

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 435

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL

Request for a General Rate Revision
(UG 435),

Advice 20-19, Schedule 198 Renewable
Natural Gas Recovery Mechanism
(ADV 1215) (UG 411).

ORDER

DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR HB 2475 GRANT APPROVED

On August 24, 2022, the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) filed a notice of participation and request for HB 2475 funding and a proposed budget in docket UG 435. No response was made to the filings. CCC's proposed budget shows eligible expenses of \$3,150, and it seeks an HB 2475 Funding Grant of \$3,150. I grant the request of CCC, and its proposed budget is approved.

The Commission Approved Form of Interim Funding Agreement in Order No. 22-043 defines "Eligible Dockets" as a proceeding before the Commission to review:

1. Non-complaint contested cases, rulemakings, and non-contested dockets that affect the applicable utility and its low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities,
2. Named, non-docketed Commission led processes addressing issues that affect the applicable utility and its low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities, or
3. An Integrated Resource Plan.

Participating utility Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural) is directly affected by docket UG 435. Docket UG 435 is NW Natural's general rate revision case.

CCC claims these proceedings will have a substantial impact on NW Natural customers, because this case will affect the rates charged to NW Natural customers, including the low-income and environmental justice communities CCC represents. CCC represents an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations, including organizations with representation from African, African American, Asian, Latine, Middle Eastern and North African, Pacific Islander, and Slavic communities.

CCC asserts that they are eligible for funding as pre-certified eligible organizations pursuant to Commission Order No. 22-043. CCC argues it serves a collective racial justice effort to improve outcomes for communities of color through policy analysis and advocacy, environmental justice work, and other culturally appropriate data and research. CCC's environmental justice work drives policy change and solutions that center the experiences and priorities of low-income, communities of color facing the impacts of climate change.

I agree that CCC qualifies as an eligible organization under Order No. 22-043. I find that docket UG 435 qualifies as an eligible proceeding because the proceeding is anticipated to have a substantial impact on NW Natural's low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities. Accordingly, the motion should be granted, and this docket certified as an eligible proceeding.

The Interim Agreements for HB 2475 Intervenor Funding, approved by the Commission in Order No. 22-043, provide that pre-certified intervenors must submit a proposed HB 2475 Grant Funds budget to the Commission that contains, at a minimum, the following information:

1. A statement of work to be performed by the Recipient for which the Recipient is seeking funding;
2. A description of the areas to be investigated and addressed by Recipient;
3. A budget showing estimated attorney fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operational support; and
4. A budget showing estimated consultant fees and expert witness fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operational support.

Once a proposed budget is received, the Commission decides whether HB 2475 Grant Funds are available for use based on factors identified in the Interim Agreements for HB 2475 Intervenor Funding. The Commission has the authority to accept, deny, or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant, and may

delegate this responsibility to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, consistent with Order No. 21-213.

CCC's proposed budget includes the requisite information.

In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues, and the significant policy decisions to be made, CCC's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. This proceeding is designated as a proceeding eligible for HB 2475 Funds.
2. Coalition of Communities of Color is certified to receive funds in this docket.
3. Coalition of Communities of Color's proposed budget for an HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved.
4. An HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved up to \$3,150 for activity in this docket performed by Coalition of Communities of Color.

Made, entered, and effective Nov 14, 2022.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nolan Moser".

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge

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.