

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 525

In the Matter of

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

Request for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

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

On February 6, 2026, the Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA) filed a notice of intent to request a Justice Funding Case Fund Grant, requests for case certification, and proposed budget 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.

In Order No. 25-409, the Commission determined that OJTA is an eligible organization for the Cascade Natural Gas funds under OAR 860-001-0840. In Order No. 26-003, this proceeding was certified as an eligible proceeding for case funds.

OJTA states that it will investigate Cascade's proposed revenue increase, including review and analysis of the requested revenue requirement through Climate Protection Plan costs, membership dues, the company's Line Extension Allowance policy, changes to the company's low-income discount programs, and the prudence of investments in new infrastructure. OJTA states that it plans to review testimony, discovery requests, and comments, as well as review and draft testimony and briefs, and participate in hearings.

OJTA included a proposed budget for consideration. OJTA requests case funding in the amount of \$6,875. OJTA requests a progress payment of 50 percent of its total request. No party objected to OJTA's notice of intent or proposed scope of work.

OJTA's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects the anticipated activity in this docket. No party opposed the proposed budget. Considering the issues

being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, the 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. 25-408.¹

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Oregon Just Transition Alliance is certified to receive Case Funds in this docket.
2. The Oregon Just Transition Alliance's proposed budget is approved.
3. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the Oregon Just Transition Alliance up to \$6,875 from the 2026 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Case Fund for activity in docket UG 525.
4. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation pay \$3,437.50 from the 2026 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Case Fund to Oregon Just Transition Alliance within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's residential customers.

Made, entered, and effective Feb 23, 2026.

Alison Lackey
Chief Administrative Law Judge



¹ *In the Matter of Public Utility Commission of Oregon, The Delegation of Certain Duties and Powers of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon, Docket No. CD 27, Order No. 25-408 (Oct. 15, 2025).*