



Avista Corp. Reports Financial Results for the First Quarter of 2023, Confirms 2023 Guidance

May 3, 2023

SPOKANE, Wash., May 03, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Avista Corp. (NYSE: AVA) today reported net income of \$54.8 million, or earnings of \$0.73 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2023, compared to \$71.6 million, or \$0.99 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2022.

"Avista is off to a solid start in 2023 and results are slightly ahead of our expectations for the quarter. We're pleased with our results and are on track to meet our annual consolidated earnings targets. As expected, commodity prices remained elevated throughout the winter, and as a result, net power supply costs were high in the first quarter of 2023. We absorbed \$7.6 million in pre-tax costs under the Energy Recovery Mechanism in Washington. We expect lower net power supply costs for the remainder of the year, resulting in a benefit under the ERM," said Avista President and CEO Dennis Vermillion.

"We made progress toward Avista's clean energy goals by executing a contract for new wind generation in Montana. With this and other recent hydro contracts in place, more than 70 percent of Avista's peak generating capability will be produced from non-emitting resources in 2026. Together with recent renewable natural gas contracts and the extension of our purchase power agreement with the Lancaster plant in Idaho, we are laying the groundwork for affordable, reliable and clean energy for years to come.

"AEL&P met expectations and is on track to meet the full year guidance. Results from our other businesses are on track to meet guidance for the full year.

"We are confirming our 2023 consolidated earnings guidance with a range of \$2.27 to \$2.47 per diluted share. Our quarterly earnings will differ from recent history due to how our tax provision is spread throughout the year as a percentage of pre-tax income and the effects of our general rate cases," Vermillion added.

Summary Results: Avista Corp.'s results for the first quarter of 2023 as compared to the first quarter of 2022 are presented in the table below (dollars in thousands, except per-share data):

	2023	2022
Net Income (Loss) by Business Segment:		
Avista Utilities	\$ 51,627	\$ 67,278
AEL&P	4,042	3,293
Other	(824)	994
Total net income	\$ 54,845	\$ 71,565
Earnings (Loss) per Diluted Share by Business Segment:		
Avista Utilities	\$ 0.69	\$ 0.93
AEL&P	0.05	0.05
Other	(0.01)	0.01
Total earnings per diluted share	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.99

Analysis of 2023 Consolidated Earnings

The table below presents the change in net income and diluted earnings per share for the first quarter of 2023 as compared to the same period in 2022, as well as the various factors, shown on an after-tax basis, that caused such change (dollars in thousands, except per-share data):

	Net Income (a)	Earnings per Share
2022 consolidated earnings	\$ 71,565	\$ 0.99
Changes in net income and diluted earnings per share:		
Avista Utilities		
Electric utility margin (including intracompany) (b)	(256)	—
Natural gas utility margin (including intracompany) (c)	4,531	0.06
Other operating expenses (d)	(8,004)	(0.11)
Depreciation and amortization (e)	(1,989)	(0.03)
Interest expense (f)	(5,773)	(0.08)
Other (g)	2,843	0.04
Income tax at effective rate (h)	(7,003)	(0.09)
Dilution on earnings	n/a	(0.03)
Total Avista Utilities	(15,651)	(0.24)
AEL&P earnings	749	—
Other businesses earnings (i)	(1,818)	(0.02)
2023 consolidated earnings	\$ 54,845	\$ 0.73

