

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1654

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL

Investigation of Interstate Storage and
Optimization Sharing.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: WAIVER GRANTED; PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE
FUND GRANT APPROVED**

On February 19, 2014, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant and requested a waiver of Article 6.3 of the Second Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA)¹. CUB's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$6,260; and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$5,008.

The IFA, approved by the Commission in Order No. 12-452², 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

¹ CUB notes in its request that: (a) it did not initially request a proposed budget because there were no funds available in the NW Natural 2013 Issue Fund, (b) at the February 3, 2014 hearing the parties and Commission agreed to additional proceedings; and (c) funds are available in the NW Natural 2014 Issue Fund.

² Order No. 12-452 was subsequently supplemented by Order No. 13-317 to include Exhibits A, B, and C.

- 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

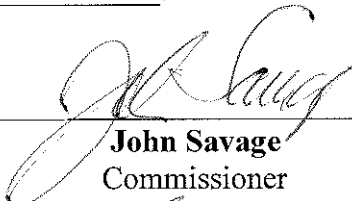
IT IS ORDERED that:

- 1. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's request for a waiver of Article 6.3 is granted.
- 2. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
- 3. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$5,008.


Made, entered, and effective FEB 27 2014.



Susan K. Ackerman
 Chair



John Savage
 Commissioner



Stephen M. Bloom
 Commissioner

