



Successor Solar Incentive (SuSI) Program
Administratively Determined Incentive Program's
Community Solar Energy Program (CSEP)

October 27, 2023

New Jersey's
Clean Energy Program™

Lighting the way to New Jersey's Clean Energy Future

Housekeeping Slide

- Webinar is being recorded
- Webinar, webinar recording, and slide deck will be posted on the Community Solar Energy Program homepage on New Jersey Clean Energy website
- Q&A will not be conducted during this webinar
- Questions that are submitted will be answered in an FAQ format

Agenda

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Background

Pursuant to the Clean Energy Act of 2018 (L. 2018, c.17) and the Solar Act of 2021 (L. 2021, c. 169), the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) has established a new permanent Community Solar Energy Program (CSEP) by Board Order dated August 16, 2023.

The CSEP replaces the Community Solar Pilot Program which was closed to new registrations on February 5, 2021.

The CSEP provides incentives to eligible community solar facilities to enable the continued efficient and orderly development of solar electric generating sources throughout New Jersey.

Solar Successor Incentive Program (SuSI)

The SuSI Program consists of two sub-programs:

1. Administratively Determined Incentive (ADI) Program:

Administratively set incentives for:

- Residential
- Non-residential solar facilities
5 MW (dc) or smaller in size

Community Solar

- Rooftops
- Carports and Canopies
- Floating Solar
- Contaminated Sites and Landfills
5 MW (dc) or smaller in size

2. Competitive Solar Incentive (CSI) Program

Competitive set incentives that will be established through a solicitation process and be open to qualified grid facilities, non-residential net metered greater than 5 MW (dc) and grid facilities in combination with energy storage.

Escrow Requirement

Solar developers participating in the CSEP are required to post escrow with the Board in an amount of \$40.00 per kilowatt of DC nameplate capacity of the solar facility.

Public entities and community-based organizations, which must be entities registered under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, would be exempted from this requirement subject to Board Staff's approval.

For solar facilities projects awarded in Energy Year 2024, evidence of escrow is due one year after a project receives a notice of conditional registration in the CSEP. If a developer does not submit escrow within one year, the project's registration will be canceled. Developers should still inform the Board as soon as possible if a project registration is to be withdrawn.

The escrow amount would be reimbursed to the appropriate entity in full upon receipt of permission to operate ("PTO") and submission of a post-construction certification package, pursuant to **N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.5(j)**.

The escrow amount shall be forfeited to the State if the facility does not reach PTO before the conditional registration expires.

The Board is in the process of obtaining an escrow agent and will notify conditionally accepted projects how to post escrow in the coming months.

Energy Year 2024-EDC Capacity Blocks

As defined at **N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.7**, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) set an annual capacity allocation based on an energy year basis.

For Energy Year 2024, the CSEP will open with a capacity block of 225 MW which was divided among the four Electric Distribution Companies (EDC) territories

Community Solar projects that previously participated in the TI Program (Community Solar Pilot Program) that could not commence construction by the TI project deadline can participate in the CSEP.

To be exempt from the EDC capacity limits noted in this table, the registrant must commit to the guaranteed bill credit discount consistent with the discount rate included in their Community Solar Pilot Program application and conditionally approved via Board Order.

EDC Territory	MW(dc) Capacity Blocks EY 2024
Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L)	65 MW
Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G)	129 MW
Atlantic City Electric (ACE)	27 MW
Rockland Orange (RECO)	4 MW
EY24 Total Capacity	225 MW

EDC Capacity Blocks will be tracked and posted on the ADI Program and CSEP online portal homepage

