

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 2209

In the Matter of

IDAHO POWER COMPANY,

Wildfire Protection Plan.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: CASE CERTIFICATION REQUEST GRANTED; PROPOSED
BUDGET APPROVED**

On December 3, 2025, the NW Energy Coalition (NWEC) filed a notice of intent to request Justice Funding Case Fund Grant consistent with Order No. 25-409 and OAR 860-001-0800 through OAR 860-001-0900.

To be eligible for a Case Fund grant, an organization must:

- a. Demonstrate that it represents the interests of low-income residential customers or Environmental Justice Communities, and participation in proceedings will be primarily directed at public utility issues affecting those interests, including but not limited to interests in utility rates and terms and conditions of service, interests in the cost of access and impact from the delivery of services, interest in utility programs, and interest in utility resource planning;
- b. Indicate the particular Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers it represents and demonstrate that it is able to effectively represent them;
- c. Demonstrate that it is able to effectively represent or develop advocacy positions benefitting or informed by the Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers, in the service area of each utility for which funding is sought and demonstrates how it will identify the issues or advocacy positions that are important to them; and

- d. Where applicable, indicate where in past Commission matters the organization demonstrated the ability to substantively contribute to the record on behalf of such interests.

In its application, the organization must identify:

- a. The matter or matters in which the applicant intends to participate, the nature of that participation, and why these matters are Eligible Proceedings;
- b. The Participating Public Utility account or accounts from which the applicant seeks funds; and
- c. A budget showing estimated Eligible Expenses, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operational support; a budget showing estimated consultant fees, expert witness fees, or contractor costs, which also may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operational support.

The Commission may, but is not obligated to consider any of the following factors:

- a. The breadth and complexity of the issues or the importance of community participation;
- b. The degree to which any policy issues affect the interests of low-income residential customers or the interests of residential customers that are members of Environmental Justice Communities;
- c. The proposed budget;
- d. Whether the organization has significant ties to the Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers in the service area of each utility for which pre-certification or funding from a Case Fund is sought;
- e. The qualifications of the applicant and experience before the Commission; and
- f. The level of available funding available under the agreement.

NWEC states that its members include Tribes, community-based organizations, consumer advocates, housing providers, environmental justice partners, utilities, and public-interest technical experts. NWEC describes its work to engage with Oregon wildfire advocates and community members, including Idaho Power Company ratepayers. NWEC explains that it has participated in major Oregon proceedings addressing wildfire mitigation, energy affordability, integrated resource planning, transmission, and customer protections, and that the organization has a long track record of constructive, data-driven participation. NWEC states that its participation in this docket will be directed at wildfire mitigation in Idaho Power's service territory, focusing on issues including safety, cost recovery, risk reduction, community engagement requirements, and ratepayer impacts.

No party objected to NWEC's notice of intent or proposed scope of work.

NWEC included a proposed budget for consideration upon being deemed eligible for Case Funds. NWEC requests case funding in the amount of \$3,000. No party objected to NWEC's certification request or contested its ability to represent Idaho Power Company's customers. NWEC requests a progress payment of 50 percent of its total request.

I agree that NWEC qualifies as an eligible organization under Order No. 25-409 and OAR 860-001-0840. I find that docket UM 2209 qualifies as an eligible proceeding because it is a Commission proceeding affecting a participating utility (Idaho Power Company), its customers, and environmental justice communities. Accordingly, the request for case certification should be granted.

NWEC states that it plans to: review the company's wildfire mitigation plan; analyze cost allocation, affordability impacts, and risk-spend efficiency; evaluate the proposal for transparency, accountability, and measurable risk reduction; review community engagement practices and processes; and submit written comments, conduct research, and participate in workshops as appropriate.

NWEC's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects the anticipated activity in this docket. No party opposed NWEC's proposed budget. Considering the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, NWEC's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

The Commission has the authority to accept, deny, or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant, and may delegate this responsibility to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, consistent with Order No. 25-408.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The NW Energy Coalition is certified to receive Case Funds in this docket.
2. The NW Energy Coalition's proposed budget is approved.
3. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the NW Energy Coalition up to \$3,000 from the 2026 Idaho Power Company Case Fund for activity in docket UM 2209.
4. Idaho Power Company pay \$1,500 from the 2026 Idaho Power Case Fund to NW Energy Coalition within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Idaho Power's residential customers.

Made, entered, and effective December 24, 2025.



Alison Lackey
Chief Administrative Law Judge