

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UE 188

In the Matter of)	
)	
PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC)	ORDER
COMPANY)	
)	
Request for General Rate Revision.)	

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

On October 8, 2007, the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. ICNU's proposed budget is in the amount of \$20,000 from Portland General Electric Company's (PGE) 2007 Issue Fund.

The Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 03-388, 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
- 5) A budget showing estimated attorney, consultant and expert witness fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operations support.

ICNU became precertified on August 21, 2003, in Order No. 03-502. ICNU's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects the current schedule adopted in this docket.

Once a proposed budget is received, we decide whether Issue Fund Grants are available for use based on factors identified in the agreement. We have the authority to accept, deny or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant.

We note that this proceeding is nearing its conclusion and that parties had filed their reply briefs just days before ICNU filed its proposed budget. Section 6.3 of the IFA provides that the “deadline for submitting the proposed budget will be not less than 14 days after the prehearing conference at which the schedule for the proceeding is established or by such other date as the Commission designates.” The prehearing conference at which the schedule was set was held on March 21, 2007. A date for submittal of proposed budgets was not specified in the Administrative Law Judge’s Memorandum of March 21, 2007, which set out the schedule for the proceeding. We further note that despite the seemingly late filing date of ICNU’s proposed budget, no parties objected to it.

When considering the approval of a proposed budget, the Commission considers, among other factors, the amount of funds being provided by the applicant intervenor, the level of available funds in the Fund account involved, and other eligible proceedings in which intervenors may seek additional Issue Fund Grants from the same Fund account or account. *See* Section 6.5. The IFA further provides that the Commission may place reasonable conditions on the Issue Fund Grants including but not limited to the requirement that the intervenor provide matching funds. *Id.*

Although its proposed budget actually shows expenditures totaling \$38,270, ICNU states that it will bear the costs of its participation to the extent that its costs exceed the \$20,000 amount requested. We also note that, if we approve ICNU’s proposed budget in full, the balance of uncommitted funds in the PGE 2007 Issue Fund will be \$24,037.46. Currently, parties have sought intervention in two other significant eligible proceedings involving PGE.

In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, we believe that ICNU’s proposed budget is reasonable. However, given consideration of the factors above, and to ensure that ICNU’s members are contributing a significant portion of the overall support and funding of the organization’s activities, we believe that the approval of ICNU’s proposed budget should be conditioned upon the requirement that ICNU provide matching funds. Accordingly, ICNU’s proposed budget for an Issue Fund grant is approved, but conditioned on the requirement that ICNU provide documentation sufficient to show that it has used in-house resources or outside funding for at least 50 percent of its eligible expenses ICNU incurred in this proceeding.

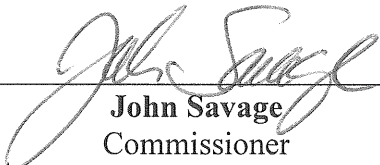
ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is granted with the condition that the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities provide proof that it has provided matching funds for any payment of an Issue Fund Grant requested. The budget is conditionally approved up to \$20,000.

Made, entered, and effective OCT 29 2007.



Lee Beyer
Chairman



John Savage
Commissioner



Ray Baum
Commissioner



A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480-183.484.