

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: July 5, 2016

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE July 5, 2016

DATE: June 24, 2016

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Cindy Dolezel 

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Michael Dougherty  

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by PGPV, LLC, on behalf of Blake Kauer, for a waiver of the two-month solar photovoltaic system interconnection application requirement set forth in OAR 860-084-0210(1).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission grant the request by PGPV, LLC (PGPV) made on behalf of its customer, Blake Kauer, to waive, the two-month interconnection application submission deadline, set forth under OAR 860-084-0210(1), so that the deadline is extended from March 13, 2016 until July 13, 2016, for a solar photovoltaic (SPV) system in Portland General Electric's (PGE) Solar Incentive Program and to reinstate the capacity reservation for this project.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether PGPV established good cause supporting its request for a waiver of the two-month capacity reservation pursuant to OAR 860-084-0210(1) for its SPV system.

Applicable Law

Each project that receives a capacity reservation holds that reservation for 12 months from its reservation start date, so long as a preliminary interconnection application is submitted and approved by the utility within two months of the reservation award date; the deposit fees are paid; the project is installed within 12 months of its reservation start date; or if needed, the project receives a waiver to extend the installation deadline. See OAR 860-084-0210(1) and (2).

OAR 860-084-0210(1) states that “a capacity reservation expires ... if the system has not been installed within twelve months of the reservation start date, unless a waiver is granted under OAR860-084-0000.” OAR 860-084-0210(2) provides that once a capacity reservation expires, the customer must re-apply for a reservation. The evaluation criterion set forth in OAR 860-084-0000(3) for waiver of Division 084 rules is “good cause shown.” The Commission has discretion to determine what constitutes “good cause.”

Discussion and Analysis

PGPV requests a waiver for this system under OAR 860-084-0000(3), on behalf of its customer Blake Kauer, to waive the two-month interconnection application deadline. PGPV states that the deadline was not met due to an acknowledged oversight by the contractor. PGPV asks to have the project’s capacity reservation reinstated.

PGPV applied for a capacity reservation for project P7G7A5 for a 10.0 kW Direct Current (DC) SPV system and received a capacity award for this system from PGE on January 13, 2016.

PGPV contacted PGE to check on the status of the interconnection application and at this time realized that they had mistakenly forgotten to submit the interconnection application within the two-month submission window (i.e. by March 13, 2016). PGPV did however pay all respective fees for this project.

Staff has conferred with PGE regarding the status of this project. PGE confirmed that the project has met all the requirements to date, including deposits, and fees. Equipment is purchased and ready for installation. Permits will be submitted pending the approval of this waiver. Staff feels comfortable with the status of the project and the actions taken so far demonstrate efforts to successfully install the system. The final system installation deadline is January 13, 2017. Staff and PGPV believe there is ample time to complete the project in advance of that deadline.

Conclusion

In analyzing for “good cause,” Staff’s primary considerations were PGPV’s honesty in addressing the oversight, the demonstrated actions toward completion of the project, and history of successfully completed SPV projects.

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PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Grant the request by PGPV, on behalf of Blake Kauer, to waive the two-month installation requirement for a solar photovoltaic system in Portland General Electric's (PGE) Solar Incentive Program, so that the deadline is extended from March 13, 2016, until July 13, 2016; and that the capacity reservation for the same system be reinstated.

CA 14-UM 1538 Blake Kauer VIR Interconnection 2 month waiver request