

Group A Large DG Soft Close, Annual Reports Deadline, EEC Developer Cap

July 14, 2023

Program News

- **Group A Large DG Block Reaches Capacity, Soft Close Period Initiated** – As [announced](#) on July 11, 2023, the annual block of capacity for Group A Large Distributed Generation was reached and a soft close period was initiated, allowing the block to remain open for seven additional calendar days or until the submission of 10 additional megawatts, whichever comes first. The soft close period began Tuesday, July 11, 2023, and will extend until **July 18, 2023 at 11:59 PM CPT, or when 10 megawatts have been reached**. Any applications batched and submitted to the Program under Group A Large DG block after the soft close capacity is reached **OR** after **July 18, 2023 at 11:59 PM CPT** will be placed on a waitlist.
- **Annual Reports** - AVs participating in Illinois Shines are required to submit an Annual Report pertaining to the contracts and systems in their portfolios. **Annual Reports opened on July 1, 2023 and are due no later than 11:59 p.m. CST, Monday, July 17, 2023. Failure to submit an Annual Report is an Event of Default under the REC Contract and could jeopardize all of an AV's contracted projects.** Available resources provided include an [Annual Report Guide](#), as well as the [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#) from a webinar on May 9, 2023.
 - AVs should monitor the inbox of their organization's primary email address for the official invitation to submit their annual reports and submission reminders.
 - All Annual Reports must be submitted by Monday, July 17, 2023 in order for contracted projects to continue to participate in the Program
- **EEC Developer Cap** - As noted in Section 7.4.6.3.7 of the [Modified 2022 Long-Term Plan](#), a 20% developer cap will be applied to the EEC category should that category become oversubscribed on Day 1 of the block opening. On Day 1 of category opening on June 1, 2023, the initial review of the applications batched and submitted did not immediately lead the Program Administrator to conclude that the developer cap was triggered.

After a full follow-up and review of the applications batched and submitted on June 1, 2023, the Program Administrator has determined that the EEC category was in fact oversubscribed on Day 1, triggering the application of the developer cap for the 2023-2024 program year. Thus, any projects submitted by an AV that result in a cumulative allocation within the category that exceeds 36.088 MW (20% of the entire category capacity, across both Groups) will be waitlisted by the Program Administrator.

If an AV has a question about the amount of MW already submitted or how close they are to reaching the cap, please reach out to admin@illinoisabp.com for support.

- **Community-Driven Community Solar Scores** - The Program Administrator [released scores](#) on Monday, June 26, 2023. These scores will be used to determine which projects will be selected for a REC contract once random selection takes place. The scores and a [full announcement](#) regarding the scoring process were posted on the Program website on the [Solar Project Categories page](#) under the CDCS sub-section. As outlined in the announcement, AVs were provided two weeks to appeal scores; appeals were due July 10, 2023 and the Agency received 3 appeals. As the determination of appeals may influence a project's final score, and thus possibly the final selection of projects, all appeals must be reviewed by the Agency within a distinct timeframe. **The Agency intends to have all submitted appeals determined by July 18, 2023.** The random selection event will take place on **July 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. CST**. Register link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CVTtXfv_SDWWDkyJuuYFzw

The Agency anticipates the next steps in this process with the following updated schedule:

- July 18, 2023 – Appeals determinations released to AVs and any changes to scores will be published on the website
- July 26, 2023 – Random selection event for projects with tied scores
- July 28, 2023 – Final scores published

- **Program Year 2023-2024 Community-Driven Community Solar** - The CDCS application window for the 2023-2024 Program year closes August 30, 2023 (90 days after start of Program year). Please see Section 5 of the [Program Guidebook for more information](#). Applications will not be accepted after close of the application window until the next Program year.
- **Traditional Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process** - Applications submitted after November 1, 2022 and up until May 31, 2023 are in the process of being reviewed in the order they were submitted and scores will be issued to AVs approximately two weeks after projects are reviewed. Projects in Group A that have scored a minimum of five points will be added to the waitlist in the order they were submitted. Projects in Group B that have scored a minimum of five points will be awarded capacity for the 2023-24 Program year as long as capacity remains available. If a project does not receive a minimum score of five points, the application is not eligible to be waitlisted but can reapply to the Program at any time. Beginning June 30, 2023, weekly waitlist publication for Group A began at the [Block Capacity Dashboard](#) webpage. Projects submitted on June 1, 2023 are in the process of being reviewed and scores will be issued to AVs approximately two weeks after projects are reviewed. Because the capacity for the Traditional Community Solar block was exceeded on Day 1 of the Program Year, projects submitted on and after June 1, 2023 will be scored as well.
- **Part II Verification Cut Off for July** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II verification date for July will be July 24, 2023. Applications that are Part II verified on or before July 24, 2023 will be on the August invoice. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications that are reviewed between July 25, 2023 and July 31, 2023 will be invoiced in September.

