

ORDER NO. 24-071

ENTERED Mar 19 2024

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 490

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,

Request for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND GRANT APPROVED

On March 12, 2024, the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC), formerly known as Northwest Industrial Gas Users, filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. AWEC's proposed budget shows eligible expenses of \$120,000, and it requests an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$96,000.

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 agreement. The Commission has the authority to accept, deny, or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant.

AWEC became precertified as Northwest Industrial Gas Users on February 3, 2004, in Order No. 04-055. AWEC's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects 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 proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Alliance of Western Energy Consumers' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$96,000.

Made, entered, and effective Mar 19, 2024.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nolan Moser", is written over a horizontal line.

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division