

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 1654

In the Matter of)
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,)
Investigation of Interstate Storage and)
Optimization Sharing.)
_____)
REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT
OF ISSUE FUND GRANT OF
NORTHWEST INDUSTRIAL GAS
USERS

Pursuant to Section 7.3 of the Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (“IFA”) approved by the Oregon Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) in Order No. 18-017 (January 17, 2018), Northwest Industrial Gas Users (“NWIGU”) hereby requests payment of NWIGU’s Issue Fund Grant in Docket No. UM 1654 in the amount of \$15,021.00. In support of this request, NWIGU shows the following:

1. On April 28, 2017, NWIGU filed a Proposed Issue Fund Budget in the amount of \$38,370.00 less in-house resources of 20 percent, for a total grant request of up to \$30,696.00. The Commission approved the Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$30,696.00 on May 4, 2017. *In the Matter of Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, Investigation of Interstate Storage and Optimization Sharing*, OPUC Docket No. UM 1654, Order No. 17-160 (May 4, 2017).

2. NWIGU hereby requests that the Commission authorize partial payment of the approved Issue Fund Grant in this docket in the amount of \$15,021.00 (\$18,776.25 minus 20 percent), which is less than the full amount authorized. It is not clear yet whether or to what extent this docket will continue. If no additional work is required, NWIGU will

file a subsequent notice releasing the remaining funds back to NW Natural's Issue Fund account. NWIGU's Eligible Expenses for this proceeding from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 are shown in Confidential Attachment A.

3. NWIGU respectfully submits that this request for payment satisfies the requirement of IFA Section 7.3 as follows:

Section 7.3(a) - The itemized expenses, payees and hourly rates are attached as Confidential Attachment A.

Section 7.3(b) - NWIGU was a full and active participant in this docket. NWIGU reviewed and submitted comments on expert reports, reviewed discovery, participated in workshops, participated in informal meetings and telephone conferences with NW Natural, Staff and CUB, and participated in several workshops and discussions with the outside expert retained in this proceeding. The expenses included in Confidential Attachment A are Eligible Expenses as defined in IFA Section 7.4 and are reasonable and directly attributable to NWIGU's participation in UM 1654 on behalf of all customers.

Section 7.3(c) - The only condition of the Issue Fund Grant is that NWIGU must contribute 20% of Eligible Expenses using in-house resources. NWIGU used its own funds to pay for at least 20% of the Eligible Expenses as required by Section 6.5 of the IFA. Further, NWIGU has supplied substantial resources in this proceeding through its Executive Director's active involvement in addition to the Eligible Expenses set forth on Attachment A.

Section 7.3 (d) - This request is a request for partial payment.

4. Section 7.4 – All of the expenses included in Confidential Attachment A are Eligible Expenses as defined in Section 7.4 of the IFA and are consistent with NWIGU’s proposed budget in this proceeding.

5. Upon approval of this request for partial payment by the Commission, NW Natural should send payment to NWIGU as follows, (which address is different than NWIGU’s mailing address for service):

Edward Finklea
Executive Director
Northwest Industrial Gas Users
P.O. Box 163
Ashland, Oregon 97520

6. NWIGU has satisfied the terms of the IFA and respectfully requests that the Commission approve payment of NWIGU’s Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$15,021.00 (\$18,776.25 minus 20 percent) from the NW Natural Issue Fund within 30 days of receiving this Request for Payment as provided in Section 7.6 of the IFA. With this payment, there will be \$15,675.00 in funds remaining in the approved Issue Fund Grant. NWIGU requests that those funds remain available if needed in this docket.

Dated this 26th day of January 2018.

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