

Group A Large Distributed Generation Block Now Closed, Application Processing Updates, Ongoing Operations and Portal Updates

February 17, 2023

Program News

- **Group A Large Distributed Generation Block Now Closed; Waitlist in Effect**

As [previously communicated](#), on February 6, 2023 the annual block of capacity for the Group A Large DG block was filled. The Group A Large DG block is now closed, and a project waitlist for this category will be posted at the Program website at IllinoisABP.com/block-capacity-dashboard/, once additional applications are submitted. At this time, new capacity for this Group/category is planned for the 2023-24 Program Year and will be available on June 1, 2023.

Ongoing Operations Updates

- **Community Solar March Quarterly Subscriber Verification** - Subscriber Workbooks are now available to access on SharePoint for the March Quarterly Subscriber Verification. Disclosure forms were selected for workbooks based on the assigned Approved Vendor and placed in the corresponding Approved Vendor SharePoint folder. For forms where the Approved Vendor was not specified, workbooks have been created for the associated Designee and placed in the corresponding Designee SharePoint folder. Each Designee should coordinate with the associated AV to gain SharePoint access and copy all necessary disclosure forms into the appropriate AV workbook. Please see the attached documents for instructions and information on the Quarterly Report and subscriber verification process, however, note the following important reminders:
 - **Deadline to Update Utility Records** - The last day for Approved Vendors or Designees to update utility records to reflect correct subscribers, subscription sizes, subscription statuses (terminated/active) or other updates is **February 28, 2023**. Any changes made to utility portals after this date will not count for the subscriber verification.
 - **Program Administrator Downloads Utility Reports** - Subscriber information in Quarterly Reports should be a report of utility subscribers as of February 28, 2023. The Program Administrator will pull utility reports **on March 1, 2023** to allow time for changes made on February 28, 2023 to be reflected. Alternate utility reports for different dates will not be pulled.
 - **Quarterly Report Due Date** - Subscriber workbooks and Quarterly Reports on SharePoint must be updated by **March 10, 2023** to support the quarterly subscriber review process.
 - March 10, 2023 is the last day to make changes to the *Program Administrator's* subscriber records in your subscriber workbook (including subscription sizes, adding new subscribers, or terminating subscribers) for the quarterly review. After this date, no data may be updated.
 - Remember that the subscriber reports due to the Program Administrator on March 10, 2023 should reflect subscribers as of February 28, 2023.
 - All subscriber disclosure forms must be completed in the portal OR fully signed copies and corresponding CSV templates must be uploaded to SharePoint by end of day March 10, 2023. This includes any new disclosures forms required for subscription size changes. Disclosure forms that are completed after March 10, 2023 will not be considered for the quarterly subscriber verification.
 - Any required Community Solar Quarterly Reports will be collected via this workbook as well and need to be completed by March 10, 2023.
 - Workbooks will be downloaded from SharePoint on March 11, 2023 to support the quarterly subscriber verification and no further updates will be accepted
- **March REC Invoicing Opens March 1, 2023** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements will be made available for download from Approved Vendor SharePoint folders the morning of March 1, 2023. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by March 10, 2023 to receive payment for the March invoice period. Any invoice

amounts not submitted to the utility by March 10, 2023 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (June 2023).

