

ORDER NO. **18 287**

ENTERED **AUG 08 2018**

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1909

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON

Investigation of the Scope of the
Commission's Authority to Defer Capital
Costs.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: ISSUE FUND GRANTS REQUEST APPROVED

On July 31, 2018, the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board filed a Request for Payment of Issue Fund Grants from Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities; Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Idaho Power Company; Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural; PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power; and Portland General Electric Company (PGE). The procedures for payment of Issue Fund Grants are governed by Section 7.3 of the Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (Agreement), adopted by the Commission in Order No. 18-017 and by Section 7.2 of the Idaho Power Company and Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon Intervenor Funding Agreement (Agreement), adopted by the Commission in Order No. 16-028. CUB is automatically precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants under OAR 860-001-0120(3)(a) and under Section 5.2(a) and Section 5.1 of the Agreements.

CUB asks for a final payment totally \$12,000 with \$2,000 from each of the utilities' Issue Funds. Under the Agreements, the Request for Payment must:

1. Itemize the expenses, payees and hourly rates of amount to be reimbursed;
2. Demonstrate that the expenses are reasonable and are directly attributable to issues and positions pursued on behalf of a particular customer class and consistent with the intervenor's proposed budget;
3. Provide information sufficient to show that the intervenor has complied with any conditions imposed on the Issue Fund Grant; and

4. Specify whether the request for payment is for a progress payment or a final payment and indicate whether any approved budget amount may be released back to the applicable Issue Fund.

Further, under the terms of the Agreements, CUB must establish that it has used in-house resources or outside funding for at least 20 percent of the Eligible Expenses for an Eligible Proceeding. CUB provided the required documentation in its request.

The Agreements provide that the Commission determine in each proceeding how the participating utilities are to recover the funding grants from the various customer classes. Under Sections 7.7(b) and 7.6(b), Issue Fund Grants should be allocated to align the costs of the advocacy with the intended potential beneficiaries of the advocacy. The Commission considered the intended beneficiaries, and finds that the issue fund expenditures should be allocated to the residential customers of each utility.

The Commission finds that CUB's request meets the requirements of the Agreements, and its request should be approved. Sections 7.8 and 7.7 of the respective Agreements provide that the utility must pay the Issue Fund Grant to the requesting intervenor within 30 days after receipt of Commission directive.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board's request meets the requirements of the Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement and the Idaho Power Company and Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon Intervenor Funding Agreement, and its request is approved.
2. Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities pay \$2,000 from the Avista Utilities' Issue Fund to the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Avista Utilities' residential customers.
3. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation pay \$2,000 from the Cascade Natural Gas Issue Fund to the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Cascade Natural Gas's residential customers.
4. Idaho Power Company pay \$2,000 from the Idaho Power Issue Fund to the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Idaho Power's residential customers.
5. Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural pay \$2,000 from the NW Natural Issue Fund to the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board within 30 days after

receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to NW Natural's residential customers.

6. PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power, pay \$2,000 from the PacifiCorp Issue Fund to the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to PacifiCorp's residential customers.
7. Portland General Electric Company pay \$2,000 from the PGE Issue Fund to the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to PGE's residential customers.

Made, entered, and effective AUG 08 2018.



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