

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1722

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGONInvestigation into Recovery of Safety Costs
by Natural Gas Utilities.

ORDER

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

On December 23, 2015, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. CUB's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$18,750; and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$15,000 to be split evenly among the 2016 Issue Funds of the natural gas companies.

The Third Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 15-335, 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, the Commission decides whether Issue Fund Grants are available for use based on factors identified in the IFA. The Commission has the

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authority to accept, deny or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant.

CUB was automatically precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants under Section 5.2(a) of the IFA and OAR 860-001-0120(3)(a). CUB'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, the Commission believes that CUB's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$15,000 split between the utilities as follows: \$5,000 from the 2016 Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural Issue Fund; \$5,000 from the 2016 Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities Issue Fund; and \$5,000 from the 2016 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Issue Fund.

Made, entered, and effective JAN 04 2016.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "m. grant", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Grant
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division