

ORDER NO. 13 286

ENTERED AUG 06 2013

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON

UM 1538

In the Matter of

SOLWATT, LLC,

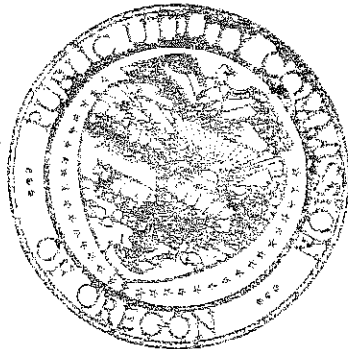
Request for Waiver of the 12-month Solar
Photovoltaic System Installation Requirement
under OAR 860-084-0210(1).

ORDER

DISPOSITION: STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED

At its public meeting on August 6, 2013, 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: August 6, 2013**

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE August 6, 2013

DATE: July 30, 2013

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: John Crider *JC*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer, Maury Galbraith and Aster Adams *MG AA*

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by Solwatt, LLC, 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 the waiver request to Solwatt Solar, LLC, and extend the installation deadline to January 12, 2014.

DISCUSSION:

The customer was awarded a winning bid on October 12, 2012, for a solar photovoltaic (SPV) generating system through Pacific Power's Oregon Solar Incentive Program (OSIP), the Pacific Power (Company) implementation of the Oregon Solar Volumetric Incentive Rate (VIR) program.

As reported by the customer, there was a prolonged utility interconnection approval process which delayed the date of initial project construction for four months. According to PacifiCorp, the Solwatt interconnection review was lengthened for two reasons. First, the circuit the PV system is to be interconnected to is heavily saturated with customer owned generation. Circuits with high penetration require a greater level of review. Second, to further complicate the review process a project with a higher queue position on the same circuit was received prior to the Solwatt interconnection application. The new project had to be reviewed first before it could be determined what would be required for Solwatt.

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The customer's solar contractor initially filed an application for interconnection on October 31, 2012 and the Company finally completed and approved the interconnection review on March 19, 2013.

As a consequence of the extended interconnection process, the remainder of the original construction timeline must be pursued aggressively in order to meet the original installation deadline of October 12, 2013. The contractor's schedule allows no contingency time for potential delays in permitting, materials acquisition and procurement, shipment schedules and construction.

The project contractor believes that a three month extension would provide adequate additional time for managing any contingencies for delay in constructing the project. At present, the contractor estimates that the project will be completed and operational by November 19, 2013. An extension to January 12, 2014 (a three month extension) should allow ample time for managing any unforeseen delays.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Solwatt Solar's request for waiver of the 12-month installation requirement for the SPV system is granted and the deadline extended to January 12, 2014.