Correction to Final TCS Scoring Criteria and Rationale, Recap of Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group Meeting, and EAS Questions Answered

October 14, 2022

Program News

- **CORRECTION: Traditional Community Solar – Final Project Selection Guidelines & Rationale**
  - Last week, the IPA published Final Scoring Guidelines and rationale document for Traditional Community Solar Project Selection. In the Final Scoring Guidelines document, under *Verification* within the "Qualification and Demonstration, Verification, and Compliance" section, a typographical error indicated that the Scoring Cure Period was "Approximately 32 weeks,". The document, on the Program website, has been corrected to read "Approximately 2 weeks,". Please note that applications for TCS (and TCS projects within the EEC and Public Schools categories) will not be accepted until November 1, 2022.
  - Additionally, in the rationale document there was a typographical error that noted the minimum point threshold to attain a spot on the TCS waitlist was "4 points". The document has been corrected to read "5 points" as it relates to the minimum point threshold for waitlist acceptance.

- **Ongoing Program Portal Updates**
  The Program Administrator continues to update and optimize the new Program portal, provide new and updated supporting documents, as well as additional Office Hours for support, with updated sessions outlined in the Transition Updates section below.
  - Improved functionality for Program Administrator to reassign Disclosure Forms from a TBD vendor to a specific vendor, released on October 11, 2022
  - Import of applications started in the legacy portal, released on October 7, 2022

  The next portal release, scheduled for October 20, 2022, will include batching functionality for all project categories except for Traditional Community Solar. This release will enable AVs to both submit and pay for submitted batches.

- **Ongoing Operations Updates**
  The Program Administrator continues to work diligently to ensure that Program operations and processes are functioning efficiently and effectively to ensure ongoing Program success and stakeholder support. Recent and forthcoming operational updates include:
  - The Program Administrator is making continued progress on Community Solar subscriber verification, and AVs can soon expect to receive summaries for review.
  - Processing of project applications submitted prior to July 1, 2022 and transition to the new Program Administrator is expected to be completed in the coming weeks, with further information to follow. Following review of applications submitted prior to July 1, the Program Administrator will begin processing newly received applications from the Portal, in the order in which they were received.
  - In support of the upcoming release of batching functionality in the portal, the Program Administrator is preparing a batching guide and other supporting materials for stakeholders, as well as holding expanded, dedicated Office Hours to support AVs immediately during and following the release. Please see the Office Hours section below for more information.
  - In support of the upcoming release of the Traditional Community Solar application on November 1, 2022, the Program Administrator is preparing a resource guide and other supporting materials for stakeholders, as well as holding expanded, dedicated Office Hours to support AVs prior to and following the release. Please see the Office Hours section below for more information.

Transition Updates

- **Program Administrator Office Hours**
  To support AVs and Designees experiencing technical difficulties with use of the Portal or in resolving other challenges, the Program Administrator is pleased to continue offering open "office hours" to answer questions, provide support, and gather feedback. Sessions are held with individual AV or Designee points of contact, via Zoom, utilizing a waiting room for individual appointment privacy. Many Approved Vendors and Designees continue to take advantage of the office hours, which are supported by members of the Program Administrators' service, strategy, operations and technical teams, and provide an opportunity to establish direct relationships with the Program Administrator. Upcoming office hours are planned for the following dates and times, with more dates expected to follow:
  - Wednesday, October 19 – 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CT – Join link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302
  - **Special Support for batching release** – Thursday, October 20 – 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. CT and 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT - Join link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302
  - **Special Support for batching release** – Friday, October 21 – 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. CT and 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT - Join link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302
  - **Special Support for Traditional Community Solar release on 11/1** – Monday, October 24 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CT - Join link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302
  - **Special Support for Traditional Community Solar release on 11/1** – Wednesday, October 26 – 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CT – Join link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302
  - Wednesday, November 3 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CT - Join link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302

