

ORDER NO. 12 128

ENTERED APR 10 2012

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1538

In the Matter of

CHRISTENSON ELECTRIC on behalf of
GRAND CENTRAL BAKERY,

Request for Waiver of the 12-month Solar
Photovoltaic System Installation Requirement
under OAR 860-084-0210(1).

ORDER

DISPOSITION: STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED

At its Public Meeting on April 10, 2012, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter, attached as Appendix A.

BY THE COMMISSION:



Becky L. Beier

Becky L. Beier
Commission Secretary

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480 through 183.484.

ITEM NO. 5

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: April 10, 2012**

REGULAR X CONSENT _____ EFFECTIVE DATE April 10, 2012

DATE: April 2, 2012

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Moshrek Sobhy *MS*

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, Maury Galbraith, and Lori Koho *JK*

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF:
(Docket No. UM 1538) Request by Christenson Electric on behalf of Grand Central Bakery 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 Christenson Electric and Grand Central Bakery's waiver request and extend the 12-month installation requirement to May 12, 2012.

DISCUSSION:

Portland General Electric (PGE) awarded Grand Central Bakery (G.C. Bakery) a capacity reservation during the April 2011 enrollment period to install a 10 kW Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) system. Christenson Electric (Christenson) is requesting a waiver of the 12-month installation requirement for the proposed SPV system on behalf of its client G.C. Bakery and to extend the installation deadline from April 12, 2012, to May 12, 2012.

Christenson states that while it is endeavoring to complete the installation of its client's system within the existing deadline, a limited one-time extension for 30 days is prudent. This extension will be helpful in the event of delays due to the building and permitting process in the City of Portland or inclement weather conditions. Also, Christenson states that G.C. Bakery was interested in installing a larger system in the event the results of the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) rulemaking process were favorable. Additionally, unanticipated structural upgrades to the roof were required to accommodate the installation of the roof-mounted system.

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In support of the request, Christenson provided documentation showing the following work was completed:

- Interconnection application with PGE
- System Design
- Structural engineering review
- Building and electrical permit applications

OAR 860-084-0000(3) provides:

“The Commission may waive any of the rules contained in Division 084 for good cause.”

Staff does not consider a delay caused by G.C. Bakery’s desire to consider the installation of a larger system under BETC as “good cause” for a waiver. PGE awarded the capacity reservation based on G.C. Bakery’s application. Staff is unaware of a process under the current rule that allows increasing the size of the original system after the capacity reservation had been awarded. Nevertheless, Christenson ascertained G.C. Bakery’s commitment to install the system within the existing deadline, which is demonstrated by the activities G.C. Bakery took to install the system. In addition, Staff recognizes that inclement weather and the City of Portland’s permitting process could potentially delay the system’s installation.

Based on this information, Staff agrees that the unforeseen structural issue, the possibility of delay due to inclement weather and/or the permitting process constitute “good cause” for the waiver. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission grant the waiver and extend the installation deadline to May 12, 2012, on a one-time only basis.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Christenson’s request for waiver of the 12-month installation requirement be granted and the installation deadline be extended to May 12, 2012.

UM 1538.Christenson Elec. (G.C. Bakery)