

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: April 1, 2014**

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE April 1, 2014

DATE: March 21, 2014

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Adam Bless *AB*

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

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the Commission grant the request by Dynamic Power Innovation to extend the deadline to install a solar photovoltaic system (SPV) under the Portland General Electric (PGE) Solar Incentive Program by one month, to May 14, 2014.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Dynamic Power Innovation (DPI) requests a waiver of the deadline for installation of a solar photovoltaic system (SPV) under the PGE Solar Incentive Program on behalf of its client, Woodburn Fast Service, Inc. The project was enrolled in the program in April 2013, with an installation deadline of April 14, 2014. DPI requests one additional month, which would make the new deadline May 14, 2014.

Rule

The applicable rule is OAR 860-084-0210(1), which states that a capacity reservation expires if the system has not been installed within 12 months of the reservation start date, unless a waiver is granted under OAR 860-084-0000(3). The evaluation criteria set forth in OAR 860-084-0000(3) for waiver of Division 84 rules is "good cause" shown. The Commission has discretion to determine what constitutes "good cause."

Analysis

In this case, the applicant is a gas station. The SPV installation is part of a larger reconstruction of the entire station, timed to coincide with construction of a new highway overpass. Delays in construction of the overpass delayed progress on the SPV installation. DPI has acquired and paid for the required engineering, submitted the required interconnection agreement to PGE, and applied for all of the required local building and electrical permits. DPI has secured the solar panels and inverters and ordered parts for the racking. Delays in delivery of the racking have delayed the final project installation schedule. DPI states that they may still meet their original deadline, but requests an additional 30 days to make sure.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The project is very nearly complete, and the delays in highway construction and parts delivery are outside the applicant's control. DPI is requesting only a short extension and appears very likely to complete the project by the new deadline. These facts constitute good cause for a waiver of the rule. I recommend granting the new date of May 14, 2014, as requested.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

The request by DPI to waive the 12-month installation requirement for the SPV system under PGE's Solar Incentive Program be granted and the deadline extended to May 14, 2014.