

SMART Program Frequently Asked Questions

(Version 1 - updated 2/19/18)

Dates / Timing / Application Questions

Question: What are the dates when applicants may begin to submit project applications for Block 1?

A: The SMART Program is not currently accepting applications. The date when the SMART Program will open has not yet been finalized, as there is an open proceeding with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (MA DPU) regarding the SMART Program tariff.

Once the MA DPU finalizes the tariff, the program launch date will be announced. (It is currently expected that this will be later this year, perhaps as early as the summer of 2018). At the time of the program launch date announcement, we will also publish a final list of application submission requirements so that potential applicants will have sufficient time to collect and prepare required materials ahead of the program application submission window opening.

Question: When will Block 1 close and the MA SMART program base incentive levels transition to Block 2 levels?

A. Scheduled reductions in the MA SMART program incentive rates are based on cumulative capacity of applications, not based on elapsed time. Within each EDC's program allocations, Blocks will close and incentive rates will decline only when prior Block capacity allocations have been filled.

Please note that there are 5 utility areas/territories within the MA SMART program, and that each Block allocation will fill independently, based on applications specifically within that territory. As each EDC's blocks are filled, the program will immediately start accepting applications for the subsequent block for that utility. The timing of each of these transitions will vary by utility, and will be dependent upon the volume of applications received and how quickly each EDC's Blocks fill. Also note that each Block has a minimum of 20% of the Block capacity carved-out for small systems $\leq 25\text{kW}$, and maximum of 35% of each Block allowed for the small systems. As such, the small system portion of each Block will fill independently of the large system portion, and this will also vary by EDC territory.

Question: If my current projects are interconnected, generating power and net metering but not in the SREC program, can I still apply for SMART?

A: All systems interconnected on or after 1/1/2018 in Eversource, National Grid, or Unitil service territory are eligible for SMART, so long as they are not already enrolled in an SREC program.

Question: It is my understanding that SRECs are ending March 31st. What is going to happen in between this program ending and when the SMART Program will be rolled out?

A: To clarify, SREC II will end when the SMART program begins, without any gap between the two programs. Until that time, systems may continue to apply for SREC II participation and compensation.

SREC Factors for eligible projects over 25kW will decline for those that are not mechanically complete by March 31, 2018 as shown in the table below:

Market Sector	Mechanically Complete by 3/31/2018	Mechanically Complete After 3/31/2018
A (<= 25 kW DC)	0.8	
A (> 25 kW DC)	0.7	0.65
B	0.6	0.55
C	0.55	0.5
Managed Growth	0.5	0.45

Question: When the SMART program opens again, will it be another competitive RFP or will applications be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis? If first-come, first-served, do we have to be ready at midnight the day the program opens in order to get our application in?

A: We currently anticipate that the Block 1 application portal will open for applications during the East Coast morning business hours of the official program launch date, so applicants will not need to start at midnight. Throughout the program, all applications will be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis, with the exception of the first day, when applications will be processed differently.

On “Day One” of the opening of Block 1, we will not sort applications on the basis of time of submission - every applicant who submits a complete and eligible application on Day One will be considered to have submitted their application at the same time.

>25kW system applications received on this day will then be ordered based on the execution date of the fully executed ISA submitted with the application. ≤25kW system applications received on this day will be ordered on the basis of the date of execution of the installer contract that will need to be submitted with the SMART application. Both queues will be established on the basis of this sorting.

On day two and beyond, every application will be date and time stamped and will be reviewed on the basis of, and in order of, time and date of submission.

Question: If I have a system that is currently qualified under an older incentive program (SREC I, SREC II, Commonwealth Solar), can I expand on that system and qualify it under the SMART program?

A: Projects installed on the same parcel as an existing system that receives incentives are eligible to apply to the SMART program. The new SMART system must be separately metered from the originally installed system.

Question: As I understand it, systems greater than 1MW are not eligible to apply for Block 1 of the SMART Program, but rather must wait for Block 2. However, can we submit applications now for Block 2 in the portal? Or must we wait until Block 1 is completely closed first?

A: Systems equal to or greater than 1MW are eligible to receive Block 1 incentive compensation only if they are seeking an adder. Systems equal to or greater than 1MW that are not seeking an adder were expected to apply during the competitive RFP process of Block 1. Therefore, systems of this size without any adders will only be eligible for Block 2 and beyond.

