



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

May 28, 2021

RE: Docket No. UM 1930 – Community Solar Program PPA Revisions

Dear Chair Decker, Commissioner Tawney and Commissioner Thompson,

The Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) and the Project Managers (PMs) it represents appreciate the work of staff and the Program Administrator in response to comments regarding revisions to the Community Solar PPA. OSSIA agrees with some of the staff recommendations but still has concerns regarding others.

OSSIA appreciates the flexibility recommended by staff to allow Project Managers to provide the as-built plan set after commercial operation and not as a condition for project certification for all projects going forward. We also agree with staff recommendation to change the payee for unsubscribed energy.

However, OSSIA is still concerned with the additional hardship that Project Managers may have to endure, which may be not fault of their own, if they are unable to sell start-up test energy while waiting for utilities and others to fulfil their obligations before the project can become certified.

Timing of Certification is not fully in the control of the Project Manager

A Project Manager may submit everything required in order for their project to become Certified, but the ultimate timing of Certification is out of the Project Manager's control. For example, there are multiple requirements of the Program Administrator and Commission prior to Certification. These include participant verification and agency review and approval. The Program Implementation Manual provides an estimated timeframe for these to occur, but only estimates. If these items, which are outside the control of Project Manager, take longer than expected, the Project Manager faces the possibility that it may not be compensated for some of the start-up test energy it produces.

Utility indifference

As a practical matter, the utilities should be indifferent to buying start-up test energy from a Community Solar Project. Start-up test energy would be compensated at the As-Available Rate. In the case of Portland General Electric, as defined further in Schedule 201, this would equate to an amount equal to 82.4% of the average monthly Mid-C index price. This is not a long-term fixed price contract and does not create an imbalance between the contracted price and the market price of electricity. The As-Available Rate should be more or less equal to what the utility would otherwise be buying electricity for.



We disagree that the utilities are required to purchase start-up test energy indefinitely if a project fails to be certified. The PIM and PPA should be revised to further clarify that a project will ultimately lose its pre-certification status if it does not become certified within a certain period of time. Losing pre-certification status could then be a default event within the PPA, allowing the utilities to terminate the PPA and eliminating the requirement to buy start-up test energy.

While OSSIA appreciates the increase to 120 days during which start-up energy would be purchased, we believe a better option would be to revise the PIM and PPA to clarify certification timelines, rather than hold a generating project in limbo and unable to be compensated for power it produces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Crowley Koch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Angela Crowley Koch
Executive Director