- (a) The tax impact of each line item was calculated using Avista Corp.'s statutory tax rate (federal and state combined) of 23.05 percent.
- (b) Electric utility margin (operating revenues less resource costs) decreased slightly. We had increases in margin due to the effects of our general rate cases and customer growth. As expected, these increases were offset by higher net power supply costs. For the first quarter of 2023, we had a \$7.6 million pre-tax expense under the Energy Recovery Mechanism (ERM) in Washington, compared to a \$1.9 million pre-tax benefit in the first quarter of 2022.
- (c) Natural gas utility margin (operating revenues less resource costs) increased and was impacted primarily by the effects of general rate cases and customer growth, which contributed additional retail natural gas revenue.
- (d) Other operating expenses increased primarily due to inflationary pressures resulting in increased labor and benefits costs, as well as increased net amortizations of previously deferred costs now included in customer rates (resulting in no impact to net income).
- (e) Depreciation and amortization increased primarily due to additions to utility plant.
- (f) Interest expense increased due to a higher level of debt outstanding for capital expenditures, increased deferred resource costs and collateral requirements, and an increase in interest rates compared to the first quarter of 2022.
- (g) Other increased primarily due to increased interest income compared to 2022, including additional interest on deferred regulatory balances as well as increased interest rates.
- (h) Our effective tax rate was negative 13.7 percent for the first quarter of 2023, compared to negative 17.8 percent for the first quarter of 2022. Our Washington and Idaho general rate cases implemented in 2021 offset the bill impact of rate increases with customer tax credits. These tax credits will be fully returned to customers by the end of the third quarter of 2023 and will no longer reduce both customer bills and income tax expense, resulting in an increase in utility margin and an increase in the effective tax rate. Our tax provision is spread throughout the year as a percentage of pre-tax income, resulting in additional tax being allocated to the first quarter of 2023.
- (i) Earnings at our other businesses decreased due to net investment losses recognized in 2023 compared to net investment gains recognized in 2022.

Non-Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Non-GAAP) Financial Measures

The tables above and below include electric utility margin and natural gas utility margin, two financial measures that are considered "non-GAAP financial measures." Generally, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of a company's financial performance, financial position or cash flows that excludes (or includes) amounts that are included (or excluded) in the most directly comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP, which for utility margin is utility operating revenues.

The presentation of electric utility margin and natural gas utility margin is intended to enhance the understanding of operating performance. We use these measures internally and believe they provide useful information to investors in their analysis of how changes in loads (due to weather, economic or other conditions), rates, supply costs and other factors impact our results of operations. Changes in loads, as well as power and natural gas supply costs, are generally deferred and recovered from customers through regulatory accounting mechanisms. Accordingly, the analysis of utility margin generally excludes most of the change in revenue resulting from these regulatory mechanisms. We present electric and natural gas utility margin separately below for Avista Utilities since each business has different cost sources, cost recovery mechanisms and jurisdictions, so we believe that separate analysis is beneficial. These measures are not intended to replace utility operating revenues as determined in accordance with GAAP as an indicator of operating performance. Reconciliations of operating revenues to utility margin are set forth below.

The following table presents Avista Utilities' operating revenues, resource costs and resulting utility margin (pre-tax and after-tax) for the three months ended Mar. 31 (dollars in thousands):

	Operating Revenues	Resource Costs	Utility Margin (Pre-Tax)	Income Taxes (a)	Utility Margin (Net of Tax)
For the three months ended Mar. 31, 2023:					
Electric	\$ 257,297	\$ 84,744	\$ 172,553	\$ 39,773	\$ 132,780
Natural Gas	210,390	114,938	95,452	22,002	73,450
Less: Intracompany	(7,545)	(7,545)	—	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 460,142</u>	<u>\$ 192,137</u>	<u>\$ 268,005</u>	<u>\$ 61,775</u>	<u>\$ 206,230</u>
For the three months ended Mar. 31, 2022:					
Electric	\$ 267,925	\$ 95,039	\$ 172,886	\$ 39,850	\$ 133,036
Natural Gas	190,512	100,950	89,562	20,643	68,919
Less: Intracompany	(9,565)	(9,565)	—	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 448,872</u>	<u>\$ 186,424</u>	<u>\$ 262,448</u>	<u>\$ 60,493</u>	<u>\$ 201,955</u>

(a) Income taxes for 2023 and 2022 were calculated using Avista Corp.'s statutory tax rate (federal and state combined) of 23.05 percent.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity

As of Mar. 31, 2023, we had \$264 million of available liquidity under the Avista Corp. committed lines of credit, and \$26 million of available liquidity under our letter of credit facility. AEL&P also had \$25 million of available liquidity under its committed line of credit that expires in November 2024. We expect to increase the capacity of our \$400 million credit facility to \$500 million in the second quarter.

In the first quarter of 2023, we issued \$250 million of long-term debt. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these bonds will be used for the construction or improvement of utility facilities, and a portion was used to refinance existing indebtedness, including the repayment of our \$150 million term loan. We do not expect to issue any additional long-term debt in 2023.

During 2023, we expect to issue \$120 million of common stock (including \$30 million of common stock issued during the first quarter of 2023).

