ORDER NO. 23-189

ENTERED May 30 2023

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

## **OF OREGON**

UG 462

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,

**ORDER** 

Renewable Natural Gas Adjustment Mechanism – Dakota City.

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

On April 11, 2023, 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 Fifth Amended Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA) approved by the Commission in Order No. 22-506 Section 1(c)(v) defines "Eligible Proceedings for Issue Funds" as a 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 fact or law.

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, is directly affected by this docket and is a participating utility. This docket involves NW Natural's Dakota renewable natural gas project in Dakota City, Nebraska. NW Natural plans to use this project for Climate Protection Plan (CPP) compliance.

AWEC and CUB argue that this proceeding has the potential to raise both novel issues of fact and law for Oregon gas utilities and their customers and that due to the size of this renewable natural gas project, this docket will have a significant impact on utility rates and service.

We agree that this proceeding qualifies as an eligible proceeding because this docket is anticipated to have a substantial impact 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.

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 Circuit Court for Marion County in compliance with ORS 183.484.