

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



In the matter of the Design of the New Solar Homes Partnership)	Docket No. 06-NSHP-1
)	
)	Notice of Availability and Request for Comments
)	RE: New Solar Homes Partnership

Notice of Availability and Request for Comments on the Staff Draft New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook

CEC-300-2013-009-ED7-SD

The staff draft of the *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook, Seventh Edition (NSHP Guidebook)* is now available from the Energy Commission's website at:

www.energy.ca.gov/renewables/06-NSHP-1/documents/index.html

The *NSHP Guidebook* describes the requirements for participating in the NSHP and receiving incentives for installing eligible solar energy systems on new residential construction located in specified investor-owned utility territories.

This staff draft of the *NSHP Guidebook* contains the following proposed changes:

- Changes the timeframe for when a solar permit must be issued.
- Clarifies the NSHP requirements with respect to the 2013 California Building Energy Efficiency Standards.
- Revises the energy efficiency requirements and processes.
- Removes the requirements for contractors, installers, and sellers to be registered in the Energy Commission's Contractors, Installers, and Sellers Database.
- Adds a new incentive level.
- Modifies the incentive decline schedule and process.
- Revises the requirements for leases and power purchase agreements.
- Extends the reservation periods for virtual net metered projects.
- Removes the "Solar as an Option" project type and includes "Solar as Standard" project types in a new project type referred to as "Large Developments".
- Revises the reservation and payment claim processes and requirements.
- Clarifies and streamlines the *Guidebook* language and requirements.
- Revises the NSHP-1 Reservation Application Form and the NSHP-2 Payment Claim Form.

The proposed changes are shown in underline/strikeout. Minor formatting changes were also made in the staff draft of the *NSHP Guidebook*. They are not shown in underline/strikeout.

Background

The NSHP is part of a comprehensive statewide solar program known as the California Solar Initiative. The NSHP provides financial incentives to encourage the installation of eligible solar energy systems on new residential construction. The NSHP seeks to achieve 360 megawatts of distributed solar photovoltaic electric capacity by the end of 2016.

Since the program began in 2007, Energy Commission staff has received many comments from stakeholders to streamline the program. Energy Commission staff held a workshop on August 6, 2013, to present considered revisions and solicit public comments. Staff has considered the public comments and incorporated them as appropriate into this staff draft of the *NSHP Guidebook*. The public has an opportunity to review and provide comments on this staff draft of the *NSHP Guidebook*. Staff will consider comments, and then finalize and present the final *NSHP Guidebook* for approval at a regularly scheduled Energy Commission Business Meeting.

The minimum guidelines for implementing California's solar energy system incentive programs, including the NSHP, are identified in the *Guidelines for California's Solar Electric Incentive Programs (Senate Bill 1)* [Murray, Chapter 132, Statutes of 2006, § 4], also known as the *SB1 Guidelines*. The *SB1 Guidelines* include requirements with respect to the *California Building Energy Efficiency Standards* similar to those that are being updated in the *NSHP Guidebook*. It is necessary to make corresponding changes for the *2013 California Building Energy Efficiency Standards* in the *SB1 Guidelines*. These changes are expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2014.

Written Comments

Interested members of the public are encouraged to review and comment on the staff draft of the *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook, Seventh Edition*. Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on October 31, 2013. Please include the docket number 06-NSHP-1 and indicate "Staff Draft of the *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook*" in the subject line. All written comments will become part of the public record of this proceeding. Additionally, written comments may be posted to the Energy Commission's website for the proceeding. The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name and the name of the organization you represent, if applicable. Comments should be in a downloadable, searchable format such as Microsoft® Word (.doc) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf). Please submit comments to docket@energy.ca.gov and Le-Quyen.Nguyen@energy.ca.gov to ensure that staff receives a copy.

If you prefer, you may send a paper copy of your comments to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 06-NSHP-1
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Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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If you have questions on the subject matter of this document, please contact Le-Quyen Nguyen at Le-Quyen.Nguyen@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4650.

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