

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**OF OREGON**

UM 2178

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
OREGON,

Natural Gas Fact Finding per Executive  
Order 20-04 PUC Year-One Work Plan.

ORDER

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

On July 8, 2021, the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (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.

Avista Corporation (Avista), Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade), and Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural) are directly affected by this docket and are participating utilities. This docket involves how Oregon natural gas utilities will comply with Executive Order 20-04, including the potential costs, benefits, and impacts to customers. AWEC and CUB state this proceeding will involve an analysis of potential natural gas utility bill impacts which may result from limiting greenhouse gas emissions

of regulated natural gas utilities, while ensuring customers continue to have safe, affordable, and reliability utility services. AWEC and CUB also claim Executive Order 20-04 represents a significant change in regulatory policy. Therefore, this proceeding will likely raise novel issues of fact and law for Oregon gas utilities and customers. The joint motion concludes that this proceeding will likely result in significant impact on utility rates and service, as utilities may be required to make significant changes to their business operations, including the development of renewable natural gas and hydrogen resources.

We agree that this proceeding qualifies as an eligible proceeding because this docket is anticipated to address regulatory issues that have the potential to create substantial impacts on utility rates or service. 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 Sep 15 2021.



**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.