

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 221

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION dba NW NATURALRequest for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

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

On February 23, 2012, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) and the Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU) each filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. CUB's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$75,275; and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$45,000. NWIGU's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$56,285; and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$45,028.

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). NWIGU became precertified on February 3, 2004, in Order No. 04-055. The proposed budgets of CUB and NWIGU include the requisite information and reflect the current schedule adopted in this docket.

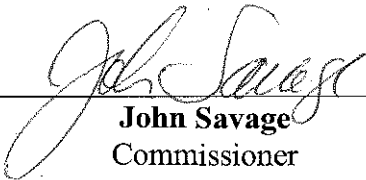
In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, we believe that the proposed budgets of CUB and NWIGU are reasonable and should be approved. We note that after granting these proposed budgets, the balance of uncommitted issue funds in the NW Natural Issues Fund is less than \$1,000.

ORDER


IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved and an Issue Fund Grant is approved for CUB up to \$45,000.
2. The Northwest Industrial Gas Users' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved and an Issue Fund Grant is approved for ICNU up to \$45,028.

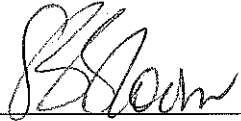
Made, entered, and effective FEB 24 2012.



John Savage
 Commissioner



Susan K. Ackerman
 Commissioner



Stephen M. Bloom
 Commissioner

