of Directors could also cause the removal of the incumbent Board of Directors or management to require more time or render such removal more difficult, procedurally or otherwise.

Table of Contents

Liquidation Rights

In the event of any liquidation or dissolution of Avista, after satisfaction of the preferential liquidation rights of the Preferred Stock, the holders of Common Stock would be entitled to share ratably in all assets of Avista available for distribution to shareholders.

Pre-Emptive Rights

No holder of Common Stock has any pre-emptive rights.

Miscellaneous

The presently outstanding shares of Common Stock are fully paid and non-assessable. Upon issuance as contemplated by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, additional shares of Common Stock will be fully paid and nonassessable. The holders of shares of Common Stock are not and will not be subject to liability for further calls or assessment by, or for liabilities of, Avista.

The outstanding shares of Common Stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Any new shares of Common Stock will also be listed on that Exchange subject to official notice of issuance.

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for the Common Stock is The Bank of New York, 101 Barclay Street, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10286.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

General

Avista is subject to the informational reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Avista files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other documents with the SEC (File No. 1-3701). These documents contain important business and financial information. You may read and copy any materials Avista files with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Avista's SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Other than those documents or portions of documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, information on this website does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

Incorporation of Documents by Reference

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information that we file with the SEC. This allows us to disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents rather than repeating them in full in this prospectus. We are incorporating into this prospectus by reference:

Avista's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act;

all other documents filed by Avista with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act since the end of the fiscal year covered by Avista's most recent Annual Report and prior to the termination of the offering made by this prospectus, and all of those documents are deemed to be a part of this prospectus from the date of filing such documents; it being understood that documents which are furnished but not filed, in accordance with SEC rules, will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference. We refer to the documents incorporated into this prospectus by reference as the Incorporated Documents. Any statement contained in an Incorporated Document may be modified or superseded by a statement in this prospectus (if such Incorporated Document was filed prior to the date of this prospectus) in any prospectus supplement or in any subsequently filed Incorporated Document. The Incorporated Documents as of the date of this prospectus are:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008;

Edgar Filing: AVISTA CORP - Form 424B5

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2009, June 30, 2009 and September 30, 2009; and

Table of Contents

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 23, February 13, March 13, April 1, May 8, June 16, August 14, September 4, September 15 and November 25, 2009.

You may request any of these filings, at no cost, by contacting us at the address or telephone number provided on page 2 of this prospectus. Avista maintains an Internet site at <http://www.avistacorp.com> which contains information concerning Avista and its affiliates. The information contained at Avista's Internet site is not incorporated in this prospectus by references and you should not consider it a part of this prospectus.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the Securities and certain other matters will be passed upon for Avista by Marian M. Durkin, Esq., Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of Avista, and Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, counsel to Avista. The validity of the Securities and certain other matters will be passed upon for any underwriters or agents by counsel to the extent identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. In giving their opinions, Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP and counsel for any underwriters or agents may rely as to matters of Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon law upon the opinion of Marian M. Durkin, Esq.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K and the effectiveness of Avista Corporation and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which reports (1) express an unqualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements and include an explanatory paragraph referring to changes in accounting and presentation resulting from the impacts of recently adopted accounting standards and (2) express an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting), which are incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

With respect to the unaudited interim financial information which is incorporated herein by reference, Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, have applied limited procedures in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) for a review of such information. However, as stated in their reports included in the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and incorporated by reference herein, they did not audit and they do not express an opinion on that interim financial information. Accordingly, the degree of reliance on their reports on such information should be restricted in light of the limited nature of the review procedures applied. Deloitte & Touche LLP are not subject to the liability provisions of Section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933 for their reports on the unaudited interim financial information because those reports are not reports or a part of the registration statement prepared or certified by an accountant within the meaning of Sections 7 and 11 of the Act.

Table of Contents

2,726,390 Shares

Avista Corporation

Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC

UBS INVESTMENT BANK