



Program Administrator's Project Recommendation

August 2, 2023

Community Solar Program - Docket No. UM 1930

On January 11, 2022, in Order No. 22-007, the Commission permitted the delegation of Commission authority to the Community Solar Program Administrator (PA) to grant noncontroversial project pre-certifications, waivers, extensions, and amendments. Under the permitted delegation of authority, Staff will post the PA's project recommendation to UM 1930 with a comment period of two weeks. If no comments in opposition are received prior to the end of the comment period, the recommendation will go into effect. If comments in opposition are received prior to the end of the comment period, the recommendation will not go into effect and the matter will be referred to the Commission for a decision at the next available public meeting.

Staff posts the PA's recommendation to grant Certification deadline extensions of fourteen months and fifteen days for the following two projects:

PP-2020-13 (Pilot Rock Solar 1)

PP-2020-71 (Pilot Rock Solar 2)

The PA has reviewed the two project Certification deadline extension requests and has recommended granting the extensions. Those extension requests are included below. Staff finds the PA's recommendations to be noncontroversial and that granting the extensions may be delegated to the PA. Stakeholders in opposition of the PA's recommendations should post comments to UM 1930 by August 16, 2023.

To Submit Public Comment:

Stakeholders can submit written comments on the PA's recommendation by email to puc.filingcenter@puc.oregon.gov. Please email puc.hearings@puc.oregon.gov to be added to the UM 1930 docket service list and receive notifications in the UM 1930 docket.

Joe Abraham
Oregon Public Utility Commission
201 High St. SE
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 428-0699
joseph.abraham@puc.oregon.gov



Project Amendment Review and Recommendation

The Oregon Community Solar Program Administrator (PA) has reviewed the amendment request of the project described below and recommends that the project Certification deadline be extended by 26 months.

Project Information

Project ID: PP-2020-13

Project Name: Pilot Rock Solar 1

Project Manager: Pilot Rock Solar 1, LLC

Subscription Manager: Pilot Rock Solar 1, LLC

Utility Service Area: Pacific Power

Project Site Address: 45°30'19.16"N, 118°49'48.89"W Pilot Rock, Oregon 97868

Project Size (kW-AC): 1,980

Carveout-eligible: No

Current Program Status and Date Achieved: Pre-certified, 3/11/2020

Project Description

Pilot Rock Solar 1 is a 1,980 kW-AC project in Pilot Rock, Oregon in Umatilla County. The project manager entity is controlled by Sunthurst Energy, which currently manages five projects in the program. Pilot Rock Solar 1 shares a parcel with the Pilot Rock Solar 2 project, also controlled by Sunthurst Energy. Sunthurst Energy is currently managing participant enrollment for its own projects.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 07/24/2023

Nature of the Amendment Request: Extend Certification Deadline

PA Recommendation: Approve, with conditions

Review Notes

Pilot Rock Solar 1 was originally Pre-certified in April 2020, with a Certification deadline of October 2021. In September 2021, both Pilot Rock Solar projects received an 18-month extension effective from the date that the Commission settled an interconnection dispute between Sunthurst Energy and Pacific Power. The resulting Certification deadline for these projects was March 15, 2023.

Sunthurst requested an additional 16-month Certification deadline extension for both projects, until July 15, 2024. Sunthurst cited a range of factors in this request, including delays in securing a utility PPA and interconnection agreement, lingering supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels, and the need to align project plans with new tax credit opportunities created by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Sunthurst is requesting a third Certification deadline extension request, citing that interconnection timelines presented by Pacific Power have delayed both projects to September 30th, 2025.

The PA recommends extending the Certification deadline of the Pilot Rock Solar projects to September 30th, 2025, with the condition that all interconnection payments to Pacific Power are made on time and that evidence of payment is provided to the Program Administration team.

Attachments Included

Extension request submitted by project manager.



Project Amendment Review and Recommendation

The Oregon Community Solar Program Administrator (PA) has reviewed the amendment request of the project described below and recommends that the project Certification deadline be extended by 26 months.

