

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: May 16, 2024

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE May 17, 2024

DATE: May 6, 2024

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Benedikt Springer

THROUGH: JP Batmale and Sarah Hall **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF:
(Docket No. UM 1930)
Certification of the Solar Harvest project in the Community Solar Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Certify the Solar Harvest project in the Community Solar Program.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) should certify the Solar Harvest project in the Community Solar Program.

Applicable Rule or Law

Section 22 of Senate Bill 1547, codified in ORS 757.386, directs the Commission to establish a community solar program (hereinafter referred to as "Program," or "CSP").

On June 29, 2017, the Commission adopted formal rules for the Program under OAR Division 88 of Chapter 860. OAR 860-088-0050 details the requirements for project Certification.

Section 5.2 of the CSP Program Implementation Manual (PIM) outlines the information and documentation that projects must submit to the CSP Program Administrator (PA) as part of the Certification application.

Analysis

Background

A Project Manager (PM) registered with CSP may submit applications for project Certification to the PA. As required by OAR 860-088-0050(3), the PA reviews applications for compliance with Program requirements and recommends projects for Certification by the Commission. Certification is an important stage gate for CSP projects. Receiving Certification means that the project meets all Program requirements and can proceed to commercial operation.

The PA received a Certification application from Solar Harvest on April 9, 2024. After reviewing the application and supporting documentation provided by the PM, the PA has recommended that the Commission certify the project in the Program. See the Certification Recommendation Form in Attachment A.

Recommended Project

Project Name	Name of Project Manager	Utility Territory	Project Size (kW-AC)	Attachment #
Solar Harvest	Oregon Clean Power Cooperative	PGE	300	Attachment A

Solar Harvest is a 300 kW-AC project in Aurora, Oregon in Clackamas County. Solar Harvest is an agrivoltaics research project developed with Oregon State University on land controlled by the university. Outreach and customer management are conducted by Oregon Clean Power Cooperative.

The project was Pre-Certified with Tier 1 Program capacity on October 10, 2022, and had an original Certification deadline of April 10, 2024. The PM submitted necessary Certification paperwork to the PA prior to the project's Certification deadline. The PA completed its review on April 16, 2024, and recommends Certification in CSP. While this timeline has led Staff to recommend the Commission certify the project after its Certification deadline, Staff and the PA have no concerns with certifying the project at this time. The Program considers that projects submitting Certification applications to the PA by the deadline to have met the deadline, while PA and Staff may require additional time to review applications for recommendation to the Commission.¹

¹ Staff has previously utilized this approach. See UM 1930, [Order No. 21-321](#), October 6, 2021.

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Conclusion

Staff has discussed the project application with the PA and reviewed CSP requirements. Staff supports the PA's recommendation that the Commission approve Solar Harvest's Certification in the Program.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Certify the Solar Harvest project in the Community Solar Program.

UM 1930 CSP Project Certification



Project Certification Review and Recommendation

The Oregon Community Solar Program Administrator (PA) has reviewed the certification request of the project described below and recommends that the project be Certified.

Project Information

Project ID: PGE-2022-148

Project Name: Solar Harvest

Project Manager: Oregon Clean Power Cooperative

Subscription Manager: Oregon Clean Power Cooperative

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 15210 NE Miley Rd. Aurora, OR 97002

Project Size (kW-AC): 300

Carveout-eligible: Yes, the Project Manager is a Renewable Energy Cooperative

Date of Pre-Certification: 10/10/2022

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 05/15/2024

Project Description

Solar Harvest is a 300 kW-AC project in Aurora, Oregon in Clackamas County. Solar Harvest is an agrivoltaics research project developed with Oregon State University on land controlled by the university. Outreach and customer management are conducted by Oregon Clean Power Cooperative.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 04/16/2024

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

No special comments.

Attachments Included

No attachments.