

## 2023-2024 TCS Appeals Due, 2023-2024 CDCS Timeline, Long-Term Plan Upcoming Virtual Public Hearings

September 8, 2023

### Program News

- **Community Solar Program News**
  - **Traditional Community Solar (TCS) Timeline for Projects submitted June 1, 2023** - As announced on [August 24, 2023](#), all projects submitted in the 2022-2023 Program Year have been processed and scored. The anticipated schedule of next steps for applications submitted for the 2023-2024 Program Year is the following:
    - **Today, September 8, 2023, 11:59 p.m. CPT** – Deadline for AVs to submit appeals to Program Administrator
    - September 18, 2023 – Appeal determinations released to AVs and any changes to scores will be published on the website
    - September 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. CPT - Random selection event for projects with tied scores. Registration link: <https://energy-solution.zoom.us/j/92591645721>
    - September 22, 2023 - Final scores published
  - **Program Year 2023-2024 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 and Scoring Cure 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
- **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 Friday, September 29, 2023**. The Agency will also hold virtual public hearings for the draft 2024 Long-Term Plan on September 15. 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. *Meeting information for public hearing for each utility's service area can be found [here](#).*
  - September 29, 2023 - Stakeholder comments due to IPA
  - October 20, 2023 - Filing with ICC
  - February 19, 2024 - ICC Order Expected

- **Distributed Generation Program News**
  - **Group A Distributed Generation Capacity** - On [September 6, 2023](#), the Program addressed the rapidly depleted capacity in Group A Distributed Generation (DG). In the notice, the Program explains that though capacity has been reached for Group A Large DG and Group A Small DG capacity is quickly being exhausted, **projects developed in central and southern Illinois may still be submitted to the Program even if there is not currently any capacity available**. These applications will be placed on a waitlist and will have first priority to new capacity released on June 1, 2024.
  - **Distributed Generation (DG) Disclosure Form (DF) Application Programming Interface (API) Working Group Underway** - The kickoff meeting will be held on September 18, 2023. Follow-up meetings are initially anticipated for the weeks of September 25 and October 2, with additional information to follow. Participation is still welcomed by interested AVs and Designees; if interested, email the Program Administrator at [admin@IllinoisShines.com](mailto:admin@IllinoisShines.com).
- **EEC Program News** - Recent Equity Eligibility Contractor (EEC) updates include the following:
  - **EEC Waitlists** - Initially posted on [September 1, 2023](#)
  - **Update on Certification of EEC AVs and Designees** - Initially posted on [August 11, 2023](#)
  - **Clarification on Advance of Capital Requests for EECs** - Initially posted on [July 28, 2023](#)
  - **Update on Certification of EECs** - Initially posted on [July 21, 2023](#)
  - **EEC Developer Cap** - Initially posted on [July 14, 2023](#)
- **Consumer Education and Protection**
  - **Disclosure Forms (DFs) - When New DFs are Needed, Signatory Requirement Exceptions, and Portal Inputs** - In the [August 25, 2023](#) announcement, the Program Administrator provided guidelines for [when new DFs are needed](#) and [DF signatory requirement exceptions](#), and provided information regarding portal inputs including average retail rate (DG) and price to compare (CS).
  - **When Are Net Metering Waivers Applicable?** - Illinois Shines places priority on educating and informing customers about all aspects of their decision to go solar, including the significant financial commitment of solar installation. Net metering is a billing mechanism whereby customers earn credit for the power their system produces that is sent to the grid for others to utilize. ComEd, Ameren, and MidAmerican are required to provide customer bill credits for excess energy produced by their solar system. Based on their financial structure, some rural electric cooperatives, municipal electric utilities and Alternative Retail Electric Suppliers (ARES) in Illinois limit access to net metering or do not offer net metering credits, and in some cases these entities offer a crediting approach, which may or may not meet Illinois Shines requirements that they be “substantially comparable” to net metering.

Customers should be provided relevant information about net metering or related credits, in order to properly evaluate a decision to install solar, as this information impacts the financial considerations associated with the customer’s investment as well as their monthly average outlay for electricity. If the interconnecting utility does not offer net metering or a credit approach that is at, or close, to the retail rate, this information should be reviewed with the customer, and customers should be presented with, and asked to execute, the Program’s Unavailability of Net Metering Credits Customer Acknowledgement Form ([fillable](#) form and [static](#) form), which should then be attached to a submitted project application.

### Ongoing Operations Updates

- **August REC Invoicing Opened September 1, 2023** - REC invoices and Quarterly Netting Statements were made available for download from AV SharePoint folders on September 1, 2023. Invoices must be submitted to the utility by **September 10, 2023** to receive payment for the September invoice period. Any invoice amounts not

submitted to the utility by September 10, 2023 will be carried forward and included in the next invoice period (December 2023).

- **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 September 22, 2023. 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 that are 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** - The Program Administrator updates the application processing tables at [IllinoisShines.com/project-application-reports/](https://IllinoisShines.com/project-application-reports/) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For questions about specific project applications, please contact the Program Administrator at [admin@IllinoisShines.com](mailto:admin@IllinoisShines.com).

### Ongoing Program Portal Updates

- Ongoing portal updates and a library of portal help guides can be found at [IllinoisShines.com/portal-updates-help-guides/](https://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 September.** 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.

- **Portal Development Roadmap** - On August 30, 2023, a Portal Development Roadmap was added to the Program website at the [Portal Updates & Help Guides page](#). The Portal Development Roadmap is designed to preview upcoming, planned development for the Illinois Shines portal. Updates on the planned activities will be provided in weekly Program announcements, and detailed in the page's [Portal Updates Blog](#) in conjunction with software releases.

### 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
<a href="#">Draft 2024 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan</a>	August 15, 2023	September 29, 2023	

- **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>
  - Wednesday, September 13, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
  - Wednesday, September 20, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT
  - Wednesday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CPT

**REMINDER:** 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/](https://IllinoisShines.com/vendor-forums-feedback/) for continuous updates.

**CONTACT US:** For portal, application, or Program-specific questions and inquiries, please contact [admin@IllinoisShines.com](mailto:admin@IllinoisShines.com) or call 877-783-1820.