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March 24, 2017

## VIA FIRST CLASS AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Hon. Michael Grant Oregon Public Utility Commission 3930 Fairview Industrial Drive SE PO Box 1088 Salem, OR 97308-1088 Mr. Zachary Kravitz NW Natural 220 NW Second Avenue Portland, OR 97209-3991

Mr. Mark Thompson Rates & Regulatory Affairs NW Natural 220 NW Second Avenue Portland, OR 97209-3991

Re:

Northwest Industrial Gas Users' Request for Payment of a Preauthorized Matching Fund Grant – Northwest Natural Gas Company Account Docket No. UM 1357

Dear Judge Grant:

Northwest Industrial Gas Users ("NWIGU") files this request for payment of a Preauthorized Matching Fund Grant for particular costs incurred from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 from the Northwest Natural Gas Company ("NW Natural") Preauthorized Matching Fund Account in the amount of \$6,013.14. This request for payment is filed pursuant to Section 7.2 of the Third Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement, which was approved by the Oregon Public Utility Commission ("Commission") on October 20, 2015 in Order No. 15-335 ("Amended IFA").

NWIGU meets all of the criteria for payment of a Preauthorized Matching Fund Grant from the NW Natural Preauthorized Matching Fund Account for 2016, as demonstrated by the following:

1. Under the Amended IFA, NW Natural makes available an Annual Grant Amount of \$66,125.00, which is added to NW Natural's Preauthorized Matching Fund Account each calendar year during the term of the Amended IFA through 2017. Amended IFA at Section 4.2.

- 2. A Preauthorized Matching Fund Grant from NW Natural must be used solely to pay Eligible Expenses for Eligible Proceedings involving NW Natural. Amended IFA at Section 4.2.2. NWIGU requests the payment of a Preauthorized Matching Fund Grant for Eligible Expenses incurred in UM 1520, UM 1720, UM 1635, UM 1420, UM 1654, UM 1744, UM 1748, UM 1357, and UG 313 as Eligible Proceedings from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. NWIGU requests the payment of the \$6,013.14 Preauthorized Matching Fund Grant for the expenses listed in confidential Exhibit A, attached, which are Eligible Expenses under Section 7.4 of the Amended IFA. The expenses in this request are separate from any amounts NWIGU may recover through Issue Fund Grants.
- 3. A Preauthorized Matching Fund Grant may be provided only if NWIGU demonstrates that it has used in-house resources or outside funding for at least 50% of the Eligible Expenses for Eligible Proceedings. Amended IFA at Section 7.2. As shown in confidential Exhibit A, NWIGU has used in-house resources and outside funding for at least 50% of the Eligible Expenses in these proceedings.
- 4. NWIGU became precertified as eligible to receive intervenor funding grants under Section 5.2 of the original Intervenor Funding Agreement pursuant to Order No. 04-055, entered by the Commission on February 3, 2004. Under the Amended IFA, funds from NW Natural's Preauthorized Matching Fund Account are available for use exclusively by NWIGU. Amended IFA at Section 4.2.2.

Having demonstrated that it meets all of the criteria and conditions for such request, NWIGU requests payment of a Preauthorized Matching Fund Grant from NW Natural's Preauthorized Matching Fund in the amount of \$6,013.14. NWIGU requests that the Commission grant this request within 30 days of receipt and order NW Natural to pay NWIGU the amount of \$6,013.14 within 30 days after receipt of the Commission directive, in accordance with Section 7.2 of the Amended IFA.

Payment should be sent to the following address, which is different than the address NWIGU uses for service of documents:

Ed Finklea Executive Director Northwest Industrial Gas Users P.O. Box 163 Ashland, OR 97520

## CABLE HUSTON LLP

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Chad M. Stokes Counsel for Northwest Industrial Gas Users

CMS:db Enclosure

c: Ed Finklea (via e-mail)