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## Proposed Modifications to Published Project Application Reports Request for Stakeholder Feedback

April 7, 2022

### Background

On June 19, 2019, the Illinois Power Agency (“Agency” or “IPA”) [published Project Information Release Protocols](#) on the Adjustable Block Program (“Program” or “ABP”) website after a stakeholder comment process. That stakeholder comment process informed what information related to projects participating in the ABP would be published in order to balance public interest in the transparency of Program implementation with protecting commercially sensitive or private information.

Current Project Information Release Protocols provide for publication of three reports that contain the following project details:

- **Project applications received:**
  - o Application ID number; Approved Vendor name; application submission date; project size (AC); project size (DC); zip code; group; category; application status (Part I Complete, Program Administrator Reviewed, Additional Information Required, Submitted to ICC for approval).
- **Project applications approved by the ICC pending Part II approval:**
  - o Application ID number; Approved Vendor name; application submission date; project size (AC); project size (DC); zip code; group; category; block; ICC approval date; effective date of REC Contract; counterparty utility.
- **Part II of project application complete:**
  - o Application ID number, Approved Vendor name; application submission date; project size (AC); project size (DC); zip code; group; category; block; ICC approval date; effective date of REC Contract; counterparty utility; project address (for systems above 25 kW in size *only*); REC tracking system utilized; tracking system project ID number.

With the introduction of several new categories and qualitative requirements for projects in ABP through [Public Act 102-0662](#), the Agency seeks feedback on expanding the scope of these project application reports to ensure transparency of project details while continuing to balance commercial sensitivity and privacy concerns.

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### Illinois Adjustable Block Program

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*The Adjustable Block Program is a state-administered solar incentive program developed and managed by the Illinois Power Agency and administered through its third-party Program Administrator, InClima Solutions.*



**The Agency seeks stakeholder feedback on proposed modifications to the Project Information Release Protocol. Responses to this Request for Stakeholder Feedback should be submitted to the IPA by April 21, 2022 by emailing written responses to [IPA.Solar@illinois.gov](mailto:IPA.Solar@illinois.gov) with the subject "Responder's Name - Response to Project Information Release Protocol Feedback Request."**

Responses will be published on the Adjustable Block Program here: <https://illinoisabp.com/stakeholder-feedback-project-application-reports/>. Should a commenter seek to designate any portion of its response as confidential and proprietary, that commenter should provide both public and redacted versions of its comments. Independent of that designation, if the Agency determines that a response contains confidential information that should not be disclosed, the IPA reserves the right to provide its own redactions.

The proposed approach outlined below includes specific questions that stakeholders should consider. Stakeholders are also encouraged to provide additional thoughts on the proposal not directly addressed in the questions below, including any additional project information fields sought to be published.

## **Proposed Approach**

The Agency proposes to add the following fields to the Project Applications Received reports:

- Report #1 - Project Applications Received
  - o Project category – The project application reports currently indicate whether a project is Distributed Generation (DG) or Community Solar (CS). Under the new legislation, there are six ABP project categories. The Agency proposes to include the relevant category for each project application:
    - Small DG (Distributed Generation projects equal to or less than 10 kW AC prior to the December 14, 2021, portal reopening and equal to or less than 25 kW after the portal reopening)
    - Large DG (Distributed Generation projects greater than 10 kW AC prior to the December 14, 2021, portal reopening and greater than 25kW after the portal reopening)
    - Traditional Community Solar
    - Community-Driven Community Solar
    - Public Schools
    - Equity Eligible Contractor
  - o Prevailing wage – The Agency proposes to indicate for each project it is subject to prevailing wage requirements under P.A. 102-0662, which is determined in Part I of the

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project application.

- Report #2 - ICC-Approved Part I Applications
  - Project category (see above)
  - Prevailing wage applicability (see above)
  - Project address – Due to the public interest in compliance with the new labor and diversity requirements under P.A. 102-0662, the Agency proposes publishing specific project addresses for non-residential projects after the application has been approved by the ICC. This will provide for the identification of projects that have received REC Contracts prior to project construction and allow for greater transparency into compliance with new qualitative requirements that concern the construction period.
  - Scheduled Energized Date – This represents the project’s deadline to become Part II verified or “Energized” under the REC Contract. A project’s Scheduled Energized Date under the REC Contract is set at 12 months from the date of ICC approval for DG projects and 18 months from the date of ICC approval for CS projects. However, the exercise of extension provisions under Section 5.b of the REC Contract have made it difficult to identify the Scheduled Energization Date through application of these deadlines to the ICC approval date; therefore the Agency proposes to include the date on the report, as may have been extended, in order facilitate additional transparency. As this date is not known until after ICC approval and is irrelevant after Part II approval, the Agency proposes to include this information only on this second report.
  - REC delivery contract amount (i.e., quantity of RECs under contract to be delivered)
  - Applicable REC price
  - Overall system REC delivery contract value
  - *Capacity factor could also be published in addition to the three preceding items, although it could also be derived from the nameplate capacity and REC delivery contract amount*
  
- Report #3 - Part II of Project Application Complete
  - Project category (see above)
  - Prevailing wage (see above)
  - Project address, for non-residential projects only (see above)
  - Online Date – The report currently contains the Energization Date, which is the date on which Part II of the project application was verified and the project is considered to have been Energized under the ABP REC contract. For additional transparency, the IPA proposes to include the Online Date, which is the date on which the project was livened and is known only after the submission of Part II of the project application.
  - REC delivery contract amount (i.e., quantity of RECs under contract to be delivered)

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- Applicable REC price
- Overall system REC delivery contract value
- *Capacity factor could also be published in addition to the three preceding items, although it could also be derived from the nameplate capacity and REC delivery contract amount*

The Agency would appreciate feedback on the following stakeholder questions:

1. For each of the proposed additional project information fields, should the Agency move forward with including it in the project application reports? Why or why not?
2. Should any additional project application details be included in the project application reports? If so, which details and why?
3. Should the Agency consider additional project applications reports? If so, what should be included in any additional proposed report(s)?

## Next Steps

Stakeholder feedback received on the proposed additions to the Project Information Release Protocol will be considered by the Agency and a final, modified Project Information Release Protocol will be published after comments on this proposal are received and reviewed by the Agency. The Agency will endeavor to publish the updated protocol and update public reports within one month of receiving comments.

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