

**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.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: AMENDED PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND GRANT
APPROVED**

In Order No. 22-026., the Commission approved the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board's (CUB) proposed budget in the amount of \$80,000 from the 2022 Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural Issue Fund. On November 8, 2022, CUB filed an amended proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in the proceeding. CUB's amended proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$141,875; and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$113,500. In support of its request, CUB states it seeks additional funding to accommodate its increased costs of participation in this proceeding.

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.

As noted in 22-026., CUB is precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants. CUB's initial and amended proposed budgets include the requisite information and reflect 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 amended proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board's amended proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$113,500.

Made, entered, and effective Feb 13, 2023.



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

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division