



June 21, 2011

Oregon Public Utilities Commission
550 Capitol Street NE #215
P.O. Box 2148
Salem, OR 97308-2148

Re: **Request for waiver of 12-month installation requirement (OAR 860-084-0210)**
Skakel Residence: 1550 State Rd., Mosier, OR. Project Tracking #: 5479982.

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been working with David and Katie Skakel for approximately 5 years to install PV panels at their residence in Mosier, Oregon. We respectfully submit that the Skakels should be granted a 90-day extension based on these extraordinary cumulative factors, amidst the Skakel's good-faith effort to move this project forward as soon as possible:

1. Project financing delayed due to error by prior lender,
2. Project delayed briefly due to unexpected passing of project lead (Tod LeFevre, co-owner, Common Energy LLC),
3. Project land-use review delayed due to County planning staff shortage and extensive National Scenic Area review requirement,
4. Payback of the Skakel's loan, which affords the solar installation, relies upon anticipated revenue from their OSIP agreement.

Upon receiving notification that their application had been approved to participate in Pacific Power OSIP, we immediately formulated a plan to secure financing for the project. Enclosed is a brief letter from Mike Ellsworth, Directors Mortgage, Inc., confirming Skakel's earliest and sustained attempt to secure financing.

The Skakels signed the closing documents on June 15, 2011 for the refinancing of their home which will provide the funding for the PV project. The Skakel residence is located in the boundaries of the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area which requires a special review by Wasco County Planning Department in The Dalles, Oregon. We submitted the Skakel application with the Planning Department on June 16, 2011, requiring a \$1071.00 processing fee. The minimum processing time is 90 days and the maximum processing time is 150 days for the review. Upon approval from the planning department, we will

submit the required plans to the Wasco County Building Department in The Dalles, Oregon for a permit to construct the PV array. We have been informed this process, building department review, will take approximately 2 weeks.

Our Capacity Reservation Start Date was 10/04/2010. Assuming conservative process times for the planning and building reviews, we will have our permission from Wasco County to proceed with the installation of PV array at the Skakel residence by 12/01/2011. Unfortunately, our required completion date is 10/04/2011. We are installing two pole mounted dual axis tracking systems approximately 200' from the Skakel residence. We will need approximately 6 weeks to receive delivery of all materials and complete the proposed installation.

The required time to process the securing of financing through Directors Mortgage, Inc. and obtaining Wasco County Planning and Building Department approvals is not something the Skakels have been able to control. They have provided the required information for all submittals in an expedited manner understanding how critical the timing is to satisfy the established deadline.

Based on the ability of the Commission to waive the 12-month requirement per OAR 860-084-000 (3), we are requesting a **90 day extension for an installed deadline of 1/ 4/2011.**

Thank you for taking the time to review our request and if you have any questions please contact us @ 541-490-8255 or e-mail scott@commonenergy.net.

Sincerely,

Scott Sorensen, Owner
Common Energy LLC

DIRECTORS.

Mortgage Inc.



Locally owned, environmentally friendly

To whom it may concern,

David and Katherine Skakel originally applied for their mortgage loan on October 15th 2010. Due circumstances beyond their control their loan was delayed and did not close until June 15th of 2011. There were several issues that caused this loan to be delayed. The appraisal was sent to review because of the lack of comparable sales in the Mosier area. The underwriter conditioned for a full field review, which took several weeks to complete. After this issue was resolved the loan was delayed by a title issue that was caused by their previous lender. Their lender did not include David's name on the title even though he was on the loan and should have been on the title when the loan closed. This issue took several months to resolve and the loan had to be re-submitted with the new title information. It should be noted that none of these delays were the fault of the borrowers and they were quite prompt in providing all documentation needed to complete their loan. They had every intent to close it sooner. If you have any questions about this loan, please call me anytime as I am happy to provide further details if needed.

Sincerely,

Mike Ellsworth
Senior loan officer



Directors Mortgage Inc. — Hood River
116 3rd Street Suite 217 • Hood River, Oregon 97031
Office 541.436.2662 • Fax 541.436.2672 • www.directorsmortgage.net

OR ML1434, WA 510 MB1595 03, CA 606-0261, ID 981-3966, Huz Mortgage 15697-020-9



On 6/22/2011 6:20 AM, Dawn Baird wrote:

Hi, Scott,

I didn't get a chance to do this yesterday afternoon; better late than never!

In response to yesterday's query regarding the timeline for Skakels' review, my estimate is that it will take a **minimum** of 3 months from the date of submittal of the application (June 16, 2011) to complete this review. There are various reasons for this:

1. The property is in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area which requires pre-notification of the request to agencies, property owners, and four Indian tribes, post-notification to same and a 15 day appeal period upon issuance of a decision. In other words, this alone makes it take longer.
2. We currently have around 24 applications that we are processing, and only two planners to do it. The two planners are also answering incoming phone calls, talking to people who come into the office, responding to e-mails, etc., so report-writing time is quite limited. We are currently trying to fill an Associate Planner vacancy and that will help, but it all takes time.

We are definitely sympathetic to your timeline and will do our best to get it done as quickly as possible, but the reality is that it will likely take at least three months.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

--

Dawn Baird, Associate Planner
Wasco County Planning & Development

dawnb@co.wasco.or.us

541-506-2560

541-506-2561 (FAX)

Scott,

6/23/2011

State law says that a county has 150 days to issue a final decision. This would include any appeal to the Planning Commission or Board of Commissioners. However, even though this law is not applicable in the National Scenic Area, we try to meet this timeline.

The Planning Department is in a unique situation right now. We are understaffed. We're fixing that but it doesn't happen overnight. In addition, you submitted the application on June 16th, the busiest time of the year. When people ask me how long a Scenic Area Review takes, I say 3 months. The NSA Management Plan requires a minimum of SIX weeks just for notification and appeal periods to run. I know it's frustrating to you that I can't just say when it will be done, but there are a lot of factors involved. We review applications in the order in which they are received. If you are #20 on a list of 24, and only two planners are writing reports, it's going to take a while. Some reports take a week or more to write, others a couple of hours. It's impossible to know in advance how long each will take. A lot of it depends on how many interruptions the planner has.

Other than addressing all of the pertinent ordinance criteria and submitting written findings, there's nothing you can do. Even that would only shave a week, at most, off of the process.

Sorry I can't be more optimistic,

Dawn