

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

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE January 15, 2013

DATE: December 20, 2012

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Robert J. Procter *MG for BP*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Maury Galbraith *MG*

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by Philomath School District for a waiver of the 12-month Solar Photovoltaic System Installation Requirement under OAR 860-084-0210(1).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission grant the waiver request to Philomath School District and extend the installation deadline of January 7, 2013 to January 31, 2013.

DISCUSSION:

Philomath School District (Applicant) was granted an extension to the installation deadline on October 23, 2012 in Order 12-399. That Order set a new installation deadline of January 7, 2013. Their extension request contained a construction schedule of October 1 – December 15, 2012. The January 7, 2013 installation deadline provided for three weeks of additional time to address any unforeseen issues that may arise.

The Applicant indicates they have faced additional delays. Specifically, the Applicant indicates that the permitting of the solar installation, which has to be pursued separately from the other construction-related permits, has taken longer than was expected. The final permit was finally issued on November 28, 2012. In addition, on November 30, 2012, the serving utility determined that the PV system's AC disconnect installed at the time of building construction must now be re-located. The design of the new interconnect was approved on December 3, 2012. Construction began that same day.

Due to these various factors, the Applicant requests a revised deadline extension from January 7, 2013 to January 31, 2013.

OAR 860-084-0000(3) provides:

“The Commission may waive any of the rules contained in Division 084 for good cause.”

Applicant has completed the system design and obtained a signed construction contract. In addition, the design plans for the new AC disconnect was obtained on December 3, 2012. Construction has begun. Applicant is requesting this additional three weeks primarily as a result of these unforeseen delays. While construction was originally expected to commence on October 1, 2012, due to the factors discussed above, it actually began on December 3, 2012. This was nearly a nine week delay. Using the three weeks that were previously built into the schedule along with the three week extension in this request will allow for a similar construction period.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Philomath School District's request for an extension of three weeks from their existing January 7, 2013 installation deadline until January 31, 2013 be approved.