

ITEM NO. CA3

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: March 4, 2014

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE March 4, 2014

DATE: February 24, 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 Christenson Electric, Inc. and Bella Vida Vineyard 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 Christenson Electric to extend the 12-month deadline to install a solar photovoltaic system (SPV) under the Portland General Electric Solar Payment Option Program at Bella Vida Vineyard by two months, to June 15, 2014.

DISCUSSION:

On February 3, 2014, Christenson Electric requested a waiver of the 12-month deadline for installation of a SPV system at Bella Vida Vineyard under the Portland General Electric Solar Payment Option Program. The current deadline is April 15, 2014. Christenson Electric requests an extension of two months, to June 15, 2014.

In his waiver request, Alan Hickenbottom of Christenson Electric states that his client, Stephen Whiteside of Bella Vida Vineyard, has his primary business in Arizona and over the past year has had limited availability to review the system design with Christenson Electric. However, Mr. Whiteside has now approved the final design and paid 25 percent of the total system cost. The interconnection application was filed with the utility and approved with the required 60 days of the date the project received its capacity reservation.

All of the necessary hardware is on order. Christenson Electric has applied for the necessary electrical and building permits and expects no problem receiving them.

Docket No, UM 1538 (Christenson Electric waiver request)
February 24, 2014
Page 2

Christenson Electric has installed over a dozen SPV systems at wineries in Yamhill County, with only one previous deadline extension request, and expects no further delays with this one. Mr. Hickenbottom states that he can most likely complete the installation within the original April deadline, but feels it is prudent to make this request.

Conclusion

The amount of work and money invested to date, good progress towards completion, and the installer's good previous track record of on-time completion are good cause to support a waiver. I recommend approval of the waiver as requested.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Christenson Electric's request for waiver of the 12-month installation requirement for its SPV system at Bella Vida Vineyard under Portland General Electric's Solar Payment Option Program be granted and the deadline extended to June 15, 2014.