

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UG 284

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA  
UTILITIES

ORDER

Request for a General Rate Revision.

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

On October 23, 2014, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) and the 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 \$75,200; and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$22,078, with \$4,828 from the 2014 Avista Utilities' Issue Fund and \$17,250 from the 2015 Avista Utilities' Issue Fund.<sup>1</sup> NWIGU's proposed budget shows eligible expenses in the amount of \$69,910.00, and it seeks an Issue Fund Grant in the amount of \$35,750, with \$18,500 from the 2014 Avista Utilities' Issue Fund and \$17,250 from the 2015 Avista Utilities' Fund.

In making their respective requests, both CUB and NWIGU relied on intervenor funding information contained on our website. Due to an error in that information, the combination of CUB's and NWIGU's requested amounts from Avista's 2014 Issue Fund exceed available amounts. When contacted, CUB and NWIGU agreed to split the difference of the discrepancy equally, so that CUB's 2014 Issue Fund Grant request is amended to \$3,175.20, and NWIGU's 2014 Issue Fund Grant request is amended to \$16,847.20.

The Second Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved in Order No. 12-452,<sup>2</sup> provides that precertified intervenors must submit a proposed issue fund budget to the Commission that contains, at a minimum, the following information:

<sup>1</sup> CUB and NWIGU note in their requests that Section 4.4 of the IFA allows for approval of funds that will be made available in the next calendar year and that the schedule set for UG 284 extends into 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Order No. 12-452 was subsequently supplemented by Order No. 13-317 to include Exhibits A, B, and C.

- 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 860-001-0120(3)(a). NWIGU became precertified on February 3, 2004, in Order No. 04-055. The proposed budgets 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 are reasonable and should be approved as modified.

### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

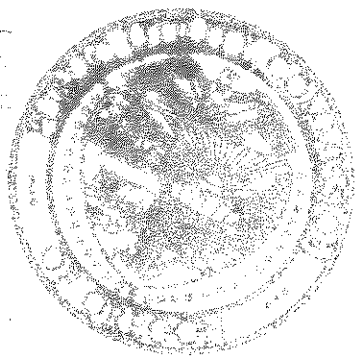
1. The Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$3,175.20 from the 2014 Issue Fund and up to \$17,250 from the 2015 Issue Fund.

- 2. The Northwest Industrial Gas Users' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$16,847.20 from the 2014 Issue Fund and up to \$17,250 from the 2015 Issue Fund.

Made, entered, and effective OCT 24 2014.

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN WAS  
UNAVAILABLE FOR SIGNATURE

**Susan K. Ackerman**  
Chair



*John Savage*  
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**John Savage**  
Commissioner

*Stephen M. Bloom*  
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**Stephen M. Bloom**  
Commissioner