

ORDER NO. 12 029

ENTERED FEB 01 2012

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1565

In the Matter of

Investigation of Fuel Switching and Cross
Fuel Energy Efficiency Issues.

ORDER

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

On January 25, 2012, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) filed a proposed budget for Issue Fund Grants in this proceeding. CUB's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$18,475; and it seeks Issue Fund Grants totaling \$14,780 from the Issues Funds of Northwest Natural, dba NW Natural in the amount of \$7,390, Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities in the amount of \$3,695, and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation in the amount of \$3,695.

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 IFA. We have the 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.

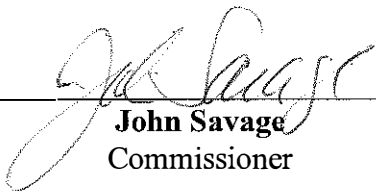
In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, we believe that CUB's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's proposed budget for Issue Fund Grants is approved.
2. Issue Fund Grants are approved up to \$7,390 from the NW Natural Issues Fund and \$3,695 each from the Avista Utilities and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Issue Funds.

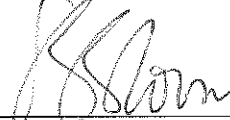
Made, entered, and effective FEB 01 2012.



John Savage
Commissioner



Susan K. Ackerman
Commissioner



Stephen M. Bloom
Commissioner

