

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 246

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA
UTILITIES,

Request for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

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

On October 31, 2013, 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 \$52,770 and it requests an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$24,000.

The Second Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 12-452¹, 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.

¹ Order No. 12-452 was subsequently supplemented by Order No. 13-317 to include Exhibits A, B, and C.

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.

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.

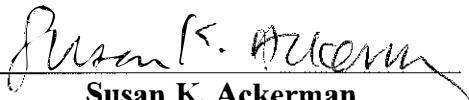
In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, we believe that NWIGU's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved. However, because of the limited funds available in the Issue Fund and because the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon concurrently filed a proposed budget, we are reducing the grant by \$238, half of the difference between the total of the budget requests and the amount available in the Issue Fund.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Northwest Industrial Gas Users' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved as modified.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$23,762.


Made, entered, and effective NOV 21 2013.



Susan K. Ackerman
 Chair



John Savage
 Commissioner



Stephen M. Bloom
 Commissioner

