

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

AR 632

In the Matter of

Rulemaking Regarding the 2019 Senate
Bill 98 Renewable Natural Gas Programs.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: MOTION TO DESIGNATE PROCEEDING AS ELIGIBLE FOR ISSUE
FUNDS GRANTED**

On February 3, 2020, the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) and the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC) filed a joint motion to designate this proceeding as eligible for Issue Fund Grants. No party responded to the motion.

The Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 18-017, defines "Eligible Proceedings for Issue Funds" as a proceeding before the Commission to review:

- 1) A general rate case request,
- 2) The proposed acquisition or merger of one of the Participating Public Utilities,
- 3) An Integrated Resource Plan,
- 4) An annual power cost request (such as PGE's Annual Update Tariff or PacifiCorp's TAM) or a purchase gas adjustment request, or
- 5) Any other proceeding so designated by the Commission that directly affects one or more of the participating Utilities and is anticipated to have a substantial impact on utility rates or service, a significant impact on utility customers or the operation of the utility, is likely to result in a significant change in regulatory policy, or raises novel questions of law.

CUB and AWEC state that Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, and Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural) are "Participating Utilities" in the IFA. CUB and AWEC also state that because this rulemaking looks to implement a first-of-its-kind renewable natural gas program, this docket likely will result

in a significant change in regulatory policy and will raise novel issues of both fact and law for the gas utilities and the customers of those utilities. CUB and AWEC also note that the rules developed in this rulemaking may have a significant impact on the rates for and service to the utilities' customers. CUB and AWEC note that the new rules will address purchasing of renewable gas and investment in infrastructure, including how utilities can seek cost recovery from the customers, which is a significant departure from past practices of traditional least cost planning.

We agree that this proceeding qualifies as an eligible proceeding under the last criterion in the IFA because this docket may result in a significant impact on utility rates and change to regulatory policy. Accordingly, the joint motion of CUB and AWEC is granted, and this docket is certified as an eligible proceeding.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that this proceeding is designated as eligible for Issue Funds.

Made, entered, and effective Feb 21 2020.

Megan W. Decker
Chair

Letha Tawney
Commissioner



Mark R. Thompson
Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480 through 183.484.