

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 2030

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Investigation into the Use of Northwest
Natural's Renewable Natural Gas Evaluation
Methodology.

ORDER

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

On February 6, 2020, the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers, formerly known as the Northwest Industrial Gas Users (AWEC) and the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB), filed a joint motion to designate this proceeding as eligible for an Issue Fund Grant. No party responded to the joint motion.

The Fourth Amended 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 operations of the utility, is likely to result in a significant change in regulatory policy, or raises novel questions of law.

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural is directly affected by this docket and is a participating utility. In their motion, AWEC and CUB state that this docket will also likely affect Avista Corporation and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, which are also participating utilities under the IFA, because the methodology developed in this proceeding will likely be used to measure the effectiveness of renewable natural gas (RNG) acquisitions for them as well. AWEC and CUB also state in the joint motion that this proceeding will have a significant impact on how the gas utilities plan to acquire RNG since this proceeding will set the bounds for how RNG is evaluated, and the RNG evaluation methodology developed in this proceeding will be novel and a departure from least-cost planning. The joint motion concludes that this proceeding will likely result in a significant change in regulatory policy, will raise novel issues of fact and law for Oregon gas utilities and their customers, and may have a significant impact on utility rates and service.

We agree that this proceeding qualifies as an eligible proceeding under the last criterion because this docket may result in a change in regulatory policy and raises novel questions of fact and law. Accordingly, the joint motion should be granted, and this docket should be certified as an eligible proceeding.

ORDER

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

Made, entered, and effective Mar 17, 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.