

ORDER NO. 20-336

ENTERED Oct 07 2020

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UE 377

In the Matter of

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC
COMPANY,

2021 Annual Power Cost Update.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: ISSUE FUND GRANT REQUEST APPROVED

On September 17, 2020, the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers¹ filed a Request for Payment of its Portland General Electric Company (PGE) Issue Fund Grant. Section 7.3 of the Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (Agreement), adopted by the Commission in Order No. 18-017, governs the procedures for payment of Issue Fund Grants. AWEC (as the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities) was precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants on August 21, 2003, in Order No. 03-502.

AWEC asks for a final payment of \$20,299.60 from the PGE Issue Fund, and requests reallocation of the remaining \$9,700.40 of the approved Issue Fund Grant be reallocated to its Issue Fund Grant in UM 2024, per Article 6.7 of the Agreement. Concurrently with its request for payment in this docket, AWEC filed for approval of an Amended Proposed Budget in UM 2024. 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

¹ Formerly known as the Industrial Customers Northwest Utilities Northwest Industrial Gas Users.

- 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, AWEC must establish that it has " used in-house resources or outside funding to account for or pay at least 20% of the Eligible Expenses for the work to be performed in the proceeding for which the intervenor is seeking an Issue Fund Grant." Agreement at 15. AWEC provided the required documentation in its request.

The Agreement provides that the Commission will make a determination in each proceeding as to how the participating utilities are to recover the funding grants from the various customer classes. Under Section 7.7(b), 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 23. The Commission has considered the intended beneficiaries, and finds that the issue fund expenditures should be allocated to PGE's industrial customers.

The Commission finds that AWEC 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 Alliance of Western Energy Consumers has met the requirements of the Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement, and its request is approved.
2. Portland General Electric Company pay \$20,299.60 from the PGE Issue Fund to the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers within 30 days after receipt of this Order, and the grant be assessed to PGE's industrial customers.

3. The remaining balance of the Issue Fund be reallocated to the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers' Issue Fund in UM 2024, once the Amended Proposed Budget is approved.

Made, entered, and effective Oct 7, 2020.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nolan Moser".

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division