

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UG 527

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS  
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,

Application for an Alternative Rate  
Mechanism, New Schedule 123.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND GRANT APPROVED**

On February 23, 2026, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. CUB seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$45,000 from the 2026 Northwest Natural Issue Fund.

The Fifth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA),<sup>1</sup> requires that a proposed issue fund budget contain 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) A budget showing estimated attorney, consultant and expert witness fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operations support; and
- 5) 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of Public Utility Commission of Oregon, Approval of the Fifth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement*, Docket No. UM 2264, Order No. 22-506 (Dec. 26, 2022).

The IFA also requires that the proposed issue fund budget identify the specific fund accounts from which the intervenor is seeking monies and an estimate of the amount of available funds in that account.

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.

CUB was automatically pre-certified to receive Issue Fund Grants under Section 5.2(a) of the IFA and OAR 860-001-0120(3)(a). CUB'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, I find that CUB'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.<sup>2</sup>

**ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board's proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$45,000 from the 2026 Northwest Natural Issue Fund.

Made, entered, and effective Mar 2, 2026.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison Lackey".

**Alison Lackey**  
Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Administrative Hearings Division

<sup>2</sup> *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).*