

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 366

In the Matter of

AVISTA CORPORATION, dba AVISTA
UTILITIES,

Request for a General Rate Revision.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ISSUE FUND GRANT APPROVED

On May 10, 2019, the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC), formerly known as Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU), filed a proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant in this proceeding. AWEC's proposed budget shows eligible expenses of \$65,375, but due to the limited funds in the Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities' Issue Fund, AWEC is requesting an Issue Fund Grant of \$38,000.

The Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA), approved by the Commission in Order No. 18-017, 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, 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.

AWEC became precertified as NWIGU on February 3, 2004, in Order No. 04-055. AWEC'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, the Commission believes that AWEC's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Alliance of Western Energy Consumers' proposed budget for an Issue Fund Grant is approved.
2. An Issue Fund Grant is approved up to \$38,000.

Made, entered, and effective May 14, 2019.



Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Administrative Hearings Division