Capital Expenditures and Other Investments

Avista Utilities' capital expenditures were \$98 million for the three months ended Mar. 31, 2023, and we expect Avista Utilities' capital expenditures to total \$475 million in 2023. We expect AEL&P's capital expenditures to total \$19 million in 2023.

In addition, we expect to invest \$15 million in 2023 at our other businesses related to non-regulated investment opportunities and economic development projects in our service territory.

2023 Earnings Guidance and Outlook

Avista Corp. is confirming its 2023 consolidated earnings guidance with a range of \$2.27 to \$2.47 per diluted share. Our guidance assumes timely and appropriate rate relief in all of our jurisdictions.

We expect Avista Utilities to contribute in the range of \$2.15 to \$2.31 per diluted share for 2023. We expect to be in the deadband of the ERM, with an expected increase to earnings of \$0.03 per diluted share.

Our Washington and Idaho general rate cases implemented in 2021 offset the bill impact of rate increases with customer tax credits. These tax credits will be fully returned to customers by the end of the third quarter of 2023 and will no longer reduce both customer bills and income tax expense. In the third and fourth quarters of 2023, there will be an increase in utility margin. However, income tax is spread throughout the year as a percentage of pre-tax income based on the estimated annual effective tax rate, changing the shape of our quarterly earnings as compared to recent years. Our first quarter earnings represent 35 percent of our forecast annual utility earnings. We expect the distribution of the remaining annual utility earnings to be 5 percent in the second quarter, 10 percent in the third quarter, and 50 percent in the fourth quarter. This distribution excludes the impact of the ERM, which decreased earnings \$0.08 per diluted share in the first quarter.

We expect AEL&P to contribute in the range of \$0.08 to \$0.10 per diluted share.

We continue to expect the other businesses to contribute in the range of \$0.04 to \$0.06 per diluted share.

Our outlook for Avista Utilities and AEL&P assumes, among other variables, normal precipitation, temperatures, hydroelectric generation, and other operating conditions. Our guidance does not include the effect of unusual or non-recurring items until the effects are known and certain.

NOTE: We will host a conference call with financial analysts and investors on May 3, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. ET to discuss this news release. This call can be accessed on Avista's website at investor.avistacorp.com. You must register for the call via the link at Avista's website (investor.avistacorp.com) to access the call-in details for the webcast. A replay of the webcast will be available for one year on the Avista Corp. web site at investor.avistacorp.com.

Avista Corp. is an energy company involved in the production, transmission and distribution of energy as well as other energy-related businesses. Avista Utilities is our operating division that provides electric service to 414,000 customers and natural gas to 379,000 customers. Our service territory covers 30,000 square miles in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and parts of southern and eastern Oregon, with a population of 1.7 million. AERC is an Avista subsidiary that, through its subsidiary AEL&P, provides retail electric service to 18,000 customers in the city and borough of Juneau, Alaska. Our stock is traded under the ticker symbol "AVA". For more information about Avista, please visit www.avistacorp.com.

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This news release contains forward-looking statements, including statements regarding our current expectations for future financial performance and cash flows, capital expenditures, financing plans, our current plans or objectives for future operations and other factors, which may affect the company in the future. Such statements are subject to a variety of risks, uncertainties and other factors, most of which are beyond our control and many of which could have significant impact on our operations, results of operations, financial condition or cash flows and could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in such statements.

The following are among the important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements:

Utility Regulatory Risk

state and federal regulatory decisions or related judicial decisions that affect our ability to recover costs and earn a reasonable return including, but not limited to, disallowance or delay in the recovery of capital investments, operating costs, commodity costs, interest rate swap derivatives, the ordering of refunds to customers and discretion over allowed return on investment; the loss of regulatory accounting treatment, which could require the write-off of regulatory assets and the loss of regulatory deferral and recovery mechanisms;

