BEFORE THE

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

Investigation Into Qualifying Facility Contracting and Pricing JOINT RESPONSE IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION BY THE COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION, ONEENERGY, INC., AND RENEWABLE NORTHWEST PROJECT	IN THE MATTER THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON) CASE NO. UM 1610
	Investigation Into Qualifying Facility Contracting and Pricing	REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION BY THE COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION,

The Community Renewable Energy Association, OneEnergy, Inc., and Renewable Northwest Project (the "Joint Renewable Parties)" hereby respectfully submit this Response in Support of Obsidian Renewables LLC's ("Obsidian") Motion for Clarification.

Almost three years ago, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") issued its landmark determination that a state could implement a multi-tiered avoided cost rate, and thereby provide eligible QFs with a rate that takes into "account actual procurement requirements, and resulting costs, imposed on utilities" by state law. *Cal. Pub. Util. Commn.*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,059, P 26 (2010), rehearing denied, 134 FERC ¶ 61,044 (2011). The Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("OPUC") promptly issued a *sua sponte* request for comments on whether the OPUC should implement FERC's order. *In re Public Utility Commission of Oregon: Investigation Into Resource Sufficiency Pursuant to Order No. 06-538*, OPUC Docket No. UM 1396, Order No. 10-488, 9 (2010). Then, over a year and half ago, in December 2011, the OPUC "require[d] PGE and Pacific Power to file proposed renewable resource avoided costs, with supporting testimony and work papers." *In re Public Utility Commission of Oregon: Investigation Into Resource Sufficiency Pursuant to Order No. 06-538*, OPUC Docket No. UM 1396, Order No.

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11-505, 11 (2011). The OPUC further directed that the "filings and rate calculations will be subject to evidentiary hearings, wherein parties will have the opportunity to review the material, conduct discovery, and propose changes." *Id.* The utilities' compliance filings have languished since that time because they were swept into the larger UM 1610 docket.

Issues regarding calculation of the renewable rates have now been addressed. Further delay in making the renewable rates available until after Phase II is unwarranted. Although additional contracting policies may change in Phase II, the OPUC regularly makes the utilities' QF schedules and rates available for those QFs wishing to obligate themselves to the existing policies notwithstanding the fact that the policies are under examination. *See, e.g.*, Order No. 12-146 at 2 (noting prices and terms of contracts entered into during processing of UM 1610 will not change even if policies change in UM 1610). In Docket No. UM 1129, the OPUC also conducted its investigation of electric utility purchases from qualifying facilities in two phases. At the conclusion of Phase I, the OPUC ordered the utilities to make rate filings in conformance with its Phase I final order (Order No. 05-584). *In re Staff's Investigation into Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities*, OPUC Docket No. UM 1129, Order No. 05-899 (2005). It ordered that, notwithstanding unresolved issues to be addressed in Phase II, the rate filings be allowed to take effect. *Id.* at 3. Consistent with OPUC precedent, the renewable rate should be made available at the conclusion of Phase I.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 29th day of July 2013.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 29th day of July, 2013, a true and correct copy of the within and foregoing **RESPONSE IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION BY THE COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION, ONEENERGY, INC., AND RENEWABLE NORTHWEST PROJECT** was served as shown to:

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