Application Processing Updates

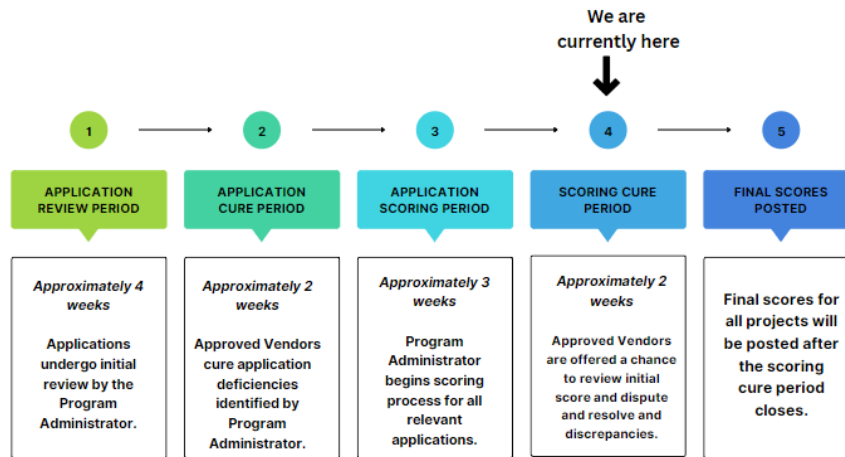
- The Program Administrator now publishes regularly-updated application processing details to the Program website at IllinoisABP.com/project-application-reports/. The Program has experienced longer-than-expected delays in processing Part II applications due to the significant expansion of Illinois Shines project categories, an increase in vendor participation and tremendous volume of project applications, and the transition to a new Program Administrator and portal. Additionally, at this time a high volume of Community Solar applications are also being reviewed and scored by the Program Administrator. We understand that the delays in reviewing Part II applications have slowed the approval of projects, and the ability of vendors to invoice projects with utilities and pass on promised incentives to customers, and to pass on information and savings to consumers. The Program Administrator and Agency are working closely and diligently to further expedite the processing of Part II project applications, and are currently both adding application processing staff, and prioritizing technical solutions, as rapidly as possible. These efforts, along with the completion of Community Solar project reviews, are expected to improve Part II application processing time in the coming weeks. The Program Administrator and Agency expect to soon be able to provide more detailed information about improved Part II application processing time, and we appreciate the patience of customers and entities participating in Illinois Shines as we meet the high volume of the Program. For questions about specific project applications, or other Program information, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisabp.com.

Application Processing as of Monday, February 13, 2023			
Project Category	Application Type	Reviewing Applications Submitted As Of:**	Applications in Process Queue
Small Distributed Generation	Part I	October 29, 2022	4,561
Small Distributed Generation	Part II	December 17, 2022	2,688
Large Distributed Generation	Part I	October 29, 2022	83
Large Distributed Generation	Part II	December 19, 2022	48
Traditional Community Solar – Waitlist Reallocation	Part I	None submitted at this time	0
Traditional Community Solar – Waitlist Reallocation	Part II	December 19, 2022	5
Traditional Community Solar – November 2022*	Part I	In scoring cure period	262
Traditional Community Solar – November 2022*	Part II	None submitted at this time due to Part I applications in scoring process	0
Community-Driven Community Solar	Part I	In need info cure period	67
Community-Driven Community Solar	Part II	None submitted at this time due to Part I applications in scoring process	0
Public Schools	Part I	June 16, 2022	4
Public Schools	Part II	None submitted at this time	0
Equity Eligible Contractor	Part I	Not reviewing at this time due to open ICC docket	76
Equity Eligible Contractor	Part II	Not reviewing at this time due to open ICC docket	0

*Includes only applications submitted on November 1, 2022

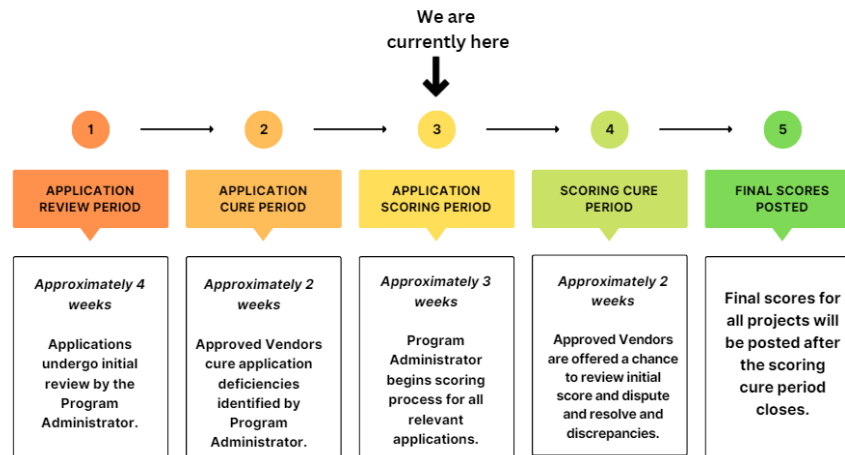
**As used here, "Submitted" means the application has been Batched, and the Batch has been Paid

