2023-2024 TCS Random Selection Event Results, Long-Term Plan Comments due September 29, Illinois Shines Surveys

September 22, 2023

<u>Program News</u>

- **Community Solar Program News** - Recent Community Solar Program updates include the following:
  - **Results of Program Year 2023-2024 Traditional Community Solar (TCS) Random Selection Event** – On September 22, 2023, the results of the TCS Random Selection event were posted. The event was hosted on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 and the recording, presentation slides, and the results spreadsheet detailing Group A and Group B project awards and waitlists for each Group (projects receiving scores of at least five points), are posted to the Traditional Community Solar page of the Program website's Project Category Hubs. A special announcement regarding the random selection event was also shared on September 22, 2023. The Group A and Group B TCS waitlists will continue to be updated regularly on the Block Capacity Dashboard as new projects are submitted and scored.
  - **Program Year 2023-24 Community Driven Community Solar (CDCS)** - As shared on September 1, 2023, the Program Administrator has begun to review project applications and will continue to share updates as they move through the process of application review and scoring. Detailed information will soon be shared and posted to the Program website's CDCS Hub. The Agency anticipates 2023-2024 CDCS project selection to follow the steps below.
    - August 31, 2023 - September 22, 2023 - Application Review *(approximately 3 weeks)*
    - September 23, 2023 - October 6, 2023 - Application Cure Period *(approximately 2 weeks)*
    - October 7, 2023 - October 27, 2023 - Application Scoring Period *(approximately 3 weeks)*
    - October 28, 2023 - November 10, 2023 - Application Scoring Cure Period *(approx. 2 weeks)*
    - November 15, 2023 - Release scores, begin two-week appeal period
    - December 1, 2023 - Deadline for AVs to submit appeals to Program Administrator
    - December 15, 2023 - Appeal determinations released to AVs and any changes to scores will be published on the website
    - December 20, 2023 - Random selection event for projects with tied scores (if necessary)
    - December 22, 2023 - Final Scores published
- **Stakeholder Feedback Opportunities**
  - **Long-Term Plan Update** - As announced on August 15, 2023, the Agency has released the draft 2024 Long-Term Plan for public review and comment. The IPA welcomes public comments on the draft 2024 Long-Term Plan. **Written comments are due on <mark>Friday, September 29, 2023.</mark>** The Agency anticipates the next steps in this process with the following schedule:
    - August 15, 2023 - Final Draft Release for stakeholder feedback
    - September 15, 2023 - Virtual public hearings
    - September 29, 2023 - Stakeholder comments due to IPA
    - October 20, 2023 - Filing with ICC
    - February 19, 2024 - ICC Order Expected
  - **Approved Vendor Roundtables** - The Program Administrator is excited to announce the next round of AV Roundtables for each project Category of the Illinois Shines program. These Roundtables follow the successful inaugural Roundtables held in Spring 2023 where AVs provided valuable perspectives to the Program Administrator. A survey will be sent to AVs in the next week to solicit attendance interest, please be on the lookout and respond to the survey in order to participate.

- o **Illinois Shines AV and Designee Satisfaction Survey - Responses Requested by October 6, 2023** – On September 18, the Program Administrator sent the [2023 Illinois Shines AV and Designee Program Satisfaction Survey](#). The purpose of this survey is to gauge the satisfaction of AVs and Designees participating in Illinois Shines, and to capture valuable stakeholder feedback. The Program Administrator requests that AVs and Designees to complete the survey by October 6, 2023. For questions, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@IllinoisShines.com.
- **Distributed Generation Program News** - Recent Distributed Generation Program updates include the following:
  - o **Distributed Generation (DG) Disclosure Form (DF) Application Programming Interface (API) Working Group Underway** - A kickoff meeting was held September 18, 2023, which yielded valuable participation and feedback from participating entities. The next meeting of the Working Group is expected to be scheduled very soon, following further software development. AVs and Designees interested to participate should email the Program Administrator at admin@IllinoisShines.com.
  - o **Availability of Group A Distributed Generation Capacity** - Initially posted on [September 6, 2023](#)
- **EEC Program News** - Recent Equity Eligibility Contractor (EEC) updates include the following:
  - o **Advance of Capital Authorizations Temporary Pause** - On [September 13, 2023](#), the Agency announced the temporary pause for advance of capital authorizations for EECs. The announcement included an update on advance of capital requests, and associated Agency rationale for the pause, next steps, and several related questions and answers. The IPA anticipates resuming processing the advance of capital request submissions and reviews in November 2023, but will provide further updates.
  - o **EEC Waitlists** - Initially posted on [September 1, 2023](#)
  - o **Update on Certification of EEC AVs and Designees** - Initially posted on [August 11, 2023](#)
  - o **Clarification on Advance of Capital Requests for EECs** - Initially posted on [July 28, 2023](#)
  - o **Update on Certification of EECs** - Initially posted on [July 21, 2023](#)
  - o **EEC Developer Cap** - Initially posted on [July 14, 2023](#)
- **Consumer Education and Protection**
  - o **Reminder to Register Designees/Nested Designees** - Initially posted on [September 15, 2023,](#)
  - o **When Are Net Metering Waivers Applicable?** - Initially posted on [September 8, 2023](#)
  - o **Disclosure Forms (DFs) - When New DFs are Needed, Signatory Requirement Exceptions, and Portal Inputs** - Initially posted on [August 25, 2023](#)

