

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1968

In the Matter of

PACIFICORP, dba PACIFIC POWER,

Application for Authority to Implement  
Revised Depreciation Schedule.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: PROCEEDING DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR ISSUE  
FUNDS; PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND GRANT  
APPROVED

On October 9, 2018, the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC), formerly known as the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities filed a Notice of Intent to Request Issue Fund Grant and a Proposed Budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. Also on October 9, 2018, AWEC filed a motion to designate this proceeding as an "eligible proceeding for issue funds" and, in docket UM 1824, a request for reallocation of \$10,600 of its Issue Fund Grant to be used for this docket. AWEC seeks an Issue Fund Grant of \$17,740 for this docket.

The Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 18-017, provides that a proceeding is eligible for issue funds if it is:

- 1) A general rate case;
- 2) The proposed acquisition or merger of one of the Participating Public Utilities;
- 3) An Integrated Resource Plan;
- 4) An annual power cost or purchase gas adjustment request; or
- 5) A proceeding affecting one or more of the Participating Public Utilities and is anticipated to have a substantial impact on utility rates or service, a significant impact on utility customers or the operations of the utility, is likely to result in a significant change in regulatory policy, or raises novel questions of fact or law.

The IFA also 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
- 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, the Commission decides whether Issue Fund Grants are available for use based on factors identified in the agreement. The Commission has the authority to accept, deny or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant.

This proceeding qualifies as an eligible proceeding because it directly affects PacifiCorp, and the proposed depreciation rates that are the subject of the proceeding are anticipated to have a significant impact on the utility rates. AWEC states that the proposed depreciation rates would increase Oregon customers' rates by \$67.1 million and that the depreciation study raises significant and complex policy issues. AWEC further states that the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board supports this request for designation as a proceeding eligible for issue funds.

AWEC became precertified as the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities on August 21, 2003, in Order No. 03-502. AWEC's proposed budget, which shows eligible expenses of \$22,175, 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 AWEC's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

## **ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. This proceeding is designated as a proceeding eligible for Issue Funds.

2. The Alliance of Western Energy Consumers' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
3. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$17,740.

Made, entered, and effective NOV 01 2018.



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