

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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Notice of Public Comment Period Docket No. 19-BSTD-07

Application for Solar Photovoltaic System Requirement Determination by City of Needles in Accordance with Section 10-109(k) of the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1

The City of Needles submitted an application for a solar photovoltaic (PV) system requirement determination to the California Energy Commission (CEC) on August 14, 2019, to be exempt from the solar PV requirement for newly constructed low-rise residential buildings included in the *2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards*¹.

Staff's review of the application will determine if the application is complete and includes all the supporting information necessary for the CEC to determine if Section 10-109(k) applies to newly constructed low-rise residential buildings in Needles. Staff encourages interested parties to participate in the review and seek comments on the application, as well as any potential impacts relating to the proposal.

Background

The *2019 Building Standards* include new solar PV requirements for all newly constructed low-rise residential buildings in Section 150.1(c)14. These requirements, along with the rest of the 2019 California Building Standards Code, go into effect on January 1, 2020.

California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, Section 10-109(k), specifies that the CEC, upon written application or its own motion, may determine that the residential solar PV requirements in Section 150.1(c)14 shall not apply to particular buildings. The CEC may do so based on a finding that the implementation of public agency rules regarding utility system costs and revenue requirements, compensation for customer-owned generation, or interconnection fees, causes the CEC's cost-effectiveness conclusions to not hold for particular buildings. This ensures that the requirements adopted into Part 6 only apply where they are cost effective and consistent with Section 25402 of the California Public Resources Code.

¹ California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, and Part 6.

On August 13, 2019, Needles conducted a public hearing and approved the decision to seek a determination under Section 10-109(k) of the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10. Needles provides electric service to its residents through the Needles Public Utility Authority (NPUA). Needles has submitted an application proposing that NPUA residential energy rates are lower than those assumed by the CEC when determining cost-effectiveness of solar PV systems, and that the 2019 residential solar PV requirements are not cost effective when NPUA rates are applied.

Needles' application includes the following:

- Cover letter that summarizes the proposal
- NPUA residential energy rate schedule
- NPUA photovoltaic interconnection agreement
- NPUA electric rate calculation template
- Resolution approved at the public hearing on August 13, 2019

A copy of the documents is attached.

Public Comments

Written comments should be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2019** (60-day comment period). If you wish to submit comments on the proposal, please submit them using the e-commenting feature on the CEC's webpage at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=19-BSTD-07>.

A full name, email address, comment title, and either a comment or an attached document (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format) is mandatory. After a challenge response test used by the system to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the CEC Docket Unit.

You are encouraged to use the electronic filing system described above to submit comments. If you are unable to submit electronically, a paper copy of your comments, including the docket number 19-BSTD-07 and indicating "City of Needles Photovoltaic System Determination" may be sent to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
Docket No. 19-BSTD-07
1516 9th Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

Or email them to: DOCKET@energy.ca.gov

Please note that your e-comments, emails, written letters, any attachments and associated contact information (for example, address, phone number, and email

address) become part of the viewable public record. Additionally, this information may become available via internet search engines.

Public Participation

The CEC's Public Advisor's Office provides the public assistance in participating in CEC activities. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Acting Public Advisor, Jennifer Martin-Gallardo, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, or by email at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov.

Please direct all media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by email at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

If you have questions on the subject matter of this notice, please contact Cheng Moua at (916) 651-3004, or by email at cheng.moua@energy.ca.gov.