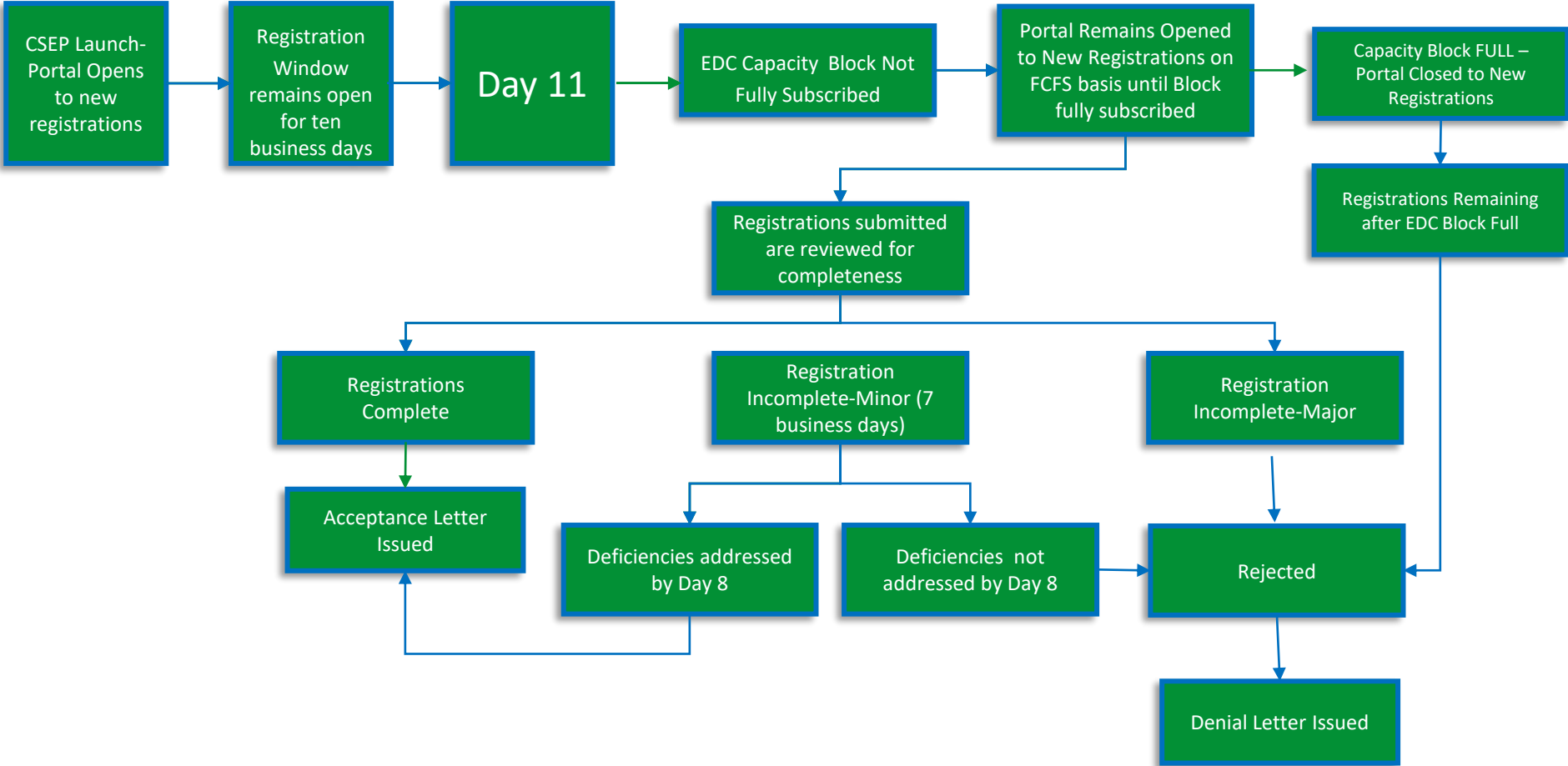


CSEP EDC Capacity Blocks

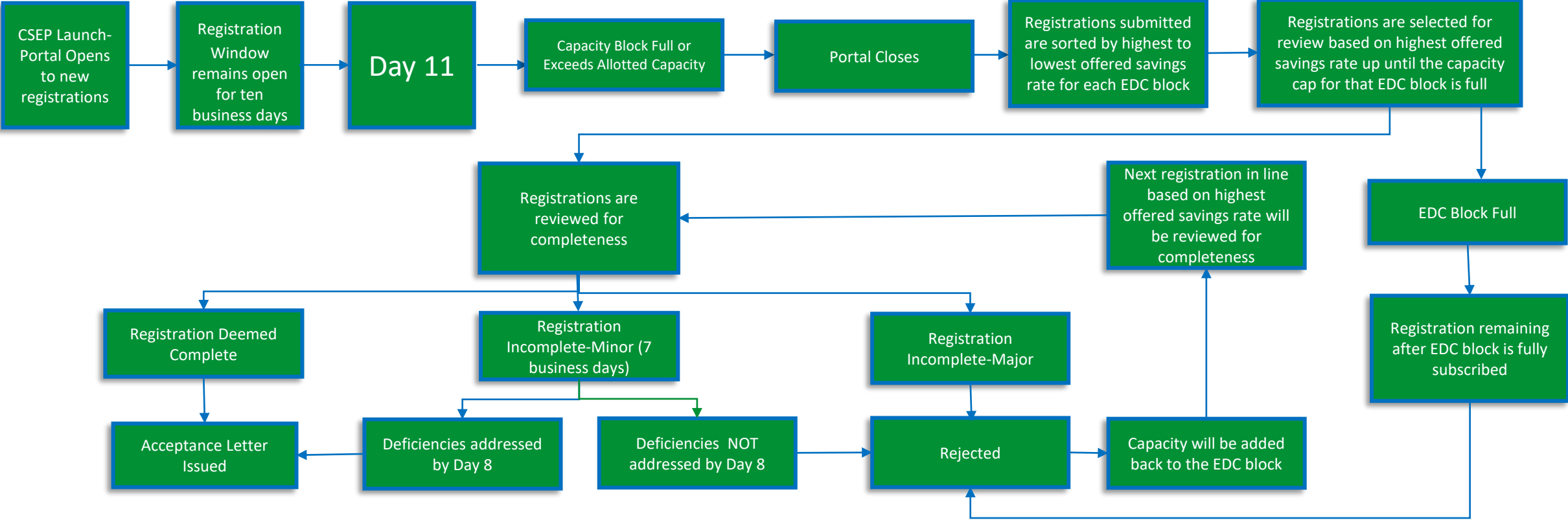
CSEP online portal will open to new registrations on November 15, 2023, at 12:01 am (EST)

- The CSEP portal will remain open to new CSEP registrations for 10 business days.
- The CSEP will accept new registration packages until the EDC capacity block is fully subscribed.
- When an EDC capacity block cap is reached, the CSEP registration portal will be closed to new registrations in that EDC territory until the next capacity block opens, June 1, 2024. Capacity blocks will be set annually by the Board.
- CSEP registrations submitted will be sorted and selected for review by highest to lowest offered savings rate for each EDC block
- A capacity block is defined as being fully subscribed when the last registration received in the CSEP registration portal causes the total capacity of all registrations in that block to exceed the capacity allocated for the block.
- CSEP registrations will be reviewed on a first come, first serve basis and the capacity for each registration under the status of Accepted will be counted toward the relevant EDC capacity cap.
- There will not be an option for a waiting list for projects seeking to enter a capacity block that has been fully subscribed.

Day 11 – EDC Capacity Block Not Fully Subscribed



Day 11 – EDC Capacity Block Fully Subscribed



Guaranteed Bill Credit

- Solar projects must state a guaranteed bill credit discount in the CSEP online portal of no less than 15 percent which will apply for the duration of customers' subscriptions.
- The guaranteed bill credit discount will be calculated as a percentage of the bill credits received by the customer based on their subscription size.
- The guaranteed bill credit discount applies to all subscribers. Projects may still offer a greater discount than that identified in the CSEP registration, including to LMI subscribers.
- Solar projects transitioning from the Community Solar Pilot Program (TI Program) must also offer a discount of at least the value identified in their Community Solar Pilot Program application in order to receive an exemption from the capacity limitation
- Registrations will be selected for review and acceptance based on highest offered savings rate up until the capacity cap for that EDC block has been reached.

