



Oregon Public Utility Commission
201 High Street SE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-3398

December 16, 2022

Re: UM 1930, Program Implementation Manual (PIM) draft changes

Commissioners Decker, Tawney and Thompson:

Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) appreciates the work of the Public Utility Commission (PUC) Staff and the Program Administrator (PA) to modify the Program Implementation Manual (PIM) in order to be consistent with recent PUC orders. Overall, the changes make needed improvements and our suggestions for additional modifications are minor.

Clarifying Ability of Project Managers and their Agents to Modify Subscriptions on Behalf of Participants

In this section, OSSIA understands from PA staff that when changes are made and a revised/updated contract is sent out to subscribers, that the updated contract does not need to be signed by the subscriber. This is critically important – if contracts need to be resigned after changes are made to the subscription, the program will most certainly lose the majority of subscribers. Please clarify that new contracts do not need to be signed.

Even if updated contracts do not need to be signed, sending out an updated version every time a subscription size is changed will be confusing to subscribers and burdensome to Project Managers (PMs). PMs change subscription sizes as needed in order to prevent the subscriber from being penalized; sometimes that means frequent small changes, if a customer is varying from their historical load. OSSIA suggests that this change be amended to an updated contract only if a subscription size change is over a certain amount, such as 25%. Less frequent notifications to subscribers will help reduce confusion and install more confidence in the program.

In addition, these changes do not clarify how PMs should handle a waitlist. Waitlists are critical for PMs to maintain, not only to have potential subscribers at hand when needed, but they are important for financing projects. When banks have certainty that there are subscribers, they are less likely to require credit checks and OSSIA believes this program should not include credit checks.



Clarifying Applicability of Excess Generation Penalties for Participants

OSSIA agrees that there is a potential loophole that needs to be closed. However, OSSIA would also like to see changes in order to prevent the need to ever use that loophole. PMs currently receive historical data of a subscriber, but only their yearly usage. It would be extremely helpful to receive monthly historical data so that PMs can more easily track if a subscriber may be facing a penalty at the end of the year. Due to the uncertainty of the month a project will officially start operating, it can be challenging to resize subscriptions if a subscriber is using less energy than they have historically.

Lastly, OSSIA would like to echo Arcadia's comments requesting clarification in the PIM that if a participant has previously signed a subscription agreement, that such agreement is still valid provided that the agreement contains all of the required terms that are in the standard contract template.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Crowley-Koch".

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director