

ITEM NO. CA11

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 23, 2012

REGULAR \_\_\_\_\_ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE October 23, 2012

DATE: October 1, 2012

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Robert J. Procter

*MG for BP*

*J*

*MG*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Maury Galbraith

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 pursuant to OAR 860-084-0210(1).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**DISCUSSION:**

Philomath School District (District) requests a waiver to its installation deadline for their 93.12 kW project due to two primary factors. In 2011, Real Energy Solutions completed a solar feasibility study for the District that included a recommendation to identify a partner/investor that would enable the District to leverage its financial resources. After many months, it became apparent to the District that it would be difficult to secure project funding. As a consequence, the District had to pursue alternative financing to complete the installation. That financing has been secured and this solar project is one component of a complex, multi-phase \$20 million school renovation project.

The solar installation had to be coordinated with the scope of the entire project and was phased near the end of the construction. The Applicant is requesting the extension to January 7, 2013 now as a precautionary move.

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The expected completion date is December 15, 2012. The three weeks between December 15 and January 7, 2013 reflects a cushion against schedule slippage. This cushion is requested on the advice of Commission staff who recommended building in this time now so as to avoid coming to the Commission a second time should the target completion date of December 15, 2012 not be met.

**PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

Applicant's request for waiver of the 12-month installation requirement be granted and the deadline be extended to January 7, 2013.