- Traditional Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process**
As of February 13, 2023, the Program Administrator concluded the Scoring Cure period and, in coordination with the Agency, is resolving a small number of project co-location determinations. Upon completion, the Agency and Program Administrator will soon announce final project scores, via both direct communications with Approved Vendors who have submitted projects, as well as posting a complete list to the Program website.



Community-Driven Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process

As of February 13, 2023, the Application Cure period for CDCS applications was completed and the process is entering the Scoring phase. The Application Scoring Period is expected to last for approximately three weeks, from February 20 - March 10, 2023. The PA will continue to share updates as we move through the process.



Ongoing Program Portal Updates

- Ongoing portal updates can be found at IllinoisABP.com/portal-updates/, and a library of diverse, updated portal help guides can be found at IllinoisABP.com/portal-help/.

Updates on Portal Issues, Improvements, and Future Releases

- The Program Administrator and Agency are continuing to collaborate on prioritization and development of critical portal functionality with a goal of providing greater visibility on development milestones. Beginning this week, additional information is being shared with regard to bug fixes and future functionality and releases.

Development Focus	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
Bug and Other Fixes		
CS Disclosure Forms	Completion of cosmetic fixes to Community Solar DFs.	Released February 14, 2023
CS Disclosure Forms	Supply Rate and Savings Estimates	Planned release - February 17, 2023
DG Lease, PPA, and >25kW Disclosure Forms	Cosmetic and data field/validation fixes	Planned release - February 17, 2023
Disclosure Form Remediation	Further DF enhancements will continue to be implemented, with information forthcoming on the impact to the DF Leniency Period that remains in effect.	Ongoing through at least February 2023

Development Focus	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
Features and Enhancements		
Community Solar DF API	The first version of this functionality will soon be released, including a specifications document and will conduct beta testing before release. Further information will soon be available.	Expected February 23, 2023
Distributed Generation DF API	Working Group	TBD
Re-batching Functionality	On/off toggle, ability to create batches by project and by batch Screen, export Batch Shuffling and Batch Audit Log	TBD
Required Functionality		
Program Year (PY) 2023-2024 Updated Disclosure Forms	Implementation of updated English and Spanish Disclosure Forms covering all DG and CS instances	TBD, including readiness for June 1, 2024 PY open
Equity Accountability System Compliance Plans and Waivers	Submission of mandatory EAS Compliance Plan or Waiver Request for 2023-2024 Program Year	TBD; expected for Q2 2023

Requirements and Reminders

- **Stakeholder Feedback – Waiver for Minimum Equity Standard**

As previously shared, The Illinois Power Agency seeks public comment on the waiver for Minimum Equity Standard requirements for entities that have receive a REC contract under the Adjustable Block/Illinois Shines Program or through the IPA’s utility-scale REC procurements for a given Program/delivery year. Following the review and consideration of public comments on the wavier, the Agency intends to finalize the waiver and process for the 2023-2024 Program year/Delivery year beginning June 1, 2023. The request for feedback, which was published on February 8, 2023, can be found here: <https://illinoisabp.com/equity-accountability-system/>. Comments on the proposal are due on **February 22, 2023 and should be submitted to IPA.solar@illinois.gov with the subject line “[Responding Entity Name] – Stakeholder Feedback on MES Waiver.”** More information on the waiver for Minimum Equity Standard requirements can be found in Section 10.1.3.1 of the Agency’s [Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan](#). An informational webinar to provide details and training on the submission of MES compliance plans for the 2023-2024 Program Year is tentatively planned for early March. Please watch for further information on this very important educational session.

