



Program Administrator's Project Recommendation

April 16, 2025

Community Solar Program - Docket No. UM 1930

On October 30, 2024, in Order No. 24-364, 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 a five-month Certification deadline extension for the following project:

PGE-2023-157 (Apricus Solar, LLC)

The PA has reviewed the project Certification deadline extension request and has recommended granting the extension. The extension request is included below. Staff finds the PA's recommendation to be noncontroversial and that granting the extension may be delegated to the PA. Stakeholders in opposition of the PA's recommendations should post comments to UM 1930 by April 30, 2025.

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.

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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 Certification deadline be extended by five months.

Project Information

Project ID: PGE-2023-157

Project Name: Apricus Solar, LLC

Project Manager: Conifer Community Energy 7, LLC

Subscription Manager: Cascadia Community Energy, LLC

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 22755 Yamhill River Rd., Willamina, OR 97396

Project Size (kW-AC): 2,500

Carveout-eligible: No

Current Program Status and Date Achieved: Pre-certified, 7/15/2023

Project Description

Apricus Solar, LLC is a 2,500 kW-AC project located in Willamina, Oregon, in Polk County. Conifer Community Energy 7, LLC is controlled by Kendall Sustainable Infrastructure. Outreach and customer management are conducted through Cascadia Community Energy, LLC

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 04/10/2025

Nature of the Amendment Request: Extend Certification Deadline

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

Current Certification Deadline: 4/16/2025

Recommended Certification Deadline: 9/25/2025

The Project Manager (PM) requests a five-month extension to complete low-income enrollment and the Power Purchase Agreement and to align the Certification date with the new COD in the Interconnection Agreement. On February 20, 2025, the project executed an amendment to the Interconnection Agreement to move the COD from July 18, 2025, to September 25, 2025, to accommodate construction scheduling changes for interconnection related to extended discussions between the project and PGE about switchgear design. The project is working closely with the Low-Income Facilitator (LIF) to complete enrollment ahead of the project's COD date of September 25, 2025. The PM has shown progress toward operations and the PA does not expect low-income recruitment to cause a delay in the project operational date. The PA recommends granting this amendment request and extending the Certification deadline by 5 months.

Attachments Included

The extension request received from the Project Manager is attached.



6 University Rd.
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-374-3707
www.kendallsustainableinfrastructure.com

RE: Certification Extension Request for Apricus Solar/Conifer Community Energy 7, LLC (PGE-2023-157) (the “Project”)

Dear Program Administrator,

This letter is to request an extension of the Certification Date of the above referenced Project from April 16, 2025 to align with a revised COD in the project’s Interconnection Agreement, and to allow more time for low-income recruitment to be completed. The Project respectfully requests a Certification extension to September 25, 2025, or to another date that reasonably accommodates the Project’s COD and time expected to complete LI recruitment.

Interconnection and Project Construction Status

On February 20th the Project executed an amendment to the Interconnection Agreement to move the COD from July 18, 2025 to September 25, 2025 as necessary to accommodate Project and PGE construction scheduling for the interconnection. Originally the Project was pursuing a simplified switchgear approach with PGE to expedite the interconnection design, procurement, and construction. Discussions with PGE on this topic took longer than anticipated, though eventually PGE was willing to allow the Project to interconnect via its legacy switchgear standard instead of the utility’s updated standard from June/July 2024 which would have resulted in higher costs for switchgear and longer lead times. The Project provided PGE switchgear designs on December 12, 2024. PGE then gave approval for the Project to proceed with the legacy switchgear standard on January 24, 2025 and the Project reconfigured the switchgear designs and sent the revised drawings to PGE on March 10, 2025. The Project obtained final approval on the interconnection switchgear designs from PGE on March 17, 2025.

The Project has an executed construction contract with Evergreen Renewables as the EPC contractor which has mobilized onsite to commence construction activities. In addition, the Project has received and maintained its land use permit, completed site design review from Polk County, and completed wetland permitting/mitigation with Oregon Department of State Lands.

The Project's latest Interconnection Agreement Amendment has been uploaded to the OregonCSP website, as well as construction drawings. Project cost and date information has also been updated on the OregonCSP website.

Customer Acquisition and LI Recruitment

The Project entered into agreement on January 28, 2025 with Cascadia Community Energy LLC ("Cascadia") to handle customer acquisition for the Project. Cascadia is coordinating with Community Energy Project ("CEP") for the LI recruitment. So far the Project has approximately 135kWac of capacity either subscribed or pending all residential, of which 104kWac is for the LI segment. On LI subscriptions, CEP has provided positive feedback to Cascadia regarding contract finalization process and expects the Project to have its LI segment fully subscribed within the next 3 months. However CEP still suggests that the Certification date be closer to COD (reference attached email correspondence from CEP dated March 21, 2025). In addition to leads coordinated with CEP, Cascadia is also pursuing customer referral opportunities with local non-profits, the Grand Ronde Tribe, and local mobile home parks. For commercial subscribers, Cascadia anticipates filling 40% of the Project with commercial subscriptions within the next 2 weeks. Momentum is building for Cascadia's subscription outreach and the Project expects the pace of subscriptions to ramp up considerably in the next 3-6 months.

Utility Unsubscribed PPA and Project Account Information

The Project sent an initial email on October 28, 2024 to PGE's QF email address (Qualifying.Facility@pgn.com) to kickoff the process for obtaining its unsubscribed PPA. This initial email did not include the email address listed in the "Utility Contacts for Project Managers" sheet on the Program website. In the 4th contact attempt on March 17, 2025 the Project included the CommunitySolar@pgn.com email address, PGE's QF Administrator responded that day with PGE Initial Information Request CSP.xlsx file to populate the PPA (reference attached email correspondence from PGE dated March 17, 2025). The Project is completing the file and will send back to PGE no later than March 28, 2025 to obtain and execute the unsubscribed PPA.

Regarding the Project's Utility Account Information, the Project has requested its utility account number and is waiting for it to be assigned by PGE.

Summary

The Project is making positive material progress towards subscriptions and construction, but needs more time to meet Program requirements for Certification. The Project respectfully requests a Certification extension to September 25, 2025, or to another date that reasonably accommodates the Project's COD and time expected to complete LI recruitment.

Sincerely,

_____

Eric Luesebrink

Apricus Solar LLC