As noted, we will not approve applications for Block 2 incentive levels within a particular EDC territory until the applicable Block 1 for that territory is filled. If any 1 MW – 5 MW projects without adders are received before the applicable Block 1 is filled, the SPA reserves the option to reject those applications and return them to the Applicant. However, if any specific Block 1 fills on “Day One” of the program opening, such applications will be included in the Day One Block 2 filling and ordering process.

Question: Are projects that are in construction right now with signed ISAs that are not part of SREC II eligible for the SMART Program? What is the process for getting such existing projects into the SMART Program?

A: Yes, projects with executed, valid and in-force ISA’s as of the time of their application, and which are not participating in SREC II, are eligible for the SMART program.

These projects will need to apply for SMART incentives through the same process as any other potentially eligible project – though use of the MA SMART application portal, once the MA SMART tariff is finalized and that application portal becomes available.

Question: We have two projects under construction with existing ISAs. Is it possible to switch these to the SMART program? If yes, what is the process? (Related question from another party – We have an SREC II project in construction with a March 31st deadline. If we can’t finish by then, will the project automatically convert to the SMART program?)

A: Projects >25kW must have a fully executed ISA to apply for and receive a capacity block reservation under the SMART program. Applicants must also have site control and be in possession of all non-ministerial permits.

A project that is currently qualified under SREC II but is not operational may apply to the SMART program as long as all minimum eligibility requirements are met.

Please note that these applications / program conversions will not be automatic. Every system wishing to participate in the SMART program must submit a SMART program application, and project evaluation and assignment of capacity block reservations will be handled on the previously discussed first-come, first-served basis.

Question: We may have once registered our project in the SREC program. Do I need to consider waiving anything formally? I just assumed the SMART application process implied that the project would be in SMART and not SREC.

A: Please see the above answer - a project that is currently qualified under SREC II but is not operational may apply to the SMART program as long as all minimum eligibility requirements are met.

Please note that these applications / program conversions will not be automatic. Every system wishing to participate in the SMART program must submit a SMART program application, and project evaluation and assignment of capacity block reservations will be handled on the first-come, first-served basis.

Upon the close of the SREC II Program, DOER will reject all applications that are not operational or have received an extension to their qualifications. However, if a project is still qualified for SREC II at the close of that program, but is not yet operational, the authorized representative must formally revoke the project from its SREC II status if they are planning on submitting the same project to SMART.

Any project that is currently qualified and operational under an existing incentive program, such as the SREC I or SREC II program, is not eligible to apply for SMART. If a system owner is interested in expanding upon an existing project, the expansion should be separately metered and submitted to SMART as a new Generation Unit.

Question: Will the portal for the SOQ from SREC II will be used when applying for the SMART program?

A: No. The application portal for the SMART Program can be found at <https://masmartsolar.powerclerk.com>. Please note that this portal will be not be live and ready to accept applications until the official program launch date.

As noted above, any existing SREC II applications will not automatically be converted to the MA SMART Program. Any system owner or applicant wishing to participate in MA SMART must submit a new, separate incentive application through the MA SMART application portal.

Documentation / Requirements Questions

Question: I am reviewing the SMART regulations and see the customer disclosure form noted several times for community solar. Has this been created yet? We are developing a number of projects that we aim to qualify for the community solar adder and want to have the correct documentation in place for our off-taker customers.

A: DOER is working on the customer disclosure form, which will be made available shortly via the MA SMART website.

Question: What are the necessary qualifications that a Solar Tariff Generation Unit (“STGU”) owner must meet?

A: The SMART Program will develop an applicants’ checklist of required documents and will post this information on the MA SMART website prior to opening for new applications. Qualifications and documentation requirements will vary depending upon the size of the STGU applying for the incentive.

For systems less than or equal to 25kW, the following documents (per 225 CMR 20.06) will be required:

1. An executed contract between the installer and the customer
2. The executed PPA/ Lease if the system is third party owned
3. Customer Disclosure form
4. If seeking the low-income base compensation rate, documentation that the customer is on the low income residential utility rate.

For systems over 25kW:

1. Fully executed, valid and in-force ISA
2. Evidence of site control
3. All non-ministerial permits

A solar tariff generation unit seeking an adder may also be required to provide additional eligibility documentation demonstrating their qualification for the requested adder.

To be fully enrolled in the tariff, all systems must provide evidence of authorization to interconnect. For systems > 25 kW, this is required at the time of application; for smaller systems ≤ 25 kW, this will be required with the project completion documentation.

