

September 6, 2011

Oregon Public Utilities Commission
550 Capitol Street NE #215
P.O. Box 2148
Salem, OR 97308-2148

RE: Docket # UM1538; Oregon Feed In Tariff Allocations; Request for Wavier of 12 Month Installation Requirement

Dear Commission:

The Town of Lakeview has two allocations for solar installations received from the early October 2010 Feed In Tariff allocation process. Each allocation is for a 9.9 kW system. One is at our geothermal pump station and the other at our waste water pumping station. It has become apparent that we are not going to be able to have the systems installed by the October 6, 2011 date as required by Oregon Administrative Rule.

The financial resources were not available in the Town's 2010-2011 budget. The allocation was applied for and received during the previous year, therefore not budgeted for during the annual budgeting process. Funds are now available in the FY 2011-12 budget

The Town of Lakeview has focused our limited staff resources for the past year on development of a geothermal heating system that will supply the heating needs of our 5 local schools and the publicly owned hospital /healthcare facilities. With that project now in the final stages of development, we are prepared to pursue development of our solar energy allocation.

Finally, it has now been determined that the Town must initiate a formal request for proposals to meet the requirements of our public contracting rules. Based on discussion with the original contractor, there was reason to believe a formal process would not be necessary as determined by Town administrative staff. Although we should have asked for legal review and made this determination at the beginning, we didn't and now in order to capitalize on the opportunity and help meet Oregon's renewable energy goals, we are prepared to move forward with a formal request for proposals.

However, because there is not adequate time left before the completion date to fulfill the legal requirements of our contracting rules, please accept and approve our request for a 3 month extension of the October 6, 2011 deadline pursuant to OAR 860-084-0000(3). Our “good cause” is limited staff and financial resources as well as constraints of public contracting rules.

Sincerely,

Ray Simms, Manager
Town of Lakeview