

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 186

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA
UTILITIES

Request for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

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

On August 18, 2009, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) and Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU) filed proposed budgets for Issue Fund Grants in this proceeding. CUB's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$36,566, and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$29,252; NWIGU's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$36,110.50, and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$28,888.40. The proposed budget filings indicate that CUB and NWIGU coordinated with each other and will be sharing a consultant.

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 Issue Fund Grants are available for use based on factors identified in the IFA. We have the authority to accept, deny or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant.

CUB was automatically precertified to receive Issue Fund Grants under Section 5.2(a) of the IFA and OAR 860-012-0100(3)(a). NWIGU became precertified on February 3, 2004, in Order No. 04-055. The proposed budgets of CUB and NWIGU include the requisite information and reflect the current schedule adopted in this docket.

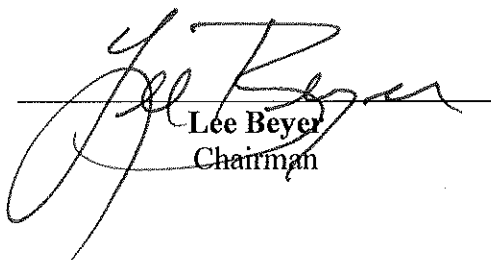
In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, we believe that the proposed budgets of CUB and NWIGU are reasonable and should be approved.

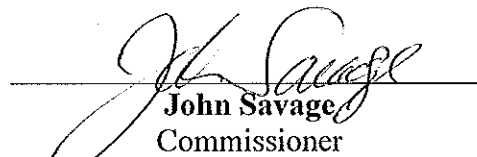
ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved. The budget is approved up to \$29,252.
2. The Northwest Industrial Gas Users' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved. The budget is approved up to \$28,888.40.

Made, entered, and effective AUG 20 2009.


Lee Beyer
Chairman


John Savage
Commissioner


Ray Baum
Commissioner