Application Processing Updates

- **Application Processing Tables** - The Program Administrator updates the application processing tables at IllinoisABP.com/project-application-reports/ on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@illinoisabp.com.

Ongoing Program Portal Updates

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

Updates on Portal Issues, Improvements, and Future Releases

- The planned system maintenance windows on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings (from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. CPT) will extend through July**. During these maintenance windows, the Portal is expected to be unavailable to users, which the Program Administrator and Agency hope will be minimally disruptive to Program participants. **Any users working in the portal should save their work prior to the 8:00 p.m. CPT start of the system maintenance window each day, as any unsaved information will be lost when the system is moved into maintenance mode.** In the event that portal restoration is unexpectedly incomplete as of 10:00 p.m. CPT on a given evening, an update notice will be sent to AVs and Designees.

Development Focus	Details	Planned or Actual Delivery
Enhancements, Features and Bug Fixes		
New Ellipses Menu on list view of DFs.	Modifies the DF view by adding an ellipsis menu and moves many action links into that menu. When viewing the list of DFs, the "Obtain Signature", "Download PDF", and "Upload Signed Form" actions will now be available from a dropdown list that will appear when selecting the ellipsis (...) at the far-right end of the row.	July 13, 2023
DF CSV Upload Fails returning error message "CSV Import Failed. See logs for details."	When DF data submitted via the CSV Upload process does not meet the criteria to create a new DF, the system should display a message indicating how many records failed validation and download a copy of the template with specific instructions to remediate each affected row in the first column. In specific cases failed validation was resulting in a generic error message "CSV Import Failed. See logs for details." and preventing the download of the detailed error report. This has been corrected, submitted	July 13, 2023

	CSV upload templates failing field level validation should now consistently produce a detailed error report.	
Warranty Party information not saved when "installer" was chosen on PPA DFs.	<p>Previously, PPA DFs which have roof mounted systems were not saving the [Warranty party] field (Who is responsible for the warranty against roof leaks due to improper installation?) when "installer" was chosen. All other options were being saved correctly. This has been corrected and all options for [Warranty party] will now be saved when creating/submitting a PPA DF.</p> <p>Previously submitted forms affected by this issue can be remedied by a Program Admin with the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigate to the affected DF from the Admin DFs overview page, and select "Resume this DF" • Select to "Resume" the section for "Project Operations, Maintenance, Warranties, and Guarantees" • Select "Save" and "Continue" 	July 13, 2023

Requirements and Reminders

- **Stakeholder Feedback** - This table outlines current and forthcoming proposals and feedback requests:

Proposal or Feedback Topic and Link to Details	Request for Comment Released	Deadline for Comment	Results or Updates to Request
Long-Term Plan: Chapter 3: REC Portfolio/RPS Budget and Goals Chapter 4: REC Eligibility Chapter 5: Competitive Procurements Chapter 6: Self-Direct program Chapter 9: Consumer Protection	May 26, 2023	June 16, 2023. Comments have been shared at the Agency's website .	Draft Plan to be released expected August 15, 2023.
Long-Term Plan: Chapter 7: Illinois Shines Chapter 8: Illinois Solar For All Chapter 10: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion REC Pricing Study by Sustainable Energy Advantage	June 8, 2023	June 29, 2023 Comments have been shared at the Agency's website .	Draft Plan to be released expected August 15, 2023.

- **Regional CEJA Workforce Networking Fairs** - The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is hosting a series of Regional Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Workforce Networking Fairs in July to help foster connections among people interested in growing the clean energy workforce. The networking fairs will be taking place between July 11 - 27, 2023 and will take place in or near the CEJA workforce hub locations. Additional information can be found on [DCEO's website](#), which includes [details](#) on the events and [registration](#).
- **Illinois Power Agency Issues Request for Approved Vendors and Installer Designees Interested in Serving Stranded Illinois Shines Distributed Generation Customers** - As previously [announced](#), the Program Administrator continues to review submissions on a rolling basis for entities interested in serving stranded customers. The Program Administrator is especially interested in identifying AVs and/or installer Designees that are willing to assist stranded customers specifically with project maintenance/repair work. Please see the full [Request for AVs and Designees](#), including details regarding the opportunity to support stranded customers, eligibility requirements, and anticipated responsibilities.
- **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 Program Administrator 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, July 19, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CPT
 - Wednesday, July 26, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CPT

REMINDER: All Program updates can be found on the [Program Updates 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/ for continuous updates.

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