

Decision 25-12-035 December 18, 2025

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Consider Distributed Energy Resource Program Cost-Effectiveness Issues, Data Access and Use, and Equipment Performance Standards.

Rulemaking 22-11-013

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to October 30, 2026.

1. Background and Justification

Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 1701.5(a) provides that the Commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo of a ratesetting proceeding within 18-months of the date the proceeding is initiated, unless the Commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline. The current statutory deadline for resolving this application is December 31, 2025.

On November 23, 2022, the Commission issued the instant Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR or R.) 22-11-013 to achieve consistency of cost effectiveness assessments, improve data access and use, and consider equipment

performance standards for distributed energy resource (DER) customer programs. R.22-11-013 provides the procedural framework for advancing the vision articulated in the customer programs track of the Commission's DER Action Plan 2.0, which states:

"The DER Action Plan's Customer Programs Track focuses on improving coordination, planning and developing consistent metrics across DER proceedings related to customer programs to maximize their contributions to [greenhouse gas (GHG)] reductions and other state energy goals. The goal is to enable all customers to effectively manage their energy usage in a manner that ensures equitable participation and distribution of benefits, alignment with evolving rate design and load flexibility, alignment with distribution planning objectives, and alignment with integrated resource planning objectives."

A Pre-hearing Conference was held on March 29, 2023.

On May 31, 2023, the assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling was issued, which bifurcated the proceeding into two phases. Phase One focuses on issues related to cost-effectiveness of customer DER programs, including updating the Avoided Cost Calculator, and policies on improving data usage and access to help customers make informed decisions about adoption, evaluation, and utilization of DERs. Phase Two focuses on developing equipment performance standards.

Phase One has two tracks. Track One examines how to make cost-effectiveness assessments more accurate and consistent across DER programs. Track Two examines the rules and requirements to improve data access to facilitate adoption, evaluation, and utilization of DERs by customers and other entities and to improve DER integration with the grid.

On May 30, 2024, Decision 24-05-057 extended the statutory deadline for this proceeding to December 31, 2025.

Track Two of the proceeding involves a working group and consultant report on the working group. This work is currently in progress and additional time is needed to complete the report and solicit party comment before issuing a final decision. Track One of this proceeding follows a two-year cycle with the Avoided Cost Calculator and updates will need to be made in 2026, the second year of the cycle. These updates are adopted by Commission Decision so additional time may be needed in the proceeding to complete the cycle without interruption. An extension of the statutory deadline to October 30, 2026, is appropriate to allow sufficient time for the Commission to complete the scoped work for both Track One, if needed, and Track Two of the proceeding.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment on the proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Darcie L. Houck is the assigned Commissioner and Jack Chang and Hazlyn Fortune are the assigned Administrative Law Judges in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. On November 23, 2022, the Commission issued R.22-11-013.
2. A prehearing conference was held on March 29, 2023.

3. On May 31, 2023, the assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling was issued, which bifurcated the proceeding into two phases.

4. Phase One has two tracks – Track One and Track Two.

5. The current statutory deadline for resolving this application is December 31, 2025.

6. This application cannot be completed by December 31, 2025.

7. An extension of the statutory deadline until October 30, 2026, is necessary to allow adequate time to complete this proceeding.

Conclusion of Law

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code §1701.5(a), the statutory deadline in this proceeding should be extended to October 30, 2026.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended until October 30, 2026.

This order is effective today.

Dated December 18, 2025, at Sacramento, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS

President

DARCIE L. HOUCK

JOHN REYNOLDS

KAREN DOUGLAS

Commissioners

Commissioner Matthew Baker recused himself from this agenda item and was not part of the quorum in its consideration.