

ORDER NO. 23-335

ENTERED Sep 12 2023

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 461

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA
UTILITIES,

Request for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: ISSUE FUND GRANT REQUEST APPROVED

On September 11, 2023, the Alliance for Western Energy Consumers (AWEC), formerly known as the Northwest Industrial Gas Users, filed a Request for Payment of its Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities Issue Fund Grant. 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 was precertified as the Northwest Industrial Gas Users to receive Issue Fund Grants on February 3, 2004, in Order No. 04-055.

AWEC asks for a final payment of \$31,056.32 from the Avista Utilities' Issue Fund and states that the remainder of the grant may be released back into the Avista Utilities Issue Fund. 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 Section 7.3 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." 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 to fairly align the costs of the advocacy with the intended potential beneficiaries of the advocacy. The Commission has considered the intended beneficiaries and finds that the issue fund expenditures should be allocated to Avista Utilities' 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. The balance of the approved budget should be made available to the Avista Utilities' Issue Fund.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Alliance of Western Energy Consumers has met the requirements of the Fifth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement, and its request is approved.
2. Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities pay \$31,056.32 from the Avista Utilities Issue Fund to the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers within 30 days after receipt of this Order, and the grant be assessed to Avista Utilities' industrial customers.

Made, entered, and effective Sep 12, 2023.



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

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division