

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UE 197

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

**DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR ISSUE FUND  
GRANTS APPROVED**

On May 28, 2008, the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU) filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) filed its proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant on May 29, 2008. ICNU seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$83,248, and CUB seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$61,620. ICNU and CUB show in their proposed budgets that they are sharing the costs of two witnesses in this proceeding.

The First Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 07-564, 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, we decide whether an Issue Fund Grant is 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.

ICNU became precertified on August 21, 2003, in Order No. 03-502. CUB was automatically precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants under Section 5.2(a) of the IFA and OAR 860-012-0100(3)(a). The proposed budgets of ICNU and CUB include the requisite information and reflect the current schedule adopted in this docket.

The total of the amount requested in the proposed budgets of ICNU and CUB represents a significant portion of the available Portland General Electric Company's (PGE) Issue Funds. There are pending requests for proposed budgets from the PGE Issue Fund in other dockets and in this docket (The League of Oregon Cities' Application for Case Certification and proposed issues fund budget in the amount of \$39,720 in this docket are pending before the Commission.). Further, ICNU states in its request that it expects to fully use its 2008 Matching Fund Grant for costs associated with its participation in docket UE 196, a docket in which it did not request an Issue Fund Grant and which has become much more complex as it has proceeded.

In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, we believe that the proposed budgets of ICNU and CUB are reasonable and should be approved. However, the Commission's records show that these requests, as well as that filed by the League of Oregon Cities, account for all but \$855 of the available PGE Issue Fund monies for 2008. Therefore, the Commission cautions the intervenors that approval of all of the pending PGE Issue Fund budget requests will essentially preclude the availability of such funds for any new qualifying proceedings for the remainder of the year.

## **ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved. The budget is approved up to \$83,248.

- 2. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved. The budget is approved up to \$61,620.

Made, entered, and effective JUN 09 2008.

  
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**Lee Beyer**  
 Chairman

  
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**John Savage**  
 Commissioner

  
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**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.