

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1744

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, dba NW NATURALApplication for Approval of an Emission
Reduction Program.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: AMENDED PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND
GRANT APPROVED**

On August 24, 2015, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. CUB's proposed budget showed eligible expenses in the amount of \$19,750; but due to the lack of funds in the Northwest Natural Gas Company Issue Fund, it sought a grant of \$0. CUB indicated its plan to update the request at a later date. Subsequent to that filing, the Commission approved in Order No. 15-335 the Third Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), which resulted in additional funds in the NW Natural Issue Fund. On November 18, 2015, CUB filed an amendment to its August 24 proposed budget showing eligible expenses in the amount of \$48,750, and seeking an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$39,000.

Section 6.7 of the IFA provides that an intervenor who received Commission approval for an Issue Fund Grant, may at any time during the proceeding file to amend its budget and request additional funding due to unforeseen changes in the scope or complexity of issues, positions taken by other parties, changes in the schedule of the case, or other good cause. CUB states that scope, complexity of issues, and the schedule have changed in this docket resulting in the need for additional funding not anticipated when it submitted its budget in August.

Once a proposed budget is received, the Commission decides whether Issue Fund Grants are available for use based on factors identified in the IFA. The Commission has 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 amended 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, the Commission believes that CUB's amended proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's amended proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$39,900.

Made, entered, and effective NOV 19 2015.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Grant".

Michael Grant
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division