

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: June 24, 2014

REGULAR \_\_\_\_\_ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE June 24, 2014

DATE: June 16, 2014

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Adam Bless 

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer, Maury Galbraith, and Aster Adams  

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by Solar Universe for a waiver of the requirement to file an interconnection application within two months for a solar photovoltaic system installation under the Solar Photovoltaic Pilot Program, pursuant to OAR 860-084-0210(1).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

I recommend the Commission grant the request by Solar Universe to waive the Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Pilot Program requirement to file an interconnection application within two months of the reservation start date, with a new deadline of June 30, 2014.

**DISCUSSION:**

Issue

Solar Universe requests a waiver of the SPV pilot program requirement to file a completed interconnection application within two months of the reservation start date. Solar Universe makes this request for a project that was enrolled in the Portland General Electric solar pilot program with a reservation start date of December 18, 2013. The only waiver requested is for submittal of the interconnection application. Solar Universe is not requesting any extension of the one-year deadline to complete the project. The Commission received this request on May 22, 2014.

Rule

The applicable rule is OAR 860-084-0210(1), which states that a capacity reservation expires if a completed interconnection application is not filed within two 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

Solar Universe failed to submit the interconnection application within two months of the December 18, 2013 capacity reservation start date. The reason given is simple oversight. Solar Universe states that it has managed 20 previous installations under the SPV pilot program and has not previously missed any pilot program deadlines. Solar Universe’s client has installed a new roof and is updating his electrical service, in preparation for the solar installation. Solar Universe states that it can submit the completed interconnection application within one week, and can definitely complete the project within the 12-month installation deadline if this waiver is granted.

In analyzing for “good cause,” my primary consideration was the likelihood that the project will be completed by the original December 2014 deadline. Solar Universe’s previous history indicates that the project can be completed by that date, even with the late filing of the interconnection application.

#### Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on Solar Universe’s past experience with the SPV pilot program and its confidence that it can finish the project with no further waivers, I recommend granting the requested waiver, and requiring that Solar Universe file the interconnection application by June 30, 2014.

#### **PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

The request by Solar Universe to waive the Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Pilot Program requirement to file an interconnection application within two months of the reservation start date be granted, with a new deadline of June 30, 2014.