

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 15, 2013**

REGULAR X CONSENT _____ EFFECTIVE DATE October 15 , 2013

DATE: October 7, 2013

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Adam Bless *AB*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer *E*, Maury Galbraith *MG* and Aster Adams *AA*

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by Kenneth Hayes for a waiver of the 12-month solar photovoltaic system installation requirement pursuant to OAR 860-084-0210(1).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission grant the request by Kenneth Hayes to extend the 12-month deadline to install a solar photovoltaic system (SPV) under the Portland General Electric (PGE) Solar Incentive Program by three months, to January 15, 2014.

DISCUSSION:

On September 9, 2013 Kenneth Hayes requested a waiver of the 12-month deadline for installation of a solar photovoltaic system (SPV) under the PGE Solar Incentive Program. The current deadline is October 15, 2013. The waiver request did not state how long an extension was requested, but staff recommends a three month extension, to January 15, 2014.

In his waiver request, Mr. Hayes stated that when he made plans to finish the project, he had too many accounts receivable, and hence not enough funds to complete the installation by the deadline. Mr. Hayes explained that his accounts receivable have now come in, and he wants to proceed with the project.

The waiver request did not include information on the status of the interconnection plan or the interconnection agreement with PGE. Nor was there information on how much equipment and material has been procured. The information in the waiver request suggests that the delay was simply due to inadequate cash flow.

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Staff contacted Mr. Hayes and his installation contractor to request more information. Staff also contacted PGE to learn the status of the interconnection request. PGE explained that Mr. Hayes already has a SPV net metering installation at his house, and therefore needs a new service in order to accommodate a separate SPV installation under the Volumetric Incentive Rate program. As of October 4, 2013, Mr. Hayes had not completed an interconnection agreement, nor had he requested the new service.

However, since October 4th, Mr. Hayes has taken steps to expedite his project. PGE reports that Mr. Hayes contacted them and completed the interconnection agreement and request for new service. Mr. Hayes has assured staff that he now has more than adequate cash on hand to complete the project. Based on this recent progress, staff is now persuaded that Mr. Hayes can complete the installation with a reasonable extension of the 12-month deadline. In his request, Mr. Hayes did not specify the length of the extension necessary to complete. He recently indicated that he needs a 6-month extension. Staff has previously recommended for similar requests a 3-month extension and believes that a 6-month extension is excessive. We recommend an extension of three months, to January 15, 2014.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Kenneth Hayes's request for waiver of the 12-month installation requirement for the SPV system under PGE's Solar Incentive Program be granted and the deadline extended to January 15, 2014.