

ORDER NO. 17 238

ENTERED JUL 06 2017

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1804

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS  
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,

Application for Approval of Corporate  
Reorganization to Create a Holding  
Company.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: ISSUE FUND GRANT REQUEST APPROVED**

On July 3, 2017, the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) filed a Request for Partial Payment of its Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural 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 \$17,906 from the (applicable utility's) 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 NW Natural's 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 Oregon Citizens' Utility Board has met the requirements of the Third Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement, and its request is approved.
2. Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba, NW Natural pay \$17,906 from the NW Natural Issue Fund to the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to NW Natural's residential customers.

Made, entered, and effective JUL 06 2017.



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

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