

ORDER NO. 13 176

ENTERED MAY 14 2013

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1633

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Investigation into Treatment of Pension
Costs in Utility Rates.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND
GRANTS APPROVED**

On May 7, 2013, Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU) filed a proposed budget for Issue Fund Grants in this proceeding. NWIGU's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$41,160, and it is requesting issue fund grants in the amount of \$10,976 each from the Issue Funds of Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, and Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural.

The Second Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 12-452, provides that precertified intervenors must submit a proposed issue fund budget to the Commission that contains, at a minimum, the following information:

- 1) A statement of the work to be performed;
- 2) A description of the areas to be investigated;
- 3) A description of the particular customer class(es) that will benefit from the intervenor's participation;
- 4) Identification of the specific fund accounts from which the intervenor is seeking monies and an estimate of the amount of available funds in that account;
- 5) A budget showing estimated attorney, consultant and expert witness fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operations support; and
- 6) A representation that the intervenor will use matching funds in the form of either in-house resources or outside funding to account for or pay at least 20 percent of the eligible expenses for which the intervenor is seeking an Issue Fund Grant.

Once a proposed budget is received, we decide whether Issue Fund Grants are available for use based on factors identified in the agreement. We have the authority to accept, deny or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant.

NWIGU became precertified on February 3, 2004, in Order No. 04-055. NWIGU's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects the current schedule adopted in this docket.

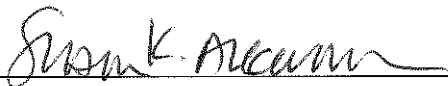
In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, we believe that NWIGU's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER


IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Northwest Industrial Gas Users' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
2. Issue Fund Grants totaling \$32,928 are approved as follows:
 - a. Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities - \$10,976;
 - b. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation - \$10,976; and
 - c. Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural - \$10,976.

Made, entered, and effective MAY 14 2013.


Susan K. Ackerman
Chair


John Savage
Commissioner


Stephen M. Bloom
Commissioner