Question: We are planning to submit applications for our projects once the SMART program officially starts. For budgeting reasons, we would like to know if the program has defined any application fees (upon submission of application) and developer’s security deposits (upon PPA execution).

A: When Block 1 opens later this year, an application fee will be required to submit an application. The fee will be payable via credit card through the application portal. The fee structure has not yet been finalized, but we expect it to be a nominal fee as compared to other project costs. There will not be a performance guarantee or security deposit required for the regular SMART Program; that was only required for the competitive RFP process which was just completed.

Question: Does the incentive apply for sites served by a municipal utility? If so, what is the base rate?

A. Projects interconnected in municipally owned utility/light department service territories are not eligible to participate in the SMART Program. Following the close of the SREC II Program, projects interconnected in municipal utility service territories may apply to the DOER for Class I Qualification. All interested projects should contact DOER for this process.

Question: After reading the Solar Land Use Guidance and Information document that we downloaded from DOER, it is our understanding that these rules will only apply to projects that are located in parcels with more than ten (10) contiguous acres of Chapter 61 land or former Chapter 61 land. This rule will not apply to parcels with ten (10) or less contiguous acres of Chapter 61 A land or former Chapter 61 land. Are we understanding this guideline correctly?

A: The document that you reference is from the straw proposal development phase of SMART and is outdated. You should refer to 225 CMR 20.00 which are the final approved regulations for the SMART Program. There is no minimum size or number of acres for these provisions to apply.

Question: We are a solar installer/developer and have a few projects that will likely fall under the SMART program that are multi-family units. How does SMART work in terms of the Schedule Z allocations? Is using a Schedule Z still an option under SMART and if so, how will virtual net metering work under SMART?

A: Net metering rules and regulations are not changed or been impacted by SMART. All projects utilizing virtual net metering must continue to comply with those rules.

Incentive Calculation and Compensation Questions

Question: Based on 225 CMR 20.00 - Section 20.08, the Solar Incentive Payment is the (Base Compensation Rate + Compensation Rate Adders - Greenfield Subtractors) *kWh generated - value of the energy generated. I have two questions:

- Why is the value of the energy generated being taken off the solar incentive payment?
- Will the utility pay us separately for the value of the energy?

A: In the case of behind the meter systems, this energy value is derived from the avoided cost savings accrued by systems interconnected behind the meter. That is, behind the meter systems will serve on-site load first (and be compensated for this production in the form of avoided costs of energy they would otherwise have purchased from their EDC), before any export generation is sent back to the grid and compensated. This value of energy is removed from the SMART incentive calculation in order to avoid 'double compensating' system owners for the energy they produce. The SMART incentive is intended solely to provide incremental compensation to system owners for their STGU's production. Whether through qualifying facility tariffs or net metering provisions, mechanisms already exist to compensate STGU owners for the value of the energy their systems produce, and including these values in the SMART incentive would result in STGU owners being compensated twice for the same energy.

Regarding the second question, yes, standalone solar tariff generation units will receive value for the energy they produce, at the appropriate rate based on the nature of the STGU. This value will be conveyed either in the form of a direct payment if the system is interconnected as a Non-Net Metered Facility Qualifying Facility, or as a bill credit if the system is an Alternative Bill Credit Generation Unit or a Net Metered Generation Unit.

Question: I am trying to calculate incentive kWh values. I understand how to calculate the base rate and adders, but I'm not sure what to subtract to get the overall incentive.

A: This is defined in the SMART Program regulation (225 CMR 20.00). Specifically, please refer to section 20.08 regarding calculation of incentive payments. As defined in the regulations, the energy value netted out of each STGU's incentive value will depend on which type of STGU installed. In the case of standalone units, these value of energy variables will vary by EDC and by whether the standalone system is established as an Net Energy Metered system, an Alternative On-Bill Credit system, or a Qualifying Facility. Applicable values for each of these cases will be set by each EDC once the program is fully up and operating. Those values will vary by utility, rate class/code, and will change periodically over time - our current expectation is that these values will be updated annually.

In the case of behind-the-meter systems, the energy value netted out of the STGU's incentive level is a fixed three-year average of distribution plus transmission plus transition plus basic service kWh charges for the relevant load customer.

Finally, other variables related to calculating incentive payments that are dependent on the outcome of the DPU SMART Tariff proceeding – final decisions here are not expected for at least several months. We will post additional information on <http://masmartsolar.com> as it becomes available.

