## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

## **OF OREGON**

**UE 201** 

In the Matter of	)	
PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY	) ) )	ORDER
	)	
Application for Annual Adjustment to	)	
Schedule 126 under the Terms of the	)	
Annual Power Cost Variance Mechanism.	)	

# DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND GRANT APPROVED

On August 22, 2008, the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. ICNU's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$31,180; and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$12,000 from the Portland General Electric Company (PGE) Issue Fund.

The First Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 07-564, 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.

ICNU became precertified on August 21, 2003, in Order No. 03-502. ICNU's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects the current schedule adopted in this docket.

ICNU notes in its request the limited funds currently available in the PGE Issue Fund, but further notes the likelihood that previously allocated funds in other dockets will be released back into the PGE Issue Fund. ICNU requests the right to seek an amendment to its proposed budget in this docket should additional funds become available in the PGE Issue Fund.

In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, we believe that ICNU's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved. We appreciate ICNU's conservative request for an Issue Fund Grant given the current availability of funds in the PGE Issue Fund account. If previously allocated funds are released back to the PGE Issue Fund, ICNU should be allowed to seek an amendment to its Issues Fund Grant.

#### **ORDER**

### IT IS ORDERED that:

- 1. The Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
- 2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$12,000.

3. The Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities may seek an amendment to its Issue Fund Grant in the event that additional funds become available in the Portland General Electric Company Issue Fund.

Made, entered, and effective

SEP 0 2 2008

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 by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480-183.484.