

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UE 416

In the Matter of

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC
COMPANY

Request for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

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

In Order No. 23-085, the Commission approved the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC) proposed budget in the amount of \$50,000 from the 2023 Portland General Electric Company (PGE) Issue Fund. On September 7, 2023, AWEC filed an amended proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in the proceeding, concurrent with a request to reallocate funds from its PGE Issue Fund Grant in docket LC 80. AWEC's amended proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$157,285.72; and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$75,680.84. In support of its request, AWEC states that it seeks to amend its proposed budget to account for increased expenses incurred as a result of the complexity of the issues in the docket.

The Fifth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 22-506, 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 Order No. 23-085, AWEC is precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants. AWEC'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 AWEC's amended proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

On September 7, 2023, AWEC also requested final payment of its Issue Fund Grant from the PGE 2023 Issue Fund, in the amount of \$75,680.04. Section 7.3 of the Fifth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (Agreement), adopted by the Commission in Order No. 22-506, governs the procedures for payment of Issue Fund Grants. AWEC (as the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities) was precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants on August 21, 2003, in Order No. 03-502.

Under the Agreement, the Request for Payment must:

- 1) Itemize the expenses, payees and hourly rates of amount to be reimbursed;
- 2) Demonstrate that the expenses are reasonable and are directly attributable to issues and positions pursued on behalf of a particular customer class and consistent with the intervenor's proposed budget;
- 3) Provide information sufficient to show that the intervenor has complied with any conditions imposed on the Issue Fund Grant; and
- 4) Specify whether the request for payment is for a progress payment or a final payment and indicate whether any approved budget amount may be released back to the applicable Issue Fund.

Further, under the terms of the Agreement, AWEC must establish that it has " used in-house resources or outside funding to account for or pay at least 20% of the Eligible Expenses for the work to be performed in the proceeding for which the intervenor is

seeking an Issue Fund Grant." Agreement at 15. AWEC provided the required documentation in its request.

The Agreement provides that the Commission will make a determination in each proceeding as to how the participating utilities are to recover the funding grants from the various customer classes. Under Section 7.7(b), Issue Fund Grants should be allocated so as to fairly align the costs of the advocacy with the intended potential beneficiaries of the advocacy. Agreement at 23. The Commission has considered the intended beneficiaries and finds that the issue fund expenditures should be allocated to PGE's industrial customers.

The Commission finds that AWEC has met the requirements of the Agreement, and its request should be approved. Section 7.8 of the Agreement provides that the utility must pay the Issue Fund Grant to the requesting intervenor within 30 days after receipt of the Commission directive.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Alliance of Western Energy Consumers' amended proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$75,680.04.
3. The Alliance of Western Energy Consumers has met the requirements of the Fifth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement, and its final payment request is approved.
4. Portland General Electric Company pay \$75,680.04 from the PGE Issue Fund to the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers within 30 days after receipt of this Order, and the grant be assessed to PGE's industrial customers.

Made, entered, and effective Sep 8, 2023.



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

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division