

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: January 17, 2018

REGULAR  CONSENT  EFFECTIVE DATE January 17, 2018

DATE: January 10, 2018

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: <sup>JPB for N.M.</sup> Nolan Moser and <sup>CM</sup> Caroline Moore

THROUGH: <sup>I</sup> Jason Eisdorfer and <sup>JPB</sup> JP Batmale

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. AR 603)  
In the Matter of Rules Regarding Community Solar Projects

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Informational filing – no recommendation.

**DISCUSSION:**

Issue

Status report for Docket No. AR 603.

Applicable Law

The Commission adopted formal rules for Oregon's Community Solar program on June 29, 2017 through Order No. 17-232. That order adopted Division 88 of Chapter 860 of the Administrative Rules. These rules provide for a series of extensive implementation actions that must be accomplished before the formal launch of a Community Solar program. With Commission approval expressed in Orders No. 17-372 and 17-458, Staff has commenced the implementation process with the support of Community Solar stakeholders.

In Order No. 17-458, the Commission directed Staff "to provide an update to the Commission on the status of Community Solar implementation efforts no later than January 17, 2017."

## Analysis

### *Background*

Following the adoption of Community Solar rules on June 29, 2017, the Commission directed Staff to commence the program implementation process and identify a third-party Program Administrator through a competitive bidding process. Order No. 17-458 requested a report from Staff on implementation progress no later than January 17, 2018. This filing provides a brief status update on implementation progress, including the status of third-party administrator selection. Staff proposes to present an additional detailed report on the status of implementation on January 30, 2018.

### *RFP Update*

Currently, Staff is working with the Department of Administrative Service (DAS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) on development and release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a third-party Program Administrator. Staff notes that the Commission's level of control over the RFP release timeline is minimal. The subsequent timetable will be dictated by the release date, but Staff proposes to have the third-party Program Administrator selected and contracted by the end of the first quarter of 2018.

### *Implementation Update*

Staff and Stakeholders have engaged in discussion and development of initial recommendations for actionable implementation steps that do not necessitate third-party program administrator involvement. Four sub-groups were formed and led by dedicated stakeholder volunteers, which include:

- Funding, Data and Financial Exchange, Billing Tariffs – Lead: Erik Anderson, PacifiCorp
- Project details – Lead: Jon Miller, Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association
- RVOS and bill credit determination – Lead: Silvia Tanner and Michael O'Brien, Renewable Northwest
- Low income – Lead: Oriana Magnera, Northwest Energy Coalition

Participating stakeholders and subgroup leads devoted significant time and effort to developing preliminary subgroup reports. The subgroups have provided Staff findings and recommendations regarding the implementation of the Community Solar Program.

### *Upcoming Community Solar Implementation Actions*

- At the Public Meeting on January 30, 2018, Staff will present a report with several items for Commission consideration based largely on recommendations and findings of the implementation sub-groups. Staff will present a list of

ministerial and scheduling matters for which stakeholders have reached consensus. In addition, Staff will request that the Commission open a docket to house additional non-rulemaking implementation matters of substance.

- Final RFP for a program administrator. Staff will continue to work with the DOJ and DAS to have the RFP issued as soon as practicable.
- Community Solar stakeholder workshop for all stakeholders on January 31, 2018. Staff has notified stakeholders of this upcoming workshop, and will soon publish a formal agenda for the meeting.

### Conclusion

Stakeholders have devoted significant time, energy, and insight to the Oregon Community Solar program implementation process to date. Implementation efforts continue to advance, including sub-group recommendations for currently actionable items and development of the third-party administrator RFP.

### **PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

N/A