CSEP Program Eligibility

Community Solar Facilities are permitted to be installed on the following site types:

- Rooftop
 - Carport and Canopies
 - Floating Solar (Bodies of water that have little to no established floral and faunal resources, such as water treatment reservoirs and dredge pools)
 - Contaminated Sites and Landfills (defined under [N.J.S.A. 58:10B-1](#) and [N.J.A.C 14:8-1.2](#))
-
- The solar equipment must be new. [N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.4\(c\)](#) The equipment used in an CSEP-eligible facility must be new; that is, none of the equipment may have been used prior to the installation. (racking, meter, inverter, modules)
 - Solar facilities must be connected to a distribution or transmission system owned or operated by a New Jersey public utility
 - Solar facilities that are 1 MW (dc) or greater in size are subject to the Prevailing Wage Act [N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25, et seq.](#)
 - Community solar facilities located on rooftop, carport, canopies and floating solar will receive an 18-month expiration date from conditional acceptance. Contaminated site and landfill solar facilities will receive 24-month commitment length.
 - All community solar projects must reach permission to operate on or before the expiration date noted in the CSEP acceptance letter.
 - SREC-IIs will be available for qualifying CSEP projects for period of 15 years, pursuant to [N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.](#)
 - SREC-II value is set at \$90/MWh for all projects.
 - Community solar projects are not eligible to receive a public entity adder.

CSEP Initial Registration Checklist

CSEP Registration packets must be submitted in the CSEP online portal

All information entered in the CSEP registration portal **must be consistent** with the information on the documents that are uploaded.

Identifying Minor and Major Deficiencies

Document can be found at NJ Clean Energy website
CSEP Registrations with Minor deficiencies will have **7-business days** to address the deficiencies

For documents that require signatures, if using an electronic signature, please upload the **Certification of Completion or Signature Verification Sheet** associated with the document.



CSEP Initial Registration Checklist	
A completed <u>CSEP Registration Certification Form</u> with all the appropriate signatures	A complete <u>Community Solar Engagement and Subscriber Acquisition Plan</u> standard form. This standard form can be found on the NJ Clean Energy website. <i>Include a copy of the letter of support from the municipal council and/or mayor of the municipality in which the solar facility will be located.</i> Please <u>do not</u> include additional documentation with this form.
A <u>Site Plan Certified by a licensed professional engineer</u> that includes all features that may affect performance and construction of the solar facility, The site map must clearly indicate the location of the generator(s), batteries (if any), lockable disconnect switch (unless otherwise approved by the electric utility, the disconnect switch shall be installed at the electric utility meter location) and point of connection with the utility system. Equipment information, system size, installation address and the solar installer's company name must be included on the site map.	A complete <u>Community Solar Permit Form</u> showing evidence of applications for all discretionary land use approvals and entitlements applicable to the solar project. This standard form can be found on the NJ Clean Energy website. Please include the first page of the submission receipt for discretionary permits, if applicable.
<u>For Solar Facilities 1 MW (dc)</u> , evidence of having submitted to the relevant EDC an Attachment A to an Interconnection Application and Agreement signed by the solar installer.	<u>For Solar Facilities on Contaminated Site or Landfill</u> , a completed <u>NJDEP Permit Readiness Checklist</u> . This is a standard form and can be found on the NJ Clean Energy website
<u>For Solar Facilities 1 MW (dc) or larger</u> , written authorization from the EDC providing conditional approval to install.	For <u>Solar Facilities on Contaminated Site or Landfill</u> , a completed <u>Contaminated Site and Landfill Eligibility Verification form</u> . Must be signed by NJDEP prior to issuance of CSEP acceptance letter
<u>For Solar Facilities 1 MW (dc) or larger a Milestone Reporting Form</u> is required to be submitted with the initial CSEP Registration packet and quarterly thereafter until the Post Construction Certification Packet (Final As- Built) is submitted.	For Community Solar Facilities that previously participated in the TI Program, copy of the <u>Board Order granting</u> conditional approval to participate in the Community Solar Pilot Program.