- **Stakeholder Feedback**

The Agency seeks feedback and public comment from stakeholders on multiple topics as outlined in the 2022 Final Long-Term Plan. This table outlines current and forthcoming proposals and feedback requests:

Proposal or Feedback Topic	Request for Comment Released	Deadline for Comment	Details of Proposal/Feedback Request Available at:
Consumer Protection Proposals #2 - 13	December 2, 2022	January 27, 2023. Comments have been shared at Program website and are under Agency review.	https://illinoisabp.com/consumer-protection/ and Proposal Packet
Minimum Equity Standards (MES) Waiver Process	February 8, 2023	February 22, 2023	https://illinoisabp.com/equity-accountability-system/
Public Schools (Multiple topics, including anchor tenant requirement)	Expected release in late February 2023	TBD	TBD
Program Guidebook updates for Program Year 2023-24	Expected release in March 2023	TBD	TBD
REC Pricing Update for 2023-24 Program Year	Expected release in March 2023	TBD	TBD

- **EEC Block Capacity – Long-Term Plan Reopening**

The Illinois Commerce Commission approved the request to re-open the 2022 Long-Term Plan in [Docket No. 22-0231](#), and stakeholders are invited to interact with the docket in accordance with the ICC’s rules of practice, with the following schedule in effect:

- Objections to the Agency’s proposal – Due February 2, 2023
- Responses to objections – Due February 16, 2023
- Replies to responses – Due March 2, 2023
- With the docket open, the Agency will seek to provide an update on the question of dealing with applications submitted on November 1, 2022 in EEC Group A once the above schedule has concluded; the Program Administrator may hold Group B applications for ICC approval if it appears possible that Commission action may impact Group B capacity.

- **Systems Out of Compliance for Failure to Deliver RECs - 90 Days to Comply**

According to Section 6(a) of the [2019 REC Delivery Contract](#), and 4.1(a) of the [2021 REC Delivery Contract](#), all systems must be registered in either the GATS or M-RETS tracking registry. For systems larger than 5 kW, the first REC must be delivered within 90 days of the date the system is Energized/Part II verified. For systems equal to or less than 5 kW, the first REC must be delivered within 180 days of the date the system is Energized/Part II verified. According to Section 12(e) of the [2019 REC Delivery Contract](#), and 2.3(e) of the [2021 REC Delivery Contract](#), “Seller shall upload meter readings to PJM-EIS GATS or M-RETS at least annually prior to the registry cutoff to produce RECs for generation occurring in May as well as all previous months for which generation has not been recorded.”

The Program Administrator has identified systems that are out of compliance with the REC contract for not delivering a REC and updating the tracking registry within one year of Part II verification. These systems have been communicated with Approved Vendors over SharePoint and/or email. Projects will be removed from the Program if they do not deliver a REC within 90 days of notice from the PA for failure to comply with requirements of the REC Contract. Deadline to comply is April 4, 2023.

- **Program Administrator Office Hours**

AVs and Designees experiencing technical difficulties with use of the portal or in resolving other challenges are invited to utilize open Office Hours that the PA offers via Zoom, using a waiting room format to support meetings with individual AV or Designee teams for privacy. Upcoming Office Hours include the following dates and times with more dates expected to follow, using Join link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co>

- Wednesday, February 22 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
- Wednesday, March 1 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
- Wednesday, March 8 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT

REMINDER: All transition updates can be found on the [ABP Transition Hub webpage](#), and a new [Events & Engagement](#) page at the Program website provides a calendar of upcoming webinars, meetings, support, feedback requests, key dates, holidays, and more. Please visit [IllinoisABP.com/events-engagement/](https://illinoisabp.com/events-engagement/) for continuous updates.

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