

ITEM NO. CA5

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: June 11, 2024**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE June 12, 2024

DATE: June 3, 2024

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Benedikt Springer

THROUGH: JP Batmale and Sarah Hall **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF:
(Docket No. UM 1930)
Certification of Verde Light and Antelope Creek projects in the Community Solar Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Certify Verde Light and Antelope Creek projects in the Community Solar Program.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) should certify Verde Light and Antelope Creek projects in the Community Solar Program.

Applicable Rule or Law

Section 22 of Senate Bill 1547, codified in ORS 757.386, directs the Commission to establish a community solar program (hereinafter referred to as "Program" or "CSP").

On June 29, 2017, the Commission adopted formal rules for the Program under OAR Division 88 of Chapter 860. OAR 860-088-0050 details the requirements for project Certification.

Section 5.2 of the CSP Program Implementation Manual (PIM) outlines the information and documentation that projects must submit to the CSP Program Administrator (PA) as part of the Certification application.

Analysis

Background

A Project Manager (PM) registered with CSP may submit applications for project Certification to the PA. As required by OAR 860-088-0050(3), the PA reviews applications for compliance with Program requirements and recommends projects for Certification by the Commission. Certification is an important stage gate for CSP projects. Receiving Certification means that the project meets all Program requirements and can proceed to commercial operation.

The PA recently received a Certification application from the following two projects. After reviewing the applications and supporting documentation provided by the PM, the PA has recommended that the Commission certify the projects in the Program. See the Certification Recommendation Forms in Attachments A and B.

Recommended Projects

Project Name	Name of Project Manager	Utility Territory	Project Size (kW-AC)	Attachment #
Verde Light Community Solar	Fleet Development, LLC	Idaho Power	2,950	Attachment A
Antelope Creek Solar	Antelope Creek PM, LLC	Pacific Power	2,250	Attachment B

Verde Light Community Solar

Verde Light Community Solar is a 2,950 kW-AC project located in Ontario, Oregon in Malheur County. This is the only project currently located in Idaho Power territory. Outreach and customer management for the project are conducted by Fleet Development, LLC.

The Verde Light project was pre-certified on June 16, 2020, with an original Certification deadline of December 16, 2021. The project received four deadline extensions: In Order No. 21-388, the Commission granted an extension of the project's Certification deadline by six months to June 16, 2022, as part of a series of extensions that were granted to projects in light of supply chain disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 16, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to extend the project's Certification deadline one year to June 16, 2023. The PA supported granting this extension and recommended granting extensions to projects facing delays related to the US Department of Commerce solar investigation. While the federal government had recently paused import tariffs related to the Commerce investigation, the PA acknowledged that it would take time for the industry supply chain to fully recover. The PA also supported granting extensions to projects awaiting funding decisions or other approvals from other government entities necessary to move forward. In this case, the project was applying to Oregon Department of Energy's Community Renewable Grant Program in partnership with the City of Ontario. The PA also considered the lack of alternative projects available to serve Idaho Power customers when recommending this longer extension.

On May 11, 2023, the PA again extended the project's Certification deadline by nine months to March 16, 2024, due to unforeseeable development delays. The delays included an environmental study and additional permits that needed to be acquired. The PA supported granting this extension in large part due to this project's unique position as the only Pre-Certified project in Idaho Power service area.

On March 18, 2024, the PA again extended the project's Certification deadline by five months to August 1, 2024, due to incomplete participant enrollment and finalizing Idaho Power's review of the project. The PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extension.

The PM submitted necessary Certification paperwork to the PA prior to the project's Certification deadline. The PA completed its review on May 20, 2024, and recommends Certification in CSP.

Antelope Creek Solar

Antelope Creek is a 2,250 kW-AC project located in Eagle Point, Oregon in Jackson County. The Project Manager entity is controlled by Luminace. Outreach and customer management for the project are conducted by Arcadia Community Solar, LLC.

The project was Pre-certified on April 15, 2022, and had an original Certification deadline of October 15, 2023. The project has received three deadline extensions. On October 31, 2023, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to extend the Certification date to January 15, 2024, to complete relevant certification documents and complete enrollment requirements. On February 22, 2024, the PA again extended the project's Certification deadline to April 15, 2024, to allow the subscription manager, Arcadia Community Solar, LLC to complete low-income

enrollment. The PA and Staff found the PM had made progress and experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting these extensions.

On May 15, 2024, the PA again utilized authorities delegated by the Commission to extend the project's Certification deadline 40 days to May 25, 2024. The PM requested an extension of its Certification deadline to correspond with PacifiCorp's interconnection and construction timeline. The project has a revised Commercial Operation Date of June 21, 2024. The PA and Staff have previously granted extensions for projects, when needed, to accommodate utility interconnection timelines that stretch beyond program deadlines in situations where the project is not at fault for the delay.

The PM recently submitted necessary Certification paperwork to the PA prior to the project's Certification deadline of May 25, 2024. The PA completed its review on May 15, 2024, and recommends Certification in CSP. While this timeline has led Staff to recommend the Commission certify the project after its Certification deadline, Staff and the PA have no concerns with certifying the project at this time. The Program considers that projects submitting Certification applications to the PA by the deadline to have met the deadline, while PA and Staff may require additional time to review applications for recommendation to the Commission.¹

Conclusion

Staff has discussed the project applications with the PA and reviewed CSP requirements. Staff supports the PA's recommendation that the Commission approve Certification of Verde Light and Antelope Creek projects in the Program.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Certify Verde Light and Antelope Creek projects in the Community Solar Program.

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¹ Staff has previously utilized this approach. See UM 1930, [Order No. 21-321](#), October 6, 2021.



Project Certification Review and Recommendation

The Oregon Community Solar Program Administrator (PA) has reviewed the certification request of the project described below and recommends that the project be Certified.

Project Information

Project ID: IP-2020-72

Project Name: Verde Light Community Solar

Project Manager: Fleet Development, LLC

Subscription Manager: Fleet Development, LLC

Utility Service Area: Idaho Power

Project Site Address: 1900 Malheur Dr, Ontario, OR 97914

Project Size (kW-AC): 2,950

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 06/06/2020

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 07/1/2024

Project Description

Verde Light Community Solar is a 2,950 kW-AC project located in Ontario, Oregon, in Malheur County. This is the only project currently located in Idaho Power territory. Outreach and customer management for the project are conducted by Fleet Development, LLC.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 05/20/2024

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

No special comments.

Attachments Included

No attachments.



Project Certification Review and Recommendation

The Oregon Community Solar Program Administrator (PA) has reviewed the certification request of the project described below and recommends that the project be Certified.

Project Information

Project ID: PP-2021-109

Project Name: Antelope Creek Solar

Project Manager: Antelope Creek PM, LLC

Subscription Manager: Arcadia Community Solar, LLC

Utility Service Area: PAC

Project Site Address: 42°27'45.2"N, 122°49'56.9"W, Eagle Point, OR 97524

Project Size (kW-AC): 2250

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 4/15/2022

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 6/21/2024

Project Description

Antelope Creek Solar is a 2,250 kW-AC project located in Eagle Point, Oregon, in Jackson County. The Project Manager entity is controlled by Luminace. Outreach and customer management for the project are conducted by Arcadia Community Solar, LLC.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 5/15/2024

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

No special comments.

Attachments Included

No attachments.