

AVISTA CORP
Form 8-K
March 16, 2010

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 12, 2010

AVISTA CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-3701
(Commission File Number)

91-0462470
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

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1411 East Mission Avenue, Spokane, Washington
(Address of principal executive offices)

99202-2600
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 509-489-0500

Web site: <http://www.avistacorp.com>

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Section 1 Registrant's Business and Operations

Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On March 12, 2010, Avista Corporation (the Company), Avista Receivables Corporation (ARC), Bank of America, N.A. and Ranger Funding Company, LLC amended a Receivables Purchase Agreement. The most significant amendments were to extend the termination date from March 12, 2010 to March 11, 2011 and to reduce the amount of receivables that can be sold on a revolving basis to \$50.0 million from \$85.0 million. The Company reduced the amount of receivables that can be sold based on its forecasted liquidity needs. The Receivables Purchase Agreement was originally entered into on May 29, 2002 and provides the Company with funds for working capital requirements, capital expenditures and other general corporate needs. ARC is a wholly owned, bankruptcy-remote subsidiary of the Company formed in 1997 for the purpose of acquiring or purchasing interests in certain accounts receivable, both billed and unbilled, of the Company. Under the Receivables Purchase Agreement, ARC can sell without recourse, on a revolving basis, up to \$50.0 million of those receivables. ARC is obligated to pay fees that approximate the purchaser's cost of issuing commercial paper equal in value to the interests in receivables sold. On a consolidated basis, the amount of such fees is included in other operating expenses of the Company.

The Company is evaluating its accounts receivable sales agreement under accounting guidance that became effective on January 1, 2010. This could result in the transactions being accounted for as secured borrowings. As of December 31, 2009, the Company had not sold any accounts receivable under the revolving agreement. The Company will finalize its evaluation during the first quarter of 2010 to determine the impact of adoption, if any, on its financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Section 2 Financial Information

Item 2.03 Creation of a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant.

See description of the amendment to a Receivables Purchase Agreement under Item 1.01.

Section 9 Financial Statements and Exhibits

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

- 10.1 Amendment No. 10, dated as of March 12, 2010, to the Receivables Purchase Agreement, dated as of May 29, 2002, among Avista Receivables Corporation, as Seller, Avista Corporation, as Servicer and Ranger Funding Company, LLC (formerly known as Receivables Capital Company LLC), as Conduit Purchaser and Bank of America, N.A., as Committed Purchaser and as Administrator.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

AVISTA CORPORATION
(Registrant)

Date: March 16, 2010

/s/ Mark T. Thies
Mark T. Thies
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer