

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Ami Hafkemeyer EFSEC Director of Siting and Compliance P.O. Box 43172 Olympia WA 98504-3172

Dear Ami,

This letter requests the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council's agreement that the processing time of the Aurora Solar, LLC's Badger Mountain Solar Energy Project Application be extended an additional eighteen months, to April 7, 2025.

The Aurora Solar, LLC Application for Site Certification was filed with EFSEC on October 7, 2021. RCW 80.50.100 requires that: "The council shall report to the governor its recommendations as to the approval or rejection of an application for certification within twelve months of receipt by the council of such an application, or such later time as is mutually agreed by the council and the applicant." A twelve month extension was requested, and granted, to process the application by October 7, 2023.

Through discussions with EFSEC staff, we understand the preparation of the draft SEPA Environmental Impact Study (EIS) has been delayed due to staffing challenges and supplemental study and analysis. At this time, we anticipate that the draft EIS is expected to be published for public comment in the third quarter of 2024, followed by the adjudicatory hearing, preparation of the final EIS, Council recommendation, and Governor's decision.

The pace of regional utility clean energy supply procurement in the Pacific Northwest is currently driven by Washington's and neighboring States' aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals. We appreciate EFSEC staff's continued efforts to review the Badger Mountain Solar Energy Project Application and respectfully request that the Council allocate the appropriate resources to complete and deliver a recommendation to the Governor within a timeline consistent with these State goals.

Sincerely,

-DocuSigned by:

Sara Parsons 7E3636F16E82493...

Sara Parsons Authorized Representative

Aurora Solar LLC 2701 NW Vaughan Street, Suite 300, Portland, OR 97210 www.avangridrenewables.com

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