Question: How will consumers be compensated from the base compensation rates that resulted from the Block 1 competitive solicitation? Assuming there is excess production, will a check be cut from the utilities on a monthly or yearly basis or bill credit? What if they want to cash out?

A: There is an open proceeding with the MA DPU regarding the SMART Program tariff that will finalize this process. It is expected that the utilities will both make payments and provide bill credits, depending upon the nature of the compensation earned. Net metering values and QF energy payments will continue to be applied as under current mechanisms. MA SMART incentive payments will be made in the form of monthly cash payments from EDC's to system owners.

Please note that system owners may not be paid up-front for the expected value of any incentive payments. Incentive payments will be calculated over time based on measured system production, and will be paid to system owners as earned.

Question: If a solar developer were to rent the roof of a commercial building and install a PV system, could that system be considered a standalone Solar Tariff Generation Unit?

A: If the Solar Tariff Generation Unit is not interconnected behind the utility meter of that building, but is interconnected in front of the meter, then yes, the incentives for this system could be calculated on the basis of that STGU being a standalone system. This would need to be approved by the EDC and the building owner, and clearly demonstrated in the ISA and other application documents.

Question: How does compensation work for a commercial rooftop facility that is not net-metered (and doesn't get any alternative credits, either), and which does not have an off-taker for the energy. Under the SMART program, will the facility still receive the full compensation (base rate + adders)? And then there is no subtraction for value of energy received? Does the facility need to do anything to become a QF in this scenario? Any special processes to receive compensation as a non-net metered facility? The regulations do not address this scenario anywhere in particular.

A: If a commercial rooftop is not interconnected behind the meter at the building, the system will be considered a standalone system, and the SMART incentive will be established at the base rate plus any applicable adders less the value of energy produced by the system. As a non-net-metered system, the system will need to interconnect pursuant to the relevant EDC's tariff for Qualifying Facilities (QF's), and will be compensated for exported energy at the tariff's QF rate. As noted in other questions regarding incentives, that energy value is then subtracted out from the SMART incentive rate (base + adders) - the remaining value is what is paid to the generation unit owner by their EDC as the SMART incentive. Total system compensation would be based on both the value of the SMART incentive rate applied to all generated energy, as well as the QF rate applied to all exported energy.

Question: How does net metering impact the value of solar calculation for behind the meter systems? Can behind the meter projects participate in both programs?

A: The Massachusetts Net Metering program is not changed by the implementation of the SMART program. Net Metering is regulated by the Department of Public Utilities. The value of energy calculated for behind the meter projects does not change. As a result, a behind the meter project may receive the SMART incentive and may also receive net metering credits. If a STGU is behind the meter, and is not able to receive net metering, then that system will receive wholesale rates, as a Qualifying Facility, for any net exported energy (i.e. system production above and beyond what is consumed on-site).

Question: Can I get some clarity on the program guidelines for Behind The Meter projects? If the two compensation methods utilized to disburse the incentive amount are net metering credits and on-bill credits, how does the program envision Third-Party Ownership? Would all incentives be paid out to the customer directly, or would there be the option for the Third-Party owner to receive these payments instead to pass on the savings to the customer through a lower PPA price?

A: All SMART incentives are paid to the Solar Tariff Generation Unit Owner directly. The system owner may or may not be the same person or entity as the utility customer. In the case of third party ownership models, the incentive will be paid to the third party owner, not to the utility customer.

Question: Where can I find information regarding the 3-year average delivery and service rates needed to determine the 'Value of Energy' to subtract from base rates for behind the meter systems in order to determine the 'all-in' MA SMART incentive level for these systems?

A: We are currently working with the EDC's on developing guidance for program participants on these values - they will be shared well ahead of the SMART Program launch date. Once available, they will be posted to <http://masmartsolar.com>, and will be made accessible from the MA SMART application portal website, as well.

Question: I have a question about clarifying the difference between behind the meter and standalone systems. Specifically, with the standalone system the incentive rate is established upon interconnection and is locked in regardless of the likely increase in the utility rate (assuming a historical escalator of roughly 2.5%). As a function of this, the “incentive” or delta between the compensation rate and the avoided rate decrease over time until the avoided rate actually becomes higher than the incentive amount. However, under the behind the meter system, the incentive does not dissipate as the rate increases. Rather, it simply maintains its value. Essentially, the delta between the avoided rate and the incentive remain the same over time. I would really like to make sure I am modeling the expected system returns in Massachusetts correctly.

A: Behind the meter systems receive a fixed incentive based on the one time calculation at the time the solar tariff generation unit is qualified.