You can manage your CSEP registrations in the portal using the same log-in as SRP, TI or ADI

Contaminated Sites and Landfills – NJDEP Verification Form

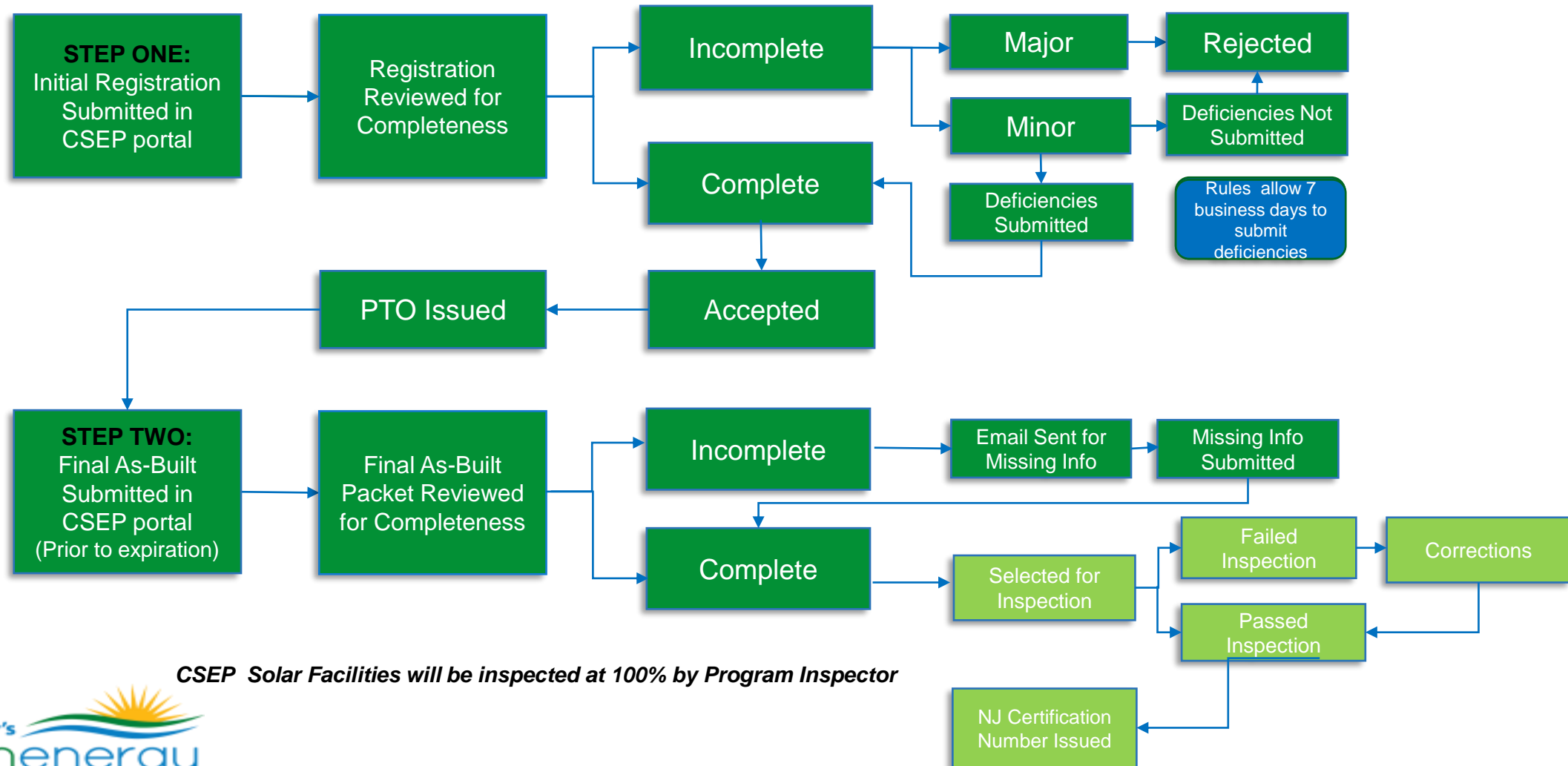
For solar facilities located on contaminated sites or landfills a Verification Form must be submitted with the CSEP registration package to deem the CSEP registration complete. CSEP Registration packets that satisfy all CSEP requirements and submit a Verification Form without NJDEP signatures will be deemed complete and conditional acceptance will be contingent on the registrant submitting a signed Verification form, at a later date

[Verification forms are required to be signed-off by a NJDEP representative](#) prior to issuance of a CSEP conditional acceptance letter.

CSEP registration packets that include an executed Verification form will be issued an acceptance letter and receive an acceptance date and expiration date based on the date of conditional acceptance. The project status will move to Accepted.

