

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: May 3, 2016

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE May 3, 2016

DATE: April 26, 2016

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Michael Breish MB

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Mike Dougherty

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by Barry Beddor 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 Barry Beddor to waive the 12-month deadline to install the 10 kW solar photovoltaic (SPV) system under Portland General Electric's (PGE) Solar Photovoltaic Pilot Program by an additional 30 days, to June 15, 2016.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether Barry Beddor established good cause supporting his request for a waiver of the 12-month capacity reservation for his 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.”

Analysis and Recommendation

Barry Beddor, the project developer and project site owner, requests a deadline extension of his 10 kW SPV system he is installing on the home he just successfully purchased. The project is located in the city of Newberg. All required documentation has been submitted, permitting has been completed, and the system is constructed. Due to delays from miscommunications between the mortgage company and the loan underwriter as well as from the home constructor, the SPV system may not be completed by the deadline of May 15, 2016. The Commission received this request on April 7, 2016.

Mr. Beddor explained extensively over a phone call with Staff on April 18, 2016 that two separate matters led to delays in successfully installing and operating his SPV system by the 12-month deadline. First, the underwriter of the loan mischaracterized Mr. Beddor's switch from a construction loan to a home ownership loan as a refinance. This in turned caused the underwriter to cancel requests from the mortgage company three times because of this miscommunication in the status of the financial instrument. Additionally, Mr. Beddor stated that since December, the mortgage company has continually lost important paperwork, further delaying the financial process. As for the construction contractor delays, Mr. Beddor explained that some standard issues regarding supplies and timing kept the house from achieving its original construction date which was used in planning of the SPV system. Mr. Beddor now owns the home but only very recently moved in at the time of the phone call. He therefore wants to make sure he has enough time to accommodate any last minute hindrances that may arise as well as settle any remaining issues with PGE.

In analyzing for “good cause,” Staff's primary considerations were Mr. Beddor's completed SPV system, completed documentation, and the candid and thorough explanation of the circumstances.

Recommendation

Based on this analysis, Staff recommends the waiver request be granted.

Docket No. UM 1538 (Solar VIR Waiver)
April 26, 2016
Page 3

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

The request by Barry Beddor to waive the 12-month installation requirement for the SPV system under PGE's Solar Photovoltaic Pilot Program be granted, and the deadline be extended until June 15, 2016.

Ca15-UM 1538 Beddor VIR waiver request