Operational Risk

political unrest and/or conflicts between foreign nation-states, which could disrupt the global, national and local economy, result in increases in operating and capital costs, impact energy commodity prices or our ability to access energy resources, create disruption in supply chains, disrupt, weaken or create volatility in capital markets, and increase cyber security risks. In addition, any of these factors could negatively impact our liquidity and limit our access to capital, among other implications; wildfires ignited, or allegedly ignited, by our equipment or facilities could cause significant loss of life and property or result in liability for resulting fire suppression costs, thereby causing serious operational and financial harm; severe weather or natural disasters, including, but not limited to, avalanches, wind storms, wildfires, earthquakes, extreme temperature events, snow and ice storms that could disrupt energy generation, transmission and distribution, as well as the availability and costs of fuel, materials, equipment, supplies and support services; explosions, fires, accidents, mechanical breakdowns or other incidents that could impair assets and may disrupt operations of any of our generation facilities, transmission, and electric and natural gas distribution systems or other operations and may require us to purchase replacement power or incur costs to repair our facilities; explosions, fires, accidents or other incidents arising from or allegedly arising from our operations that could cause injuries to the public or property damage; blackouts or disruptions of interconnected transmission systems (the regional power grid); terrorist attacks, cyberattacks or other malicious acts that could disrupt or cause damage to our utility assets or to the national or regional economy in general, including any effects of terrorism, cyberattacks, ransomware, or vandalism that damage or disrupt information technology systems; pandemics, which could disrupt our business, as well as the global, national and local economy, resulting in a decline in customer demand, deterioration in the creditworthiness of our customers, increases in operating and capital costs, workforce shortages, losses or disruptions in our workforce due to vaccine mandates, delays in capital projects, disruption in supply chains, and disruption, weakness and volatility in capital markets. In addition, any of these factors could negatively impact our liquidity and limit our access to capital, among other implications; work-force issues, including changes in collective bargaining unit agreements, strikes, work stoppages, the loss of key executives, availability of workers in a variety of skill areas, and our ability to recruit and retain employees; changes in the availability and price of purchased power, fuel and natural gas, as well as transmission capacity; increasing costs of insurance, more restrictive coverage terms and our ability to obtain insurance; delays or changes in construction costs, and/or our ability to obtain required permits and materials for present or prospective facilities; increasing health care costs and cost of health insurance provided to our employees and retirees; increasing operating costs, including effects of inflationary pressures; third party construction of buildings, billboard signs, towers or other structures within our rights of way, or placement of fuel containers within close proximity to our transformers or other equipment, including overbuilding atop natural gas distribution lines; the loss of key suppliers for materials or services or other disruptions to the supply chain; adverse impacts to our Alaska electric utility (AEL&P) that could result from an extended outage of its hydroelectric generating resources or their inability to deliver energy, due to their lack of interconnectivity to any other electrical grids and the availability or cost of replacement power (diesel); changing river or reservoir regulation or operations at hydroelectric facilities not owned by us, which could impact our hydroelectric facilities downstream;

Climate Change Risk

increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather or natural disasters resulting from climate change, that could disrupt energy generation, transmission and distribution, as well as the availability and costs of fuel, materials, equipment, supplies and support services; change in the use, availability or abundance of water resources and/or rights needed for operation of our hydroelectric facilities, including impacts resulting from climate change;

Cyber and Technology Risk

cyberattacks on the operating systems used in the operation of our electric generation, transmission and distribution facilities and our natural gas distribution facilities, and cyberattacks on such systems of other energy companies with which we are interconnected, which could damage or destroy facilities or systems or disrupt operations for extended periods of time and result in the incurrence of liabilities and costs; cyberattacks on the administrative systems used in the administration of our business, including customer billing and customer service, accounting, communications, compliance and other administrative functions, and cyberattacks on such systems of our vendors and other companies with which we do business, resulting in the disruption of business operations, the release of private information and the incurrence of liabilities and costs; changes in costs that impede our ability to implement new information technology systems or to operate and maintain current production technology; changes in technologies, possibly making some of the current technology we utilize obsolete or introducing new cyber security risks; insufficient technology skills, which could lead to the inability to develop, modify or maintain our information systems;

Strategic Risk

growth or decline of our customer base due to new uses for our services or decline in existing services, including, but not limited to, the effect of the trend toward distributed generation at customer sites; the potential effects of negative publicity regarding our business practices, whether true or not, which could hurt our reputation and result in litigation or a decline in our common stock price; changes in our strategic business plans, which could be affected by any or all of the foregoing, including the entry into new businesses and/or the exit from existing businesses and the extent of our business development efforts where potential future business is uncertain; wholesale and retail competition including alternative energy sources, growth in customer-owned power resource technologies that displace utility-supplied energy or may be sold back to the utility, and alternative energy suppliers and delivery arrangements; entering into or growth of non-regulated activities may increase earnings volatility and result in investment losses; the risk of municipalization or other forms of service territory reduction;

