

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: April 9, 2013**

REGULAR \_\_\_\_\_ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE April 9, 2013

DATE: April 1, 2013

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Robert J. Procter *RP*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer *E* and Maury Galbraith *MG*

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by Ronald G. and Joanna H. Stout 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 waiver request to Ronald G. and Joanna H. Stout and extend the installation deadline to July 31, 2013.

**DISCUSSION:**

Ronald G. and Joanna H. Stout (Applicant) was awarded a capacity reservation for a 10 kW Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) system under the Solar Photovoltaic Pilot Program (Pilot) by Portland General Electric (PGE). The current 12-month period expired on April 2, 2013. Prior to that date, the Applicant requested an extension to July 31, 2013.

They have encountered several delays due to delays in the City of Salem issuing the necessary building permits. For example, they submitted a request for a building permit in June 2012 for a new garage that will hold part of the SPV. The City of Salem issued the new building permit on February 15, 2013. The delay was due to City of Salem requirements that emerged one-at-a-time during that period. The requirements discovered and met are as follows:

1. Contract an architectural engineer to create building plans for City of Salem review and approval. (Selected Tornberg Consulting, LLC)
2. Select and contract a special testing and inspection engineering firm for foundation connections. (Selected Carlson Testing, Inc.)

3. Submit a property boundary verification; this required title searches and a property survey. (Selected Boatwright Engineering, Inc.)
4. Join with their neighbor to submit a property line adjustment (to rectify a missed step in a property sale of five feet on the southern boundary of our double-lot that occurred about 1970); this entailed a second property survey and installation of new survey monuments.
5. As part of the property line adjustment resolution, the City of Salem also required the property descriptions in both deeds be updated from lot-based descriptions to "metes and bounds" descriptions; this involved our mortgage holder as a party in the process.

In addition, the Applicant indicates that new information has recently come to light regarding PGE specifications for the meter installation. While the Applicant indicates they initiated communication with PGE in March, 2012, at that time, they received approval to proceed with the second solar installation, understanding that their electrician would need to coordinate with PGE. During the following weeks and months, the Applicant talked with electricians who are experienced with solar implementations. They provided estimates outlining the work to be done. Some rewiring would be needed, and a second meter base would need to be installed.

On February 26, 2013, a PGE representative and their electrician (Code Electric) met with the Applicant to finalize electrical plans. In that meeting, the PGE representative informed the Applicant that, because this is a second solar installation with a different feed-in tariff program than the first, the new meter base must be a commercial "schedule 32" unit rather than one like the meter base supporting the first solar implementation. This means that there are added requirements that PGE has for commercial meters. The Applicant is currently investigating if there are different City of Salem building codes that will apply. The Applicant has asked their architectural engineer to perform the research and modify the garage plans to meet all PGE requirements and applicable City of Salem building codes.

With the installation deadline approaching, the Applicant submitted this extension request to allow added time to resolve these new issues.

**PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

Ronald G. and Joanna H. Stout's request for waiver of the 12-month installation requirement for the SPV system be granted and the deadline be extended to July 31, 2013.