

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1854

In the Matter of

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC  
COMPANY,Application to Lower the Standard Price and  
Standard Contract Eligibility Cap for Solar  
Qualifying Facilities.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: MOTION FOR EXTENSION GRANTED; MOTION TO MODIFY  
SOLAR ELIGIBILITY CAP DENIED

On September 21, 2017, Portland General Electric Company (PGE) filed a motion for an extension of time to file its initial monthly report on the progress of its contracting with solar qualifying facilities (QFs). PGE requests that it be allowed to file the initial report, which was due September 1, 2017, on September 29, 2017. PGE states that it currently has approximately 92 solar QF applications in its queue, and that additional time is needed to provide a complete and comprehensive report.

Strata Solar Development, LLC, Community Renewable Energy Association, Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition, and the Renewable Energy Coalition (collectively Joint Parties) oppose PGE's request. The Joint Parties also move for an order modifying the temporary 3 megawatt (MW) solar eligibility cap instituted in Order No. 17-310 because PGE failed to timely file the report.

**RULING**

PGE's motion for an extension of time is granted, and the Joint Parties' motion to modify the 3 MW solar eligibility cap is denied.

As we observed in Order No. 17-310, our role in implementing the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) requires a balancing of interests to create a predictable regulatory structure for QFs while ensuring that electric utilities' power purchases from QFs do not exceed the utilities' avoided costs.<sup>1</sup> Balancing those interests in that order, we granted PGE's request to reduce the eligibility cap for solar QFs to 3 MW to protect ratepayers, but delayed the effective date for the requested relief until July 14, 2017, to

<sup>1</sup> Order No. 17-310 at 7 (Aug 18, 2017).

provide developers some degree of advanced notice of the proposed change. We also required PGE to provide reports at the beginning of each month on the progress of the contracting process with solar QFs.

We find good cause to modify that reporting requirement and allow PGE to file its initial report on September 29, 2017. As PGE explains, it is currently processing 92 applications from solar QFs. Moreover, we had not adopted a reporting requirement when granting similar relief to PacifiCorp and Idaho Power, and the date of our order gave PGE just two weeks before the initial report was due. We direct PGE to submit each subsequent report at the end of the month thereafter.


We are not convinced by the Joint Parties' claim that the report's delay will "seriously reduce the scope and usefulness of the data Staff requested."<sup>2</sup> At the outset, we note that Staff supports PGE's request for an extension.<sup>3</sup> In addition, contrary to the Joint Parties' assertion, allowing PGE additional time to prepare a complete and comprehensive report will increase the scope and accuracy of the data reported. Finally, the delay will not detrimentally affect our stated reason for seeking the information—to provide us additional insight into the status of the QF activity that PGE is facing for use in resolving PGE's underlying request for permanent relief.<sup>4</sup>

Given our finding of good cause to extend the reporting timeline set forth in Order No. 17-310, we deny the Joint Parties' motion to modify the 3 MW solar eligibility cap.


IT IS SO ORDERED

Made, entered, and effective SEP 28 2017

  
**Lisa D. Hardie**  
 Chair

  
**Stephen M. Bloom**  
 Commissioner



  
**Megan W. Decker**  
 Commissioner

<sup>2</sup> Joint Parties' Response in Opposition to PGE's Motion for Extension of Time; Joint Parties' Motion to Modify 3 MW Solar Eligibility Cap at 12 (Sep 25, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> PGE's Motion for Extension of Time at 2 (Sep 21, 2017)

<sup>4</sup> Order No. 17-310 at 7.