

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1673

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON

ORDER

Report to the Legislature on Effectiveness of
Incentive Programs for Solar Photovoltaic
Energy

DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND GRANT DENIED

On January 31, 2014, Oregonians for Renewable Energy Progress (OREP) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. OREP seeks \$10,280 from the Portland General Electric Company Issue Fund, and \$10,280 from the PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power, Issue Fund.

Once a proposed budget is received, we decide whether Issue Fund Grants should be made available. We have the authority to accept or deny the request based on our examination of the various factors, including: (a) the breadth and complexity of the issues; (b) the significance of any policy issues; (c) the procedural schedule; and (d) the dollar magnitude of the issues at stake.¹

A request for intervenor funds in this docket is unusual. To date, the majority of Issue Fund Grants have been approved in contested case proceedings, such as rate case investigations. Those funds benefitted the requesting intervenors, which in turn benefitted the Commission by improving the evidentiary records on which we must base our decisions. To a lesser extent we have approved intervenor funds in complex rulemaking proceedings, which have improved the quality of comments we must consider in deciding whether to adopt or amend administrative rules that govern utility rates and services.

This case is neither a contested case proceeding nor a rulemaking. Although it falls under the broad definition of "eligible proceeding" in the intervenor funding agreement, this docket does not involve Commission decision-making as that term is used in its traditional sense. Rather, this docket was created solely for the purpose of soliciting comments to assist us in preparing our report to the legislature as to the effectiveness of

¹ Order No. 12-452, Appendix A at Article 6.5

the incentive programs for solar photovoltaic energy. There are no formal parties or formal proceedings. Instead, our Staff asked the public to address various issues, and will prepare a draft report for our consideration. The sole reason this matter was assigned a docket number was to facilitate tracking the filed comments in our document management system.

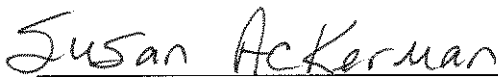
Due to the limited nature of this proceeding, the primary factors we must consider in evaluating a request for intervenor funds are not applicable. We will not, in our report to the legislature, adjudicate contested issues—factual, policy, or otherwise. There is no procedural schedule, and no ratepayer dollars are directly at stake. This docket will not produce policy guidelines or rules that govern utility or customer conduct, nor serve as case precedent for future disputes.

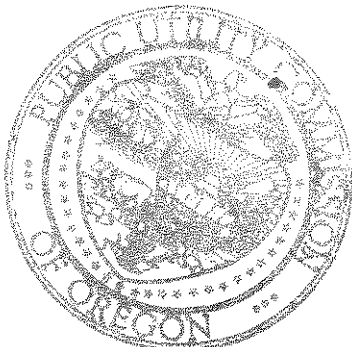
For these reasons, we deny OREP's request for intervenor funding in this docket. Although our report to the legislature will help guide future legislative action, and we value the input that OREP will provide for the report, we conclude that intervenor funds should not be made available in this proceeding. Such funds should be primarily used to assist parties in contested case proceedings, and the intervenor funding agreement should be revised to reflect this.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the proposed budget filed by Oregonians for Renewable Energy Progress Oregon, is denied.

Made, entered, and effective FEB 13 2014.


 Susan K. Ackerman JH
 Chair




 John Savage
 Commissioner



Stephen M. Bloom
 Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under 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 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480 through 183.484.