

Final 2022 Plan Filed, Leniency on DF Requirements, and 2022-2023 Program Year

August 26, 2022

Program News

- **Leniency Period for Disclosure Forms Extended Until Further Notice**
In support of Approved Vendors and Designees transitioning to the new ABP Portal, and especially in recognition of challenges surrounding Disclosure Form functionality, [the IPA announced](#) on August 19, 2022 that it will continue to accept Disclosure Forms signed after execution of installation and subscription contracts, and that Program participants will no longer be required to follow the steps outlined in the Agency's August 5, 2022 announcement to qualify for this exception. The extended leniency period will last until generation of Disclosure Forms through the ABP Portal is [functioning as intended](#). The Agency will issue a subsequent announcement when Disclosure Form functionality is functioning as intended and will allow a two-week grace period before Disclosure Forms must be signed prior to contract execution. Community Solar subscribers for the June – August 2022 quarterly period may be submitted as subscribers to projects without a Disclosure Form. Those subscribers must be actively subscribed within the utility portal. The Agency and the Program Administrator are committed to providing a robust Portal and enhanced support for stakeholders, and greatly appreciates the patience and feedback from Program participants during this transition period.
- **New Program Guidebook Soon To Be Available for Approved Vendors and Designees**
An updated Program Guidebook, incorporation revisions reflected in the final 2022 Long-Term Plan, will be published early next week. The Program Guidebook will be added to the website, where a redline comparison between the Current Guidebook and the previous version, published on December 10, 2021, will also be available.
- **September REC Invoicing**
September REC invoicing will happen outside of the Portal, utilizing SharePoint folders. Approved Vendors who have projects eligible for invoicing will be contacted via email by the Program Administrator. Invoices will be available on SharePoint for secure file transfer. All invoice dates will be set to September 1, 2022; however, Approved Vendors can request via email to the Program Administrator to have the invoice date updated to an alternate date of the invoicing period, if desired.
- **REC Prices, Draft REC Contracts, and Questions Related to the Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act**
On August 1, the Agency published [updated REC prices](#) pursuant to the approval of the 2022 Long-Term Plan. The Agency announced further that it will not amend REC pricing for the September 1, 2022 block opening after passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act on August 16, 2022, acknowledging the importance of REC price stability to the market. Published REC prices will remain in place for the duration of the 2022-2023 delivery year.

The stakeholder comment period for [Draft REC Contracts](#) closed on August 15, 2022, and the Agency plans to publish final REC Contracts prior to the Program reopening on September 1, 2022. They will be posted at <https://illinoisabp.com/rec-contract/>.

- **Final 2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan Filed with Illinois Commerce Commission**
On August 23, the Agency announced [the filing of the final 2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan \(“Plan”\)](#). The final 2022 Plan was updated to conform with the Illinois Commerce Commission's Final Order approving the Plan on July 14, 2022. The Plan authorizes more than \$1.1 billion to procure new renewable generation in Illinois over the next two years.

Transition Updates

- **Program and Portal Re-Opening on September 1, 2022, and Program Year Resources**
September 1, 2022 marks the re-opening of the Adjustable Block Program, including the ability to submit Part I project applications for Distributed Generation and CDCS projects via the Portal, ability to create new Community Solar Disclosure Forms via CSV template, ability for new vendors to apply to participate in the Program, and more. Additional Portal features and functionality will become available in the weeks and months following the September 1 re-opening. In recognition of the re-opening, transition processes, and substantial updates to the Plan, a Program Year 2022-23 Resource Guide and accompanying webinar are being developed and will cover: Portal capabilities, REC prices, updated REC contracts, the updated Program Guidebook and new Consumer Protection Handbook, prevailing wage compliance, Sector Strategist support from the Program Administrator, information on becoming an Equity Eligible Contractor and future DEI initiatives, accessing support from the Program Administrator and IPA, and other FAQs. The Welcome to the 2022-2023 Program Year webinar will be held on August 31, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. CT [via Zoom at this link](#).
- **Program Administrator Office Hours for Portal Support**
To support AVs and their Designees experiencing technical difficulties with use of the Portal, the Program Administrator began offering open “office hours” to answer questions, provide support, or gather other feedback. Sessions are held with individual AV or Designee points of contact via Zoom, with a waiting room used to allow for individual appointment privacy. Questions and answers arising from the hours will be anonymously shared so that all stakeholders can benefit from the information. Upcoming office hours are planned for the following dates and times, with more dates expected to follow.
 - Tuesday, August 30 – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CT – Zoom link available [here](#).
 - Thursday, September 1 – 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CT – Zoom link available [here](#).