Question: How are behind the meter PPA’s handled under the SMART program. Do the credits flow to the customer of record or the owner of the system? If the credits flow to the owner of the system is there still a value of energy adjustment?

A: Behind the meter incentives are paid directly to the system owner, based on the fixed rate established at the solar tariff generation unit’s qualification. The incentive does not take into account any amount set forth in a PPA – PPA terms are determined between the system owner and the customer of record. The value of energy calculation for that system will be set based on the three year average of basic service and current transmission, transition and distribution charges tied to the utility rate of the meter the system is tied to. Any other contracted PPA rate is not taken into account in the value of energy calculation for behind the meter systems.

Question: I wanted to ask about the tax implications for the program. While I understand the DOER or its affiliates cannot provide any tax advice (we also suggest our customers consult their own tax experts) are there any guidelines on how the incentive should be taxed? For example, I would assume only the incentive portion beyond the avoided rate would be taxable (i.e.: in a scenarios with total compensation rate of 0.17 and an avoided rate of 0.15, only 0.02/kWh would be subject to tax). I do not see any information regarding taxes in the 225 CMR 20.02 so I wanted to ask.

A: Neither DOER nor CLEAResult nor the EDC’s can provide tax guidance - we advise all prospective program participants to consult qualified tax professionals with any questions related to the tax treatment of their STGU’s or the compensation they expect to receive from the output of these systems.

Adders/Subtractors Questions

Question: Can a standalone Solar Tariff Generation Units be paired with storage systems and qualify for the energy storage adder?

A: Yes, however they must both be interconnected to the utility via the same point of common coupling. Please refer to the DRAFT energy storage guideline: [DOER draft guideline](#)

Question: I just want to make sure I understand how the billing works and how the storage adder is applied to a projects economics.

A: The Storage Adder rate is calculated using the formula presented in the Energy Storage Guideline. The rate is added to the base compensation rate for the solar tariff generation unit.

Question: Regarding the Greenfield Subtractor, the definition for “previously developed” was provided in the latest version of the SMART regulations published on 8/11/17: “For the purposes of 225 CMR 20.05(5)(e), previously developed shall mean having pre-existing paving, construction, or altered landscapes, and does not include altered landscapes resulting from current agricultural use, forestry, or use as preserved natural area.” Based on this definition, it’s unclear why a project on a site with a house, driveway, established landscaping, a well, and other alterations to the landscape would not qualify as previously developed Category 1, non-agricultural. Please explain and let us know how if there is a process to request reconsideration of these types of decisions.

A: The final determination of the Land Use category is made by DOER. The intent of the regulation is to provide a smaller incentive to projects that are proposed to be built on open space. Acreage that is large enough for MW scale systems, but which only has one house is predominately open space. The intent of the previous development designation is for sites such as sand and gravel pits, former industrial sites, parking lots, or similar sites which were extensively developed in the past and have significantly altered landscapes. Lawns, pathways, and wells in and of themselves do not qualify as previously developed, nor does logging or land clearing operations. You can request a reconsideration of the Land Use Category for the project by reaching out to the MA DOER at DOER.SMART@state.ma.us

Question: Can you help me understand if there are any impacts on the SMART tariff if trees are cut? If there is an impact if trees are cut, can you define whether the trees need to be fully removed/stumped by the landowner prior to engaging in solar development for a property. The specific example I am thinking of is a property owner who is a logger who plans on removing all of the lumber for his logging business, and we want to know if the newly developed land would be docked for the subcontractor. When/if would a subcontractor be applied to a project:

- Trimming trees to reduce shade impact on the solar array
- Cutting tree at the stump
- Removing tree and stump

Also does it matter if the property is or is not commercially zoned property? Finally, what can we classify as good cause, does logging for agriculture use/development of dual use grazing land classify as good cause?

A: Refer to 225 CMR 20.00 Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program regulations. These are the regulations that define the program. Section 20.05 (5) (e) Land Use and Siting Criteria, has the information pertinent to your questions. Note that logging operations do not qualify as “previously developed” regardless of when the logging occurs. Sites that are classified as Category 2 or Category 3 will be subject to the Greenfield Subtractor. Commercial zoning is the primary differentiator between Category 2 (commercially zoned; not previously developed) and Category 3 (everything that is not

Category 1 or 2). There are different Greenfield Subtractor rates for Category 2 and 3. As far as stumps, etc. are concerned, all projects must receive permits and approvals from all the applicable agencies. In most cases for these large projects that includes permits indicating compliance with MA Dept. of Environmental Protection and/or Wetlands Protection Act, as well as from the local Conservation Commission. What we typically see to obtain such permits are site plans from professional civil engineers that define site development plans which include access roads, drainage plans and collection basins, silt fencing, stump removal, replanting with suitable grasses or other groundcovers, safety fencing and signage on the completed project, etc. However, we suggest that you start with the local Conservation Commission to see what they may require or recommend.

