

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 25, 2012

REGULAR \_\_\_\_\_ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE September 25, 2012

DATE: September 17, 2012

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Robert J. Procter *MEG RP*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Maury Galbraith *J MGF*

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by Rick Post of Energy Wise Lighting on behalf of PGPV LLC 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 Rick Post and extend the installation deadline to December 31, 2012

**DISCUSSION:**

Energy Wise Lighting (Applicant) was awarded a number of capacity reservations under the Solar Photovoltaic Pilot Program (Pilot) in October 2011. Of the various awards to the Applicant, they are requesting a three-month extension for the nine projects listed below.

1. Travis Sheffield, 10kW
2. Cascade Christian School, 100kw
3. First Baptist Church, 100kw
4. Medford Congregational UCC, 10kw
5. First United Methodist Church, 10kw
6. Evangelical Free Church, 10kw
7. Life Path Church of Nazarene, 10kw
8. Mt. Angel #4 St. Mary's Elementary, 10kw
9. Apostolic Faith Church, 100kW

Applicant has encountered delays and unanticipated reductions in their 1603 grant awards from the U.S. Treasury. Applicant relies heavily upon those funds to finance projects, and the result has been a slow-down in their rigorous installation schedule. Despite this setback, during the last year they've managed to install over 1.5 MW of project under this program.

Applicant focused their resources on completing roof-mounted solar projects at the Greater Albany Public School District, since those installations needed to be finished during the summer months. That caused them to slow down their other installation schedules and resulted in a shortfall in their cash flow.

In response to staff requests for information on their plan to complete the installation of the nine projects included in their extension request, Application submitted the following project installation timelines.

| Project Name                                   | Utility | Target Completion Date |
|--|---------|------------------------|
| Apostolic Church                               | PGE     | 11/21/12               |
| Cascade Christian High School                  | PPL     | 11/16/12               |
| Evangelical Free Church                        | PPL     | 11/08/12               |
| First Baptist Church                           | PPL     | 10/26/12               |
| First United Methodist Church                  | PPL     | 11/04/12               |
| Life Path Church of the Nazarene               | PPL     | 11/05/12               |
| Medford Congregational United Church of Christ | PPL     | 10/31/12               |
| St. Mary's Elementary                          | PGE     | 11/21/12               |
| Travis Sheffield                               | PGE     | 11/19/12               |

Staff has reviewed Energy Wise Lighting's waiver request and finds that the delay in installing the nine solar projects is largely due to factors outside the Applicant's control. Staff recommends the Commission grant the waiver request and extend the installation deadline for the nine projects to December 31, 2012.

**PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

Applicant's request for waiver of the 12-month installation requirement be granted and the deadline be extended to December 31, 2012.