REMINDER: 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

- **Request for Stakeholder Feedback on Initial Energy Workforce Equity Database**
  Chapter 10 of the 2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan describes a suite of equity-related requirements, including the Minimum Equity Standards that take effect June 1, 2023, requiring that 10% of the workforce for projects in the Adjustable Block Program be Equity Eligible Persons ("EEPs"). To facilitate hiring of EEPs to meet this standard, the Plan proposed a phased rollout of the Energy Workforce Equity Database described in Section 1-75(c-25) of the Illinois Power Agency Act ("IPA Act" or "Act"). While the Agency works on the comprehensive database to be rolled out in phases across 2023, the Agency proposes an interim database solution focused on two key functionalities: (1) allowing Equity Eligible Persons to identify themselves to potential employers, and (2) for employers to post jobs for which they are seeking Equity Eligible Persons. The Agency welcomes stakeholder comments and feedback on Energy Workforce Equity Database. Responses to this **Request for Stakeholder Feedback should be submitted to the IPA by October 26, 2022,** by emailing written responses to IPA.Solar@illinois.gov with the subject "Responder's Name - Response to Energy Workforce Equity Database Feedback Request." Find the stakeholder feedback document with the proposed approach here.

- **Recap: First Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group Meeting Held October 7, 2022**
  The Agency and Program Administrator thank all participants and stakeholders who participated in the Expanded Consumer Protection Working Group meeting held on October 7, 2022. Topics addressed in the

discussion were [posted online](#) prior to the meeting, and meeting notes will soon be posted to the Program website. This Working Group also includes participation and topics related to Illinois Solar for All. If you would like to receive direct notifications of meetings, agendas, and meeting notes, please sign up with the link found at: https://illinoisabp.com/cp-working-group/. The next Consumer Protection Working Group meeting will be held on November 4, 2022, with the meeting agenda to be posted on the website for stakeholder review.

- **Upcoming and Recorded Equity Accountability System Webinars**
  On October 4, 2022, the Agency and the Program Administrator held a webinar formally introducing the Equity Accountability System (EAS), outlined in Chapter 10 of the [Final 2022 Long-Term Plan](#). Topics covered in the webinar included an overview of the EAS, discussion of key elements, its applicability to the Adjustable Block Program including future opportunities and requirements for Approved Vendors and Designees, and available support from the Program Administrator. A recording of the webinar, a copy of the presentation slides, questions and answers asked during the webinar, and a viewer attestation form are available on the [Equity Accountability System page](#) of the Program website.

  On November 15, 2022, the Program Administrator and IPA will hold a second webinar introducing the EAS and providing more information on annual compliance plan assessment, with more education and training to follow in early 2023. Participants are encouraged to ask questions during the Question & Answer section of the webinar. **Attendees can join the webinar via Zoom at this link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95834352530**

- **Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) Prevailing Wage Training Webinars**
  As noted in the [2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan](#), most Adjustable Block Program projects must comply with the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, which requires that employees engaged in construction activities related to a project be paid prevailing wage; minimum compensation levels are set by the Illinois Department of Labor. Information regarding prevailing wage can be found on the Program's [Prevailing Wage Hub](#). IDOL is hosting informational webinars on prevailing wage requirements and will answer questions as time allows during scheduled webinars, which will be held via WebEx at the following upcoming dates and times.
  - Wednesday, November 16 at 3:20 p.m. CT – Join link:
    https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=mbcef9ff65828f936043500c4b3a33d26

- **Program Year 2022-2023 Resources Available for Stakeholders**
  On September 1, 2022, the launch of the Program Year 2022-2023, a variety of resources were released for Prospective and Approved Vendors and Designees. Resources are available at the following links.
  - [Approved Vendor Application (includes Equity Eligible Contractor application)](#)
  - [Welcome to Program Year 2022-2023 Webinar](#)
  - [Program Year 2022-2023 Resource Guide](#)
  - [Program Year 2022-2023 Webinar Q&A](#)