

ORDER NO. 15 392

ENTERED DEC 09 2015

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UG 288

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA  
UTILITIES

ORDER

Request for a General Rate Revision.

**DISPOSITION: ISSUE FUND GRANT REQUEST APPROVED**

On December 3, 2015, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) filed a Request for Payment of its Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities, Issue Fund Grant. Section 7.3 of the Third Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (Agreement), adopted by the Commission in Order No. 15-335, governs the procedures for payment of Issue Fund Grants. CUB was automatically precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants under Section 5.2(a) of the Agreement and under OAR 860-001-0120(3)(a).

CUB asks for a progress payment of \$40,251 from the Avista Utilities Issue Funds, with \$19,800 from the 2015 Issue Fund and \$20,451 as an advance from the 2016 Issue Fund. Under the Agreement, the Request for Payment must:

- 1) Itemize the expenses, payees and hourly rates of amount to be reimbursed;
- 2) Demonstrate that the expenses are reasonable and are directly attributable to issues and positions pursued on behalf of a particular customer class and consistent with the intervenor's proposed budget;
- 3) Provide information sufficient to show that the intervenor has complied with any conditions imposed on the Issue Fund Grant; and
- 4) Specify whether the request for payment is for a progress payment or a final payment and indicate whether any approved budget amount may be released back to the applicable Issue Fund.

Further, under the terms of the Agreement, CUB must establish that it has used in-house resources or outside funding for at least 20 percent of the Eligible Expenses for an Eligible Proceeding. Agreement at 22. CUB provided the required documentation in its request.

The Agreement provides that the Commission shall make a determination in each proceeding as to how the participating utilities are to recover the funding grants from the various customer classes. Section 7.7(b) of the Agreement provides that Issue Fund Grants should be allocated so as to fairly align the costs of the advocacy with the intended potential beneficiaries of the advocacy. Agreement at 24. The Commission has considered the intended beneficiaries, and finds that the issue fund expenditures should be allocated to Avista Utilities' residential customers.

The Commission finds that CUB has met the requirements of the Agreement, and its request should be approved. Section 7.8 of the Agreement provides that the utility must pay the Issue Fund Grant to the requesting intervenor within 30 days after receipt of the Commission directive.

### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon has met the requirements of the Second Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement, and its request is approved.
2. Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities, pay \$19,800 from the 2015 Issue Fund and \$20,451 from the 2016 Issue Fund to the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Avista Utilities' residential customers.

Made, entered, and effective DEC 09 2015.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "m grant", is written over a horizontal line.

**Michael Grant**  
Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Administrative Hearings Division