

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1452

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
OREGON

Investigation into Pilot Programs to  
demonstrate the use and effectiveness of  
Volumetric Incentive Rates for Solar  
Photovoltaic Energy Systems.

RULING

DISPOSITION: MOTION GRANTED; COMMENTS ALLOWED

By motion filed March 22, 2010, Renewable Project Northwest (RNP) and the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) request an order that allows the parties to file supplemental comments regarding recent solar installed-cost data and directs the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Staff) to submit a revised rate table that incorporates changes in the installation costs. According to the moving parties, their motion is not opposed by Staff, the Energy Trust of Oregon, the Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association, SunEdison, Tanner Creek Energy, SolarCity, Portland General Electric Company, and Idaho Power Company.

By ruling dated March 23, 2010, the time for filing replies to the motion was shortened to March 25, 2010.

Responses in opposition to the motion were filed by Oregonians for Renewable Energy Policy; the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide; Solar Energy Solutions (Solar Energy); and Oregon Ecumenical Ministries/Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (EMO).<sup>1</sup>

In support of their motion, RNP and CUB state their concern that the installed cost data used by Staff to develop its proposed volumetric incentive rates (VIR) may not reflect the current market trends in Oregon. They claim that more recent information indicates that there has been a significant decline in installed costs in the last quarter of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> Solar Energy and EMO both had problems with their e-filing process, filing their comments one day late with the Commission. Showing proof that the parties were served on March 25, I accepted both parties' comments as timely.

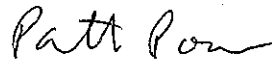
The parties opposing the motion argue that the record already is fully developed regarding cost information. Parties have already had the opportunity to file comments regarding cost information. Any changes have been minor, and prices are likely to fluctuate. Further delays are not warranted.

The motion is granted. The interests of all parties are best served by setting the VIRs based on the most current information. Further delay is not contemplated. If necessary, the Commission may bifurcate its decisions, adopting policies and rules before setting the initial VIRs.

During the pendency of this proceeding House Bill 3690 (HB 3690) was enacted by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor. This ruling also allows the parties to file comments regarding any effects of the new statute on positions previously taken in these proceedings.

It is ordered that the parties may file opening supplemental comments regarding solar project installed costs and the implications of HB 3690 not later than April 9, 2010, with reply comments not later than April 19, 2010. Staff shall submit its revised rate table not later than April 30, 2010.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.



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Patrick Power  
Administrative Law Judge