

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: January 25, 2022**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE January 26, 2022

DATE: January 17, 2022

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Joe Abraham

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, JP Batmale, and Sarah Hall **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF:
(Docket No. UM 1930)
Proposes Certification extension for pre-certified project in Community Solar Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC or Commission) should accept recommendation of the Program Administrator (PA) of the Community Solar Program (CSP or Program) to grant a Certification extension for one project.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should extend the period for Certification for one Community Solar Program project.

Applicable Rule or Law

Section 22 of Senate Bill (SB) 1547, effective March 8, 2016, and codified in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 757.386, directs the OPUC to establish a community solar program.

On June 29, 2017, the Commission adopted formal rules for Oregon's Community Solar Program under Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Division 88 of Chapter 860.

OAR 860-088-0040(5) articulates that a project remains pre-certified for a period of 18 months, unless granted an extension by Commission order.

Section 4.7.1 of the CSP Program Implementation Manual (PIM) indicates a Project Manager's (PM) request for an extension of the Certification deadline must be approved by OPUC via a pre-certification amendment.

Analysis

Background

The Commission has pre-certified the following project.¹

Project Name	Name of PM	Utility Territory	Project Size (kW-AC)	Status	Extension Requested	Attachment
Jim and Salle's Place Apartments	ROSE Community Development	PGE	40	pre-certified 04/21/20	58 days	A

Extension of Timeline for Certification

Extending the timeline for project Certification is considered a project amendment pursuant to the Program Implementation Manual (PIM) and requires PMs to submit a written request that is reviewed by the Program Administrator (PA) and approved by the Commission.² Staff recommends granting this project with an extension of the timeline for completion of Certification conditions. Rationale for Staff's recommendation is provided below.

The PA evaluates extension requests on a case-by-case basis based on the circumstance of the project, but also takes care to offer equitable treatment across projects. The PA appreciates the challenges caused to projects by the COVID-19 pandemic and supports granting an extension of up to six months for any project manager that can credibly demonstrate delay due to COVID-19.

Certification Deadline Extension Request

The PM has submitted an extension request for the project listed in the table above and discussed below.

¹ Order No. 20-137. Request to pre-certify Community Solar Projects.
<https://apps.puc.state.or.us/orders/2020ords/20-137.pdf>.

² Program Implementation Manual, p. 70 (updated Jan 11, 2022).

i. Jim and Salle's Place Project

The Project Manager, ROSE Community Development (ROSE CDC), has requested a 58-day Certification deadline extension from January 1, 2022 to February 28, 2022 (see Attachment A). Jim & Salle's Place Project is a 40 kW project located in Portland in Multnomah County, in PGE's service area. The project was pre-certified on April 21, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of October 21, 2021. The Project's Certification deadline was extended in Order No. 21-388 to January 1, 2022, and the PM is requesting an additional extension of its Certification deadline until February 28, 2022.

ROSE CDC's original extension was intended to provide time to complete project construction after receiving funding that allowed the project to realize its plans to enroll low-income residents to 100 percent of project capacity and offer deeply discounted subscriptions to subscribers. ROSE CDC has now completed project construction, and requests additional time to complete utility interconnection and to collect utility information for all subscribers.

The PA considers project amendment requests on a case-by-case basis, taking the circumstances of the request into account. In this case, the PA continues to support providing flexibility for the initial small and non-profit-led projects enrolling in the Program. The PA also notes that the project initially requested an extension of ten weeks, which is much shorter than the extensions of up to six months recently granted to other projects in the Program. The PA would have supported a longer first extension had it been requested at the time. Combined, the project's two extension requests amount to less than a five-month extension. For these reasons, the PA supports granting the project extension.

Conclusion

Staff agrees with the analysis of the PA and recommends the Commission approve the project Certification extension for the project discussed above.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Accept the recommendation of Staff and the PA to grant the amendment extending the timeline for project Certification.



ROSE Community Development
Jim & Salle's Community Solar Project

12/14/2021

To Oregon Community Solar:

ROSE Community Development is requesting an extension for certification for the Jim & Salle's Community Solar Program. The installation of the panels has been completed, and we are in process of submitting participants for LIF and PA review. ROSE and the CSP are working to collect PGE meter numbers for five participants.

We are also awaiting communication from PGE to receive inspection approval. SunBridge Solar submitted the inspection approval and confirmation on 12/2/2021, and we are waiting for PGE to install the new meter for the new service in order for the system to begin producing.

Our new timeline to complete the project and be ready for certification will be February 28th, 2022.

Please direct questions to Jami LeBaron, Community Development Manager for ROSE CDC, or Nick Sauvie, Executive Director for ROSE CDC, at nick@rosecdc.org.

Sincerely,

Jami LeBaron
ROSE Community Development