

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UG 201

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA  
UTILITIES

Request for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

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

On December 6, 2010, Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. NWIGU's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$43,165.

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.

NWIGU became precertified on February 3, 2004, in Order No. 04-055. NWIGU's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects the current schedule adopted in this docket.

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.

When NWIGU filed its proposed budget, the Avista Issue Fund had an available balance of \$60,000. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon filed a proposed budget request for a \$45,000 Issue Fund Grant on December 3, 2010, which if granted would reduce the available balance of the Avista Issue Fund to \$15,000. NWIGU noted in its filing that with the additional \$30,000 annual grant to be added in 2011, there would be sufficient funds in the 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 NWIGU's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved; noting that \$15,000 is approved from the 2010 Avista Issue Fund and \$19,532 is approved as an advance from the 2011 Avista Issue Fund.

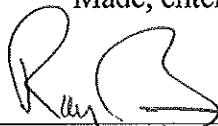
**ORDER**

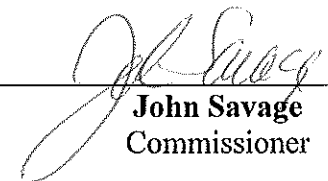
IT IS ORDERED that:

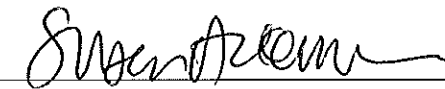
1. The Northwest Industrial Gas Users' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$34,532, with \$15,000 from the 2010 Avista Issue Fund and \$19,532 from the 2011 Avista Issue Fund.

**DEC 09 2010**

Made, entered, and effective \_\_\_\_\_.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ray Baum**  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**John Savage**  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Susan K. Ackerman**  
Commissioner