Project Information

Project ID: PP-2020-71

Project Name: Pilot Rock Solar 2

Project Manager: Pilot Rock Solar 2, LLC

Subscription Manager: Pilot Rock Solar 2, LLC

Utility Service Area: Pacific Power

Project Site Address: 45°30'32.67"N, -118°49'38.87"W Pilot Rock Oregon, 97868

Project Size (kW-AC): 2,990

Carveout-eligible: No

Current Program Status and Date Achieved: Pre-certified, 4/21/2020

Project Description

Pilot Rock Solar 2 is a 2,990 kW-AC project located in Pilot Rock, Oregon, in Umatilla County. The project manager entity is controlled by Sunthurst Energy, which currently manages five projects in the program. Pilot Rock Solar 2 shares a parcel with the Pilot Rock Solar 1 project, also controlled by Sunthurst Energy. Sunthurst Energy is currently managing participant enrollment for its own projects.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 04/26/2023

Nature of the Amendment Request: Extend Certification Deadline

PA Recommendation: Approve, with conditions

Review Notes

Pilot Rock Solar 2 was originally Pre-certified in April 2020, with a certification deadline of October 2021. In September 2021, both Pilot Rock Solar projects received an 18-month extension effective from the date that the Commission settled an interconnection dispute between Sunthurst Energy and Pacific Power. The resulting Certification deadline for these projects was March 15, 2023.

Sunthurst requested an additional 16-month Certification deadline extension for both projects, until July 15, 2024. Sunthurst cites a range of factors in this request, including delays in securing a utility PPA and interconnection agreement, lingering supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels, and the need to align project plans with new tax credit opportunities created by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Sunthurst is requesting a third Certification deadline extension request, citing that interconnection timelines presented by Pacific Power have delayed both projects to September 30th, 2025.

The PA recommends extending the Certification deadline of the Pilot Rock Solar projects to September 30th, 2025 with the condition that all interconnection payments to Pacific Power are made on time and that evidence of payment is provided to the Program Administration team.

Attachments Included

Extension request submitted by project manager.

March 10, 2022

VIA EMAIL (administrator@oregoncsp.org)

Program Administrator
Oregon Community Solar Program

RE: Community Solar Program Extension of the Certification Deadline

Dear Program Administrator,

On behalf the following owners of Projects and Project Managers listed below (collectively the “**Developers**”), we hereby submit this letter requesting an extension of the Pre-certification period to correspond with the utility’s interconnection schedule.

Project	Project Manager
Pilot Rock Solar 1	Pilot Rock Solar 1, LLC
Pilot Rock Solar 2	Pilot Rock Solar 1, LLC

On or around October 2021, both projects received an 18-month extension from the order of the contested interconnection case, UM 2118. Unfortunately, the decision gave public utility no deadline to provide an executable interconnection amendment for either project. UM 2118 was ordered by PUC on September 15, 2021. The Utility did not tender an execution ready amendment until March 2022. This duration was noted to the PA in our 18-month update.

There was another 5.5-month delay from Utility tendering an execution ready PPA for these projects. Drafts were first submitted April 8th. Execution copy was rendered September 27th. Both documents caused lenders to pause project underwriting and burned 11 of the 18-month extension.

Additionally, in March 2022, the US Department of Commerce (the “DOC”) announced that it would launch an investigation into the alleged circumvention of duties for solar panels imported into the United States from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. Because of the uncertainty at that time with how this would affect the availability of solar panels and ultimately the timing of when these Projects could be constructed, a representative of the Projects requested that PacifiCorp modify the Interconnection Agreements to have a revised Interconnection Commercial Operation Dates (“CODs”). A copy of this request made on March 10, 2023, was attached to this letter. The request for an Extension of the Certification Deadline was in line with this timeframe.

Recently, PacifiCorp has informed us their schedule for interconnecting both projects has a September 30, 2025 COD. We are returning markups on completed milestones and will update the Program Administer once we have an executed amended agreement from Public Utility.

Because these new Interconnection CODs do not allow the Projects to reach COD within 6 months after they become Certified, we are requesting an extension of the Certification Deadline to align with the Interconnection CODs as provided by PacifiCorp. The Projects have executed construction contracts, building permits are in hand, major equipment has been ordered, significant interconnection payments have been made, and they approximately 90% subscribed at this time. Development permits and tax equity financing have been retained.

Lastly, in August, 2022, President Joe Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 into law. With the program's assumed cost per watt, interconnection costs, and interest rate assumptions used in Order 19-392, it requires the projects to maximize adjustments to the Investment Tax Credits (ITC) based on Inflation Reduction Act. Unfortunately, the low-income communities and domestic content adders clarifications are trickling out by the Internal Revenue Service and are not yet available. SEIA reports that complete guidance is not expected until Fall, 2023.

We are currently working on the planning of the projects and procurement of material and labor is still an issue. Due to all the contributing factors above, we are requesting an extension of the Certification date for the Projects to utility's COD, September 30, 2025.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Daniel Hale
on Behalf of
Pilot Rock Solar 1, LLC
Pilot Rock Solar 2, LLC