Ongoing Operations Updates

- **Part II Verification Cut Off for September** - To allow time for invoice calculation and generation, the last valid Part II Verification date for September will be <mark>today, September 22, 2023</mark>. Applications that are Part II verified on or before September 22, 2023 will be included in the October invoicing period. Application processing will continue throughout the last week of the month and any applications reviewed between September 23, 2023 and September 30, 2023 will be invoiced in November 2023.
- **Re-Batching for ICC Meetings** - In advance of each submission of batches to the ICC for approval, AVs are provided the opportunity to review the projects that are about to be submitted for re-batching. During re-batching, AVs have the opportunity to withhold or re-batch projects. In the absence of any action by an AV, the Program Administrator will re-batch the projects at their discretion and submit eligible projects to the ICC.

  It is extremely important that AVs review their re-batching files on SharePoint to indicate any re-batching preferences, but especially requests to withhold projects from submission. The Program Administrator alerts AVs by email when they have projects that are eligible for re-batching and planned to be submitted to the ICC

in the next memo. Unfortunately, sometimes these communications are missed and projects are submitted to the ICC despite an AVs intent to hold a project back.

The Program Administrator requests that AVs who believe they may want to withhold or re-batch projects mark their calendars and review SharePoint folders for re-batching templates. This way, if any email alerts are missed, AVs are still aware of the dates that re-batching opens and can check if any projects are in the upcoming ICC submission. Below are re-batching windows for the rest of 2023:

Re-Batching Opens for AVs	Election Deadline – 12:00 CPT (Re-batching closes for AVs)	Trade Date (ICC Meeting Date)
9/12/2023	9/14/2023	9/28/2023
9/19/2023	9/21/2023	10/5/2023
10/2/2023	10/4/2023	10/19/2023
10/17/2023	10/19/2023	11/2/2023
10/30/2023	11/1/2023	11/16/2023
11/13/2023	11/15/2023	11/30/2023
11/28/2023	11/30/2023	12/14/2023

Application Processing Updates

- **Application Processing Tables** - Application processing tables are maintained at IllinoisShines.com/project-application-reports/. Effective the week of September 18 these tables will now be updated daily. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at admin@IllinoisShines.com.
- **Application Tips and Tricks** - Supplementing previous guidance, the Program Administrator seeks to continue supporting stakeholders in the avoidance of project applications entering *Need Info* status. The following are important tips for stakeholders to keep in mind when submitting applications.
  - **Avoiding Data Discrepancies between DF and Project Applications** – Initially posted on September 15, 2023
  - **When Are Net Metering Waivers Applicable?** - Initially posted on September 8, 2023
  - **When New DFs are Needed and DF Signatory Requirement Exceptions** - Initially posted on August 25, 2023
  - **Plot Map issues, AC size, and Property Owner Information Discrepancies** - Initially posted on August 25, 2023
  - **System Size Entered in Watts and not kW, DF Email Address Waiver, and Part I and Part II Differences** - Initially posted on August 18, 2023

  For help in avoiding these issues please contact the Program Administrator at admin@IllinoisShines.com.

Ongoing Program Portal Updates

- Ongoing portal updates, a Portal Development Roadmap, and a library of help guides can be found at IllinoisShines.com/portal-updates-help-guides/.
- **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 October. 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. <mark>On September 28, 2023 the maintenance window will extend through 6:00 a.m. CPT on September 29, 2023</mark> to accommodate additional releases.

<u>Requirements and Reminders</u>

- **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
Draft 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan	August 15, 2023	<mark>September 29, 2023</mark>	

- **IPA Issues Request for AVs and Installer Designees Interested in Serving Stranded Illinois Shines DG Customers -** As previously announced, the Program continues to review submissions on a rolling basis for entities interested in serving stranded customers, with particular interest in identifying AVs and/or installer Designees willing to assist stranded customers 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 -** Existing and prospective AVs and Designees who have Programmatic questions, project application inquiries, or are experiencing technical difficulties the portal or other Program or seek support in resolving other challenges are invited to attend open Office Hours offered by the Program Administrator via Zoom each week, using a waiting room format to support meetings with individual AV or Designee teams for privacy. Upcoming Office Hours and join link: https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/95588710302Co
  - o Wednesday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
  - o Wednesday, October 4, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
  - o Wednesday, October 11, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT

<u>REMINDER:</u> All Program updates can be found on the Program Updates webpage, and a new Vendor Forums & Key Dates page at the Program website provides a calendar of upcoming webinars, meetings, support, feedback requests, key dates, holidays, and more. Please visit IllinoisShines.com/vendor-forums-feedback/ for continuous updates.

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