Group A Large DG Closed, CDCS Random Selection Event, Community Solar Interconnection Costs

July 21, 2023

Program News

- **Group A Large DG Soft Close Period Concludes; Waitlist in Effect -** As announced on July 17, 2023, the Group A Large Distributed Generation soft close period has concluded. On Friday, July 14, 2023, at 4:41 p.m. CPT, the soft close limit of 10 additional megawatts of capacity was reached through projects batched and submitted to the block. As of the conclusion of the soft close period, the total batched project capacity for Group A Large DG was 52.77 MW. Any applications batched and submitted to the Program under Group A Large DG block after July 14, 2023 at 4:41 p.m. CPT will be placed on a waitlist.

- **Program Year 2022-2023 Community-Driven Community Solar Scores -** The Program Administrator released scores on Monday, June 26, 2023, which 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. AVs were provided two weeks, until July 10, 2023, to appeal scores; the Agency received three appeals. **The IPA determination on submitted appeals was finalized on July 19, 2023; there were no changes to scores related to appeals and the scoring spreadsheet on the Program website reflects final scores.**

    With post-appeal determination scores now finalized, the Agency will utilize a random selection process to break ties between projects that received the same scores. The Agency will hold the random selection re-ordering event on **Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. CPT**. Register link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CVTtXfv_SDWWDkyJuuYFzw

    After project selection, only projects that have a minimum score of 10 points will be placed on a waitlist for the 2023-2024 delivery year.

    The Agency anticipates the next steps in this process with the following updated schedule:
    - July 26, 2023 – Random selection event for projects with tied scores
    - July 28, 2023 – Final order of selected projects and waitlisted projects 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. Waitlisted projects from the 2022-2023 Program Year will receive 2023-2024 capacity. Any remaining capacity will be allocated to projects submitted in the 2023-2024 Program Year after all projects are processed and scored.

- **Community Solar Interconnection Costs -** This week, the Program Administrator sent out a survey to AVs with Part II verified community solar projects seeking updated data for interconnection costs for community solar projects. This data will be used as an input into the updated REC Pricing Model which will be released in draft form on August 15, 2023 as part of the draft 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan. If you received this survey, please provide feedback by July 28, 2023.

- **Update on Certification of EECs -** The Equity Eligible Contractor category is intended to "advance[e] equity across Illinois by providing access to the clean energy economy for businesses and workers from communities that have been historically excluded from economic opportunities," and that purpose is best served by ensuring a level playing field across Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs). The IPA has concluded that it does not further the objectives of the Equity Accountability System or the Equity Eligible Contractor category of Illinois Shines for an individual EEP to serve as the majority-owner for multiple Equity Eligible Contractors. EEPs that currently serve as the majority-owner of an Equity Eligible Contractor may not submit additional requests to certify Equity Eligible Contractors for which they serve as the majority-owner EEP. However, this policy does not apply

to Single-Project AVs, as the Agency recognizes the important role Single-Project AVs can play in successful financing of projects, and does not want to limit an EEP's ability to employ business practices available to non-EEPs. The IPA will incorporate this approach into the Draft Long-Term Plan being published for public comment on August 15, 2023, but will also apply it immediately, so as to avoid having to revoke any Equity Eligible Contractors certifications that may otherwise be approved before consideration of the issue by the ICC. Stakeholders are welcome to provide feedback through comments on the Draft Long-Term Plan.

- **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 of the Program Year, 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.

- **Launch of New www.IllinoisShines.com and Website Transition -** As [announced](#) in April the Program began the rollout of refreshed Illinois Shines branding, with a centerpiece of the efforts including combining the Program's two current public-facing websites into a single, all-inclusive and improved website to better share Program information. The new website will be hosted at www.IllinoisShines.com, and release is targeted for July 27, 2023. All currently available resources on the www.IllinoisABP.com website will be available on the new website, with links automatically redirecting to provide a seamless experience to users. This new website release will only impact the external, public-facing portion of the Program website and will not impact the Program portal where applications are submitted. On the day of site launch, a special announcement will be provided to stakeholders to answer anticipated questions and provide support.

- **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.

- **Long-Term Plan Update -** As previously [announced](#), the IPA issued the first two sets of requests for stakeholder feedback on various chapters of the Long-Term Plan (see Stakeholder Feedback chart below for chapter details). The Agency anticipates the next steps in this process with the following updated schedule:
  - Final Draft Released for stakeholder feedback- August 15, 2023
  - Stakeholder comments due to IPA - September 29, 2023
  - Filing with ICC - October 20, 2023
  - ICC Order Expected - February 19, 2024

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.

- **Traditional Community Solar Application Review and Scoring Process -** Applications submitted to date 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. A weekly waitlist publication for Group A is available at the [Block Capacity Dashboard](#) webpage.

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 CSV upload templates failing field level validation should now consistently produce a detailed error report.	July 13, 2023
Warranty Party information not saved when "installer" was chosen on PPA DFs.	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. Previously submitted forms affected by this issue can be remedied by a Program Admin with the following steps: • 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	May 26, 2023	June 16, 2023. Comments have been shared at the [Agency's website](#).	Draft Plan to be released expected August 15, 2023.

Chapter 6: Self-Direct program Chapter 9: Consumer Protection			
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.

- **Annual Reports -** Submission of Annual Reports, a Program requirement, were due July 17, 2023.
  - o AVs will receive further confirmation of their submission's status by September 15, 2023. This may include requests for further clarification and documentation where data discrepancies are found. All discrepancies must be cured by October 13, 2023.
  - o AVs who failed to respond when required, received a Notice of Potential Violation, with further disciplinary action defined.
  - o For any systems which have been delivering RECs for three full delivery years (First REC delivery on or prior to May 31, 2020), the Program Administrator will use the 2023 REC Annual Report data to calculate any potential collateral drawdowns and send the results to the contracting utility by November 15, 2023. The contracting utility will share the results with the AVs.
  - o Community solar systems will additionally be assessed by the Community Solar Subscriber parameters, as outlined in the Program Guidebook, to calculate any potential collateral drawdowns. The Program Administrator will send the results to the contracting utility by November 15, 2023. The contracting utility will share the results with the AVs.
  - o Additional information on collateral drawdown evaluations can be found in the Annual Reports Webinar, held May 9, 2023 and available at the Program Year Updates page.
- **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 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
  - o Wednesday, July 26, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
  - o Wednesday, August 2, 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.