REMINDER: During the Program Administrator transition, the IPA has placed a temporary pause on all new ABP project application submissions between July 1, 2022 and September 1, 2022. New Approved Vendor applications will be accepted again beginning on September 1, 2022. All transition updates can be found on the [ABP Transition Hub webpage](#).

CONTACT US: For Portal, application, or Program-specific questions and inquiries, please contact admin@illinoisabp.com or call 877-783-1820.

Requirements and Reminders

- **Community Solar Quarterly Subscriber Verification**
The Program Administrator has finalized Subscriber Workbooks on SharePoint, which is also where Approved Vendors will submit Quarterly Community Solar Reports, as applicable.
 - The leniency period has been extended and Disclosure Forms will continue to be accepted after contract execution until further notice.
 - Subscriber workbooks on SharePoint must be updated by August 31, 2022 to support the quarterly subscriber verifications. Workbooks will be downloaded on September 1, 2022 and timestamped to support the quarterly subscriber verification. Please see the [webinar recording](#) from July 6, 2022 for more information on this process.
 - Subscriber workbooks do not yet contain any Disclosure Forms created using the Workaround SharePoint Process. Please advise the Program Administrator once fully executed Disclosure Forms are uploaded to SharePoint and CSV templates are updated. At such time, the Program Administrator will update subscriber workbooks with any additional Disclosure Forms from SharePoint.
 - Any required Community Solar Quarterly Reports will be collected via this workbook as well, and must be completed between September 1, 2022 and September 10, 2022.

- **AV & Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC) Applications, AV Renewals**

On September 1, the Program Administrator will post links to an AV Application form for new AVs and for AV Renewals, including the ability for new and existing AVs to apply to become an Equity Eligible Contractor. Upon reopening of the AV application, the Program Administrator will contact AVs who are due for renewal to submit their renewal applications.

Individuals submitting Approved Vendor applications will need to email additional documents to the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisabp.com to support their application. Review of all Approved Vendor applications will resume on September 1, 2022, with applications reviewed in the order they are received.

- **September 15, 2022 ICC Submission**

To support the September 15, 2022 ICC submission, the Program Administrator will utilize a SharePoint-based process. On August 26, 2022, the Program Administrator will reach out, via email, to AVs who have projects eligible for the optional re-batching process. The re-batching process will begin on August 29, 2022, which is twelve business days in advance of the September 15, 2022 ICC meeting. The Program Administrator will place workbooks on SharePoint the morning of August 29, 2022, outlining projects that can be re-batched for AVs to manipulate. AVs will have until midnight Central Prevailing Time, on August 30, 2022, to re-batch projects, if desired. In the absence of any re-batching by AVs, the Program Administrator will combine any projects into batches as necessary for ICC submission.

- **Consumer Protection Handbook Compliance Required by August 28, 2022**

As previously shared, the Illinois Commerce Commission's approval of the IPA's 2022 Long-Term Plan included approval of consumer protection documents filed with the Plan, with minor modifications. The IPA has updated the Consumer Protection Handbook and Contract Requirements consistent with the Commission's Order and **AVs/Designees must be in full compliance with new requirements in these documents by August 28, 2022.** Please carefully review these important documents:

- 1) [Cover Letter – Consumer Protection Handbook and Contract Requirements;](#)
- 2) [Consumer Protection Handbook;](#)
- 3) [ABP Contract Requirements – Distributed Generation;](#)
- 4) [ABP Contract Requirements – Community Solar](#)

PLEASE NOTE – The Consumer Protection Handbook replaces both the Distributed Generation and Community Solar Marketing Guidelines documents. The Marketing Guidelines documents are now out-of-date. More information on this can be found in the cover letter linked above.