

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UG 344 Phase II

In the Matter of)
)
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY,) CUB REQUEST FOR AN ISSUE
) FUND GRANT & PROPOSED BUDGET
dba NW NATURAL,)
)
Request for a General Rate Revision.)
_____)

On October 26th, 2018, the OPUC issued Order 18-419 which requires a second phase to UG 344 to deal with pension and tax issues. For UG 344, Phase II, the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (“CUB”) estimates eligible expenses of \$37,500 before the 20% match, and requests a grant of \$30,000 from the 2018 Northwest Natural (“NWN”) Issue Fund. CUB staff have been tracking their participation in this docket by hours and activity.

CUB is pre-certified per OAR 860-012-0100(3)(a). UG 344 is an eligible proceeding under the Fourth Amended and Restated Intervenor Funding Agreement (“IFA”), as approved by the Oregon Public Utility Commission in Order No. 18-017, entered January 17, 2018. The proceeding directly affects NW Natural, which is a participating public utility under the IFA. *See* IFA at Article 1(k). CUB filed its Notice of Intent to Request an Issue Fund Grant on February 1, 2018, as required by the IFA (Article 6.2).

Pursuant to paragraph 6.3 of the IFA, the proposed budget must identify certain points of information. CUB provides the information below.

(a) Statement of Work to Be Performed: CUB intends to participate in every procedural aspect of this case. CUB participated in the prehearing conference and will participate in all workshops and settlement meetings. CUB will also attend and participate in the hearing scheduled for this docket. CUB will review and analyze the testimony and briefs filed in this

docket, and will review the briefs yet to be filed. CUB will continue to pursue discovery of NW Natural through data requests. We will file testimony and a prehearing brief, and we will participate in the hearing and file a post-hearing brief in this docket.

(b) Description of Areas to Be Investigated: CUB is investigating issues including, but not limited to:

1. The history of the pension balancing account;
2. Options for eliminating the pension balancing account; and
3. Options for use of excess deferred income taxes.

(c) Description of the Class or Classes Benefiting from CUB's Participation:

CUB represents the interests of NW Natural's residential customers, though other customer classes may benefit from many aspects of our participation.

(d) The Fund from Which CUB Seeks an Issue Fund Grant & Available Funds: CUB is seeking a \$30,000 grant from the 2018 NWN Issue Fund. CUB's budget shows eligible expenses, before the match of \$37,500, but CUB limits its request in this case to \$30,000. CUB respectfully requests that the Commission approve CUB's request for a \$30,000 grant from the 2018 NW Natural Issue Fund.

(e) The Budget Showing Estimated Fees and Costs: CUB's budget accompanies this document as Attachment A.

(f) A Representation of the Use of Matching Funds: The budget and an accounting for the use of matching funds accompany this document as Attachment A.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Bob Jenks, Executive Director
Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

CUB Proposed Budget -- UG 344- Phase II

CUB Internal Expenses	Rate	Hours	Cost
<i>Staff</i>			
Bob Jenks, Executive Director	\$250	35.00	\$8,750.00
Michael Goetz, Staff Attorney	\$225	65.00	\$14,625.00
Essie Bender, Office Manager/Paralegal	\$100	9.25	\$925.00
Will Gehrke, Economist	\$200	65.00	\$13,000.00
<i>Other Expenses</i>			
Printing, Mailing & Travel			\$200.00
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In-House Resources			
20% of Eligible Expenses			(\$7,500)
Total			\$30,000