Question: I have a few canopy questions as more property owners have engaged with us and are interested in the SMART program:

- **Building:** If we build a canopy structure for an organization over an area that doesn't qualify for canopy adder (not parking, pedestrian, or canal), can we still qualify it for the building adder since it will serve as a roof for the activities under it? In order to qualify it as a building, would it need to have a waterproof surface and walls?
- **Pedestrian walkway:** Do you have any specific criteria to define areas that will qualify as pedestrian walkways? There are a number of sites that have outdoor vendor events that are interested in a canopy structure over the area, would this qualify?
- **Canals:** Can the solar canopy only cover the water? There are a large amount of areas that are considered canals but do not have running water, still qualify?

A: Please refer to the definition of Canopy Solar Tariff Generation Unit in the 225 CMR 20.00 regulations; specifically, section 20.02.

- As far as the building mounted adder, what you describe does not sound like it would qualify as a building.
- Pedestrian walkways must be regularly utilized by pedestrian traffic.
- For questions on canal sites without water, please refer them to the SPA and the DOER on a case by case basis.

Question: We have a project where we plan to construct a canopy above a tree nursery where the solar system will provide shading for the plants beneath it. Would this be eligible for the canopy adder?

A: No. See the Definitions in 225 CMR 20.02.

Question: We are looking for clarity on the canopy adder. Does a canopy have to be over a parking lot to qualify? We have a number of organizations that are interested in having a canopy installed on their property, where activities other than car parking will take place such as: storage, equine riding, town fair activities like tractor pulls, etc.

A: Please refer to the definition of Canopy Solar Tariff Generation Unit in the 225 CMR 20.00 regulations; specifically section 20.02.

Miscellaneous Questions

Question: How do I find the service territory separating NSTAR and WMECO (both Eversource)?

A: MassGIS provides a map of electric distribution service territories at the following location:
<http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/itd/services/massgis/electricity2015.pdf>

Question: Are there any webinars or meetings set up anytime soon that we can attend?

A: As we get closer to the program launch date we expect to hold seminars and/or webinars. As these sessions are planned and developed, they will be announced on the SMART Program website at
<http://masmartsolar.com>

Question: How does one sign up to receive DOER email updates related to RFP's and general program information issued by DOER? Put another way, where is the sign-up for DOER's mailing list?

A: Sign up through this link <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1374704/1356542/?v=a> to get on the DOER email list. You should request to be on the "Solar PV contact list".

Question: Is it possible to be an owner of a system for this program if you have no prior experience with solar? If a building owner wants to have complete ownership of a PV system and participate in the SMART program, could he do so? I have a client who wants to own the system and I want to find out if he would be eligible to enter into the SMART Program without any prior history of owning or operating a solar PV system.

A: There are no restrictions on who owns the PV system. That said, the SMART Program is designed for experienced, highly qualified solar developers. It is highly recommended that an owner with little or no solar experience hire or partner with an experienced, highly qualified solar developer.

Question: Do you anticipate that DOER would consider granting a good cause extension for legal issues that prevent an STGU awarded under the SMART Procurement from meeting the 12-month construction deadline? For example, if the project was appealed by abutters subsequent to submission of the project application to the SMART Program, would that qualify as a good cause for an extension?

A: The 12-month construction deadline 'clock' doesn't start until the Statement of Qualifications is issued and/or the official SMART Program Effective Date, whichever comes later.

Once the clock starts, awarded bidders may request an extension if there is such a legal challenge ongoing that may delay the project. By that point, we will have a fully established SQA Application Guideline outlining appropriate cause for extensions. The situation described above would appear to meet the legal requirements for such an extension, but DOER can't officially make a determination and/or extend such an extension until the deadline is established and, an awarded bidder makes a formal extension request.

Question: Do you have a list of everyone/all projects who bid in the initial solicitation?

A: The submissions to the Block 1 competitive RFP were confidential. However, the selected bidders have been publicly announced. That information is available at www.masmartsolar.com .