

ORDER NO. 14 101

ENTERED

MAR 21 2014

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

On May 7, 2013, the Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this docket and in Order No. 13-176, we approved the budget showing eligible expenses in the amount of \$41,160 and an issue fund grant in the amount of \$32,928 to be split equally among the Issue Funds of Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities; Cascade Natural Gas Company; and Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural. On March 13, 2014, NWIGU filed a request to amend its proposed budget issue fund grant. The amended proposed budget shows total eligible expenses in the amount of \$62,160, and NWIGU now seeks to amend its Issue Fund Grant from \$32,928 to \$49,728. NWIGU notes that this additional grant amount of \$16,800 is to be split equally among the utilities' issue funds.

The Second Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (Agreement), approved in our Order No. 12-452¹, provides that an intervenor who received Commission approval for an Issue Fund Grant may file to amend its budget and request additional funding due to unforeseen changes in the scope or complexity of issues, positions taken by other parties, changes in the schedule of the case, or other good cause. Agreement at 15.

Once an amended 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.

¹ Order No. 12-452 was subsequently supplemented by Order No. 13-317 to include Exhibits A, B, and C.

NWIGU became precertified on February 3, 2004, in Order No. 04-055. NWIGU's amended 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 amended proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

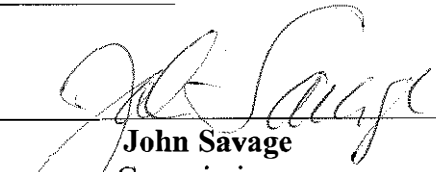
ORDER


IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Northwest Industrial Gas Users' amended proposed budget for Issue Fund Grants is approved.
2. An additional \$16,800 is approved for the Northwest Industrial Gas Users' Issue Fund Grants.

Made, entered, and effective MAR 21 2014.


Susan K. Ackerman
Chair


John Savage
Commissioner


Stephen M. Bloom
Commissioner

