

**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: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND GRANTS APPROVED

On November 15, 2021, the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. CUB's proposed budget shows eligible expenses of \$37,500; and it seeks Issue Fund Grants totaling \$30,000, with \$17,142 from the 2021 Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, Issue Fund, \$8,572 from the 2021 Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities, Issue Fund, and \$4,286 from the 2021 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Issue Fund.

The Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 18-017, 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 IFA. The Commission has the authority to accept, deny, or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant.

CUB was automatically precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants under Section 5.2(a) of the IFA and OAR 860-001-0120(3)(a). CUB's proposed budget 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 CUB's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board's proposed budget for Issue Fund Grants is approved.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$17,142 from the 2021 Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, Issue Fund
3. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$8,572 from the 2021 Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities, Issue Fund.
4. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$4,286 from the 2021 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, dba Cascade, Issue Fund.

Made, entered, and effective Nov 20, 2021.



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

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division