

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1610

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Investigation into Qualifying Facility
Contracting and Pricing.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: PHASE IIA CLOSED

I. BACKGROUND

Following a prehearing conference on September 2, 2015, all parties in this docket,¹ with the exception of one,² filed a joint motion to close Phase IIA. The joint motion indicates that after significant discussion at the prehearing conference, the joint parties concluded that they would be unable to meaningfully examine solar integration costs in a generic investigation in the manner contemplated when Phase IIA was opened.³ The joint parties indicate they prefer to address issues about a solar integration charge in context of a solar integration study. They observe that Idaho Power is far ahead of the other utilities with regard to preparation of such a study and express concern that any generic investigation that proceeds now would necessarily focus on Idaho Power's study. Consequently, the joint parties ask that Phase IIA be closed, and Idaho Power's solar integration application be separately addressed. The joint parties observe that Idaho Power is nearing completion of its second solar integration study and ask that Idaho Power be allowed to file it upon completion as part of docket UM 1725, or as a stand-alone filing. The joint parties also state that PacifiCorp and PGE should separately file completed solar integration studies.

¹ Staff of the Public Utility Commission, Idaho Power Company, Portland General Electric Company, PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power, , the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), Gardner Capital Solar Development (Gardner Capital), the Renewable Energy Coalition (REC), and Renewable Northwest (collectively the joint parties).

² Obsidian Renewables (Obsidian) did not join the motion, instead taking the position that the Commission can only approve a solar integration charge through rulemaking.

³ See *In the Matter of Idaho Power Co., Application to Lower Standard Contract Eligibility Cap and to Reduce the Standard Contract Term, for Approval of Solar Integration Charge, and for Change in Resource Sufficiency Determination*, Docket No. UM 1725, Order No. 15-230 at 4 (Aug 6, 2015).

2015 SEP 23

II. DISCUSSION

We directed that examination of solar integration charges be done in UM 1610, the generic investigation in which we have been addressing revisions to the rates, terms, and conditions for qualifying facility (QF) standard contracts in Oregon. We did so for consistency of process and outcome. As Idaho Power is the only utility to have made any progress regarding development of a solar integration charge, we will prioritize expediency and allow Idaho Power to separately file its solar integration study and application for a solar integration charge. We close Phase IIA of UM 1610 and await a filing by Idaho Power. Idaho Power's filing should be made in a new docket when the study is complete.

PacifiCorp and PGE may also each file a solar integration study and application for a solar integration charge when ready to do so. We note, however, that despite different integration costs and studies, we expect consistency to emerge regarding methodologies used to calculate the solar integration charges.

III. ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that UM 1610 Phase IIA, opened by Order No. 15-230 in Docket No. UM 1725, is closed.

Made, entered, and effective SEP 23 2015.

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN WAS
UNAVAILABLE FOR SIGNATURE

Susan K. Ackerman
Chair


John Savage
Commissioner


Stephen M. Bloom
Commissioner