External Mandates Risk

changes in environmental laws, regulations, decisions and policies, including, but not limited to, regulatory responses to concerns regarding climate change, efforts to restore anadromous fish in areas currently blocked by dams, more stringent requirements related to air quality, water quality and waste management, present and potential environmental remediation costs and our compliance with these matters; the potential effects of initiatives, legislation or administrative rulemaking at the federal, state or local levels, including possible effects on our generating resources, prohibitions or restrictions on new or existing services, or restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate concerns over global climate changes, including future limitations on the usage and distribution of natural gas; political pressures or regulatory practices that could constrain or place additional cost burdens on our distribution systems through accelerated adoption of distributed generation or electric-powered transportation or on our energy supply sources, such as campaigns to halt fossil fuel-fired power generation and opposition to other thermal generation, wind turbines or hydroelectric facilities; failure to identify changes in legislation, taxation and regulatory issues that could be detrimental or beneficial to our overall business; policy and/or legislative changes in various regulated areas, including, but not limited to, environmental regulation, healthcare regulations and import/export regulations;

Financial Risk

weather conditions, which affect both energy demand and electric generating capability, including the impact of precipitation and temperature on hydroelectric resources, the impact of wind patterns on wind-generated power, weather-sensitive customer demand, and similar impacts on supply and demand in the wholesale energy markets; our ability to obtain financing through the issuance of debt and/or equity securities and access to our funds held with financial institutions, which could be affected by various factors including our credit ratings, interest rates, other capital market conditions and global economic conditions; changes in interest rates that affect borrowing costs, our ability to effectively hedge interest rates for anticipated debt issuances, variable interest rate borrowing and the extent to which we recover interest costs through retail rates collected from customers; volatility in energy commodity markets that affect our ability to effectively hedge energy commodity risks, including cash flow impacts and requirements for collateral; changes in actuarial assumptions, interest rates and the actual return on plan assets for our pension and other postretirement benefit plans, which could affect future funding obligations, pension and other postretirement benefit expense and the related liabilities; the outcome of legal proceedings and other contingencies; economic conditions in our service areas, including the economy's effects on customer demand for utility services; economic conditions nationally may affect the valuation of our unregulated portfolio companies; declining energy demand related to customer energy efficiency, conservation measures and/or increased distributed generation; changes in the long-term climate and weather could materially affect, among other things, customer demand, the volume and timing of streamflows required for hydroelectric generation, costs of generation, transmission and distribution. Increased or new risks may arise from severe weather or natural disasters, including wildfires as well as their increased occurrence and intensity related to changes in climate; industry and geographic concentrations which could increase our exposure to credit risks due to counterparties, suppliers and customers being similarly affected by changing conditions; deterioration in the creditworthiness of our customers;

Energy Commodity Risk

volatility and illiquidity in wholesale energy markets, including exchanges, the availability of willing buyers and sellers, changes in wholesale energy prices that could affect operating income, cash requirements to purchase electricity and natural gas, value received for wholesale sales, collateral required of us by individual counterparties and/or exchanges in wholesale energy transactions and credit risk to us from such transactions, and the market value of derivative assets and liabilities; default or nonperformance on the part of any parties from whom we purchase and/or sell capacity or energy; potential environmental regulations or lawsuits affecting our ability to utilize or resulting in the obsolescence of our power supply resources; explosions, fires, accidents, pipeline ruptures or other incidents that could limit energy supply to our facilities or our surrounding territory, which could result in a shortage of commodities in the market that could increase the cost of replacement commodities from other sources;

Compliance Risk

changes in laws, regulations, decisions and policies at the federal, state or local levels, which could materially impact both our electric and gas operations and costs of operations; and the ability to comply with the terms of the licenses and permits for our hydroelectric or thermal generating facilities at cost-effective levels.

For a further discussion of these factors and other important factors, please refer to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended Mar. 31, 2023. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release speak only as of the date hereof. 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. New risks, uncertainties and other factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all of such factors, nor can it assess the impact of each such factor on our business or the extent to which any such factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement.

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Issued by: Avista Corporation

Contact:

Media: Laurine Jue (509) 495-2510 laurine.jue@avistacorp.com

Investors: Stacey Wenz (509) 495-2046 stacey.wenz@avistacorp.com

Avista 24/7 Media Access (509) 495-4174



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