

ORDER NO. 03-602

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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1066

In the Matter of An Investigation Into)
Regulatory Policies Affecting New)
Resource Development.) ORDER

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

On September 15, 2003, the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU) filed a proposed budget for an issue fund grant in the amount of \$18,710.25. ICNU asked that this amount be divided and funded equally from the issue fund accounts of PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric.

By ruling dated September 16, 2003, the parties were given until September 23, 2003 to file comments on ICNU's request. No comments were received.

Discussion

The Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 03-388, 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
- 5) A budget showing estimated attorney, consultant and expert witness fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operations support.

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Once the proposed budget is received, we decide whether Issue Fund Grants are available for use. We make these determinations based on the following factors:

- 1) Breadth and complexity of the issues;
- 2) Significance of policy issues;
- 3) Procedural schedule;
- 4) Dollar magnitude of the issues at stake;
- 5) Participation of other parties that adequately represent the interests of customers;
- 6) Amount of funds being provided by the applicant intervenor;
- 7) Qualifications and experience before the Commission;
- 8) Level of available funds; and
- 9) Other Eligible Proceedings in which intervenors may seek additional Issue Fund Grants from the same Fund account(s).

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

In this docket, only ICNU has submitted a proposed budget with the requisite information, a copy of which is attached at Appendix A. We have had, and continue to have, workshops lasting four to six hours in a day. A formal process will be starting soon to complete this docket, resulting in additional filings of comments by ICNU. There will be at least one more public meeting to discuss the issues. In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, ICNU's proposed budget should be approved.

ORDER

It is ordered that the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities' proposed budget is approved.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Lee Beyer
Chairman

John Savage
Commissioner

Ray Baum
Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to applicable law.