

ORDER NO. 12 491

ENTERED DEC 18 2012

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1538

In the Matter of

SOLTERRA SYSTEMS

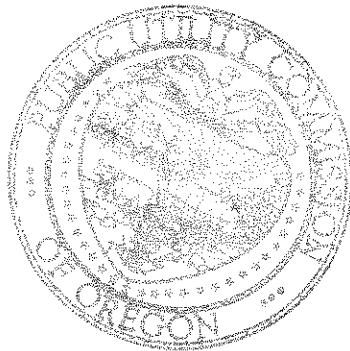
Request for waiver of the 12-month solar photovoltaic system installation requirement per OAR 860-084-0210(1) and the 60-day deadline for filing the interconnection request per OAR 860-084-0000.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED

At its Public Meeting on December 18, 2012, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter. The Staff Report with the recommendation is 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.

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: December 18, 2012**

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE December 18, 2012

DATE: December 10, 2012

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Robert J. Procter *RP*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Maury Galbraith *ME MG*

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by SolTerra for a waiver of the 12 month solar photovoltaic system installation requirement pursuant to OAR 860-084-0210(1) and the 60-day deadline for filing the interconnection request pursuant to OAR 860-084-0000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission grant the waiver request to SolTerra Systems and extend both the installation deadline and the interconnection request filing deadline to December 31, 2012.

DISCUSSION:

SolTerra Systems (Applicant) was awarded a capacity reservation under the Solar Photovoltaic Pilot Program (Pilot) by Portland General Electric (PGE) on October 14, 2011. Since receiving that award, when engineering and design was completed, SolTerra Systems discovered the need to provide structural upgrades to the building, primarily for the support of an ecoroof. The customer agreed to the structural upgrades as long as they could be completed on nights and weekends so as to not affect normal business operations. SolTerra Systems agreed, but the timeline for the project changed and the structural upgrades and roofing happened during the summer and fall as weather permitted.

OAR 860-084-0000(3) provides:

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

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Applicant has completed the system design, obtained a signed contract, purchased the solar panels, and additional design work on the mounting system. Applicant is ready to complete the installation immediately upon receiving notice that this extension request has been approved. Applicant has also been in contact with PGE regarding missing the deadline for filing the Interconnection Request. Staff has also separately contacted PGE to discuss whether the capacity is still available and whether PGE will allow the Applicant to interconnect with the PGE system. PGE supports the Applicant moving forward with the installation and interconnection. Despite the fact that SolTerra knew about the 60-day deadline for filing the interconnection request, there were extenuating circumstances that they have been proactive in solving. They have also proactively worked with PGE to resolve that issue. Based on SolTerra's actions to remedy these issues, work with PGE, and work constructively with Staff, SolTerra has demonstrated good cause for the waiver.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

SolTerra Systems' request for an extension of both the 12-month installation deadline, and the 60-day deadline for submitting the Interconnection Request, until December 31, 2012 be approved.

UM1538