CSEP registration packets that include a Verification form that has not been executed by a NJDEP representative will be issued a pending verification acceptance letter which will not include an acceptance date or expiration date. The project status will move to Accepted-Pending Verification. The registrant will be required to obtain the executed Verification form and upload the document to the CSEP online portal, at which time a CSEP conditional acceptance letter will be issued that will include an acceptance date and expiration date. The conditional acceptance date (24-months) will be based on the date the NJDEP representative signed the document. The project status will change to Accepted.

CSEP Registration-Two Step Process



CSEP Solar Facilities will be inspected at 100% by Program Inspector

Capacity Increases and Decreases to System

If, after submittal of an initial CSEP Registration packet, an increase of up to 20 percent or 25 kW (dc), whichever is smaller, in the solar electric generating facility's generating capacity is planned, the registrant is required to notified NJBPU at oce@bpu.nj.gov and the CSEP Processing Team at NJREINFO@NJCleanEnergy.com.

An CSEP solar facility cannot increase the system's capacity that would expand the project beyond 5 MW (dc).

For CSEP solar facilities that previously participated in the Transition Incentive (TI) Program, the system size can increase up to 20 percent or 25 kW (dc) from the capacity conditionally certified in the associated Board Order. The solar facility cannot increase the system's capacity that would expand the project beyond 5 MW (dc).

The CSEP does permit decreases to the original system size that was submitted with the initial CSEP registration.

CSEP Post Construction (Final As-Built) Certification Checklist

[CSEP Final As-Built Checklist](#) can be found on the NJ Clean Energy website

CSEP solar facilities must receive permission to operate from the relevant EDC, submit a Final As-Built (Post-Construction Certification) packet [prior to the expiration date](#) noted in the Conditional CSEP acceptance letter.

CSEP solar facilities that do not submit a Final As-Built packet with [permission to operate on or before the expiration](#) date may lose their SREC-II qualification.

CSEP Final As-Built Checklist	
A <u>completed and signed CSEP Final As-Built Technical Worksheet</u> with appropriate signatures	<u>Electrical and Building Permits</u> as submitted and approved by the relevant municipality.
If there are changes to the original proposed system specifications that were included in the initial CSEP registration packet, a one-page <u>Site Plan</u> signed and sealed by a licensed professional engineer.	For solar facilities located on contaminated sites or landfills a <u>copy of the Post-Construction NJDEP Compliance Form</u> that has been submitted to NJDEP
<u>Representative digital photographs of the solar equipment</u> (inverter, meter, solar array). Please ensure that the <u>photos and the serial numbers are legible</u> .	<u>EDC Permission to Operate Notification (PTO)</u> - The written notification that the system is authorized to be energized from the utility.
<u>Instantaneous Production</u> : A document which verifies that the system is fully functioning as per system design.	If you installed an <u>Electric Storage Battery</u> with the solar system, you must include a single line drawing showing the location of the solar equipment and electric storage battery together with a copy of the battery equipment specification sheet

For documents that require signatures, if **using an electronic signature**, please upload the Certification of Completion or Signature Verification Sheet associated with the document.

CSEP Program Extension Policy

- Solar facilities registered in the CSEP program may be eligible for one six-month extension at the discretion of the CSEP Program Manager, as determined on a case-by-case basis.
- All extension requests must be submitted in the CSEP online registration portal on or before the CSEP registration's expiration date, noted in the CSEP conditional acceptance letter.
- Extension requests that are submitted after the expiration date will not be considered and the CSEP registration will be canceled.
- The CSEP Program Manager will take into consideration whether the registrant has submitted timely quarterly milestone reporting forms
- If the extension is granted, the CSEP Program registration manager shall provide a new conditional CSEP registration expiration date, six months from the expiration of the original conditional acceptance date.
- Any CSEP solar facility that would like to submit a request for a second extension must submit a petition to the Board Secretary for consideration. Instruction for submitting a petition can be found on the NJ Clean Energy website under the [NJBPU Homepage](#).

CSEP Extension Request Requirements

Extension requests must demonstrate the following:

- 1) The delays for not completing the installation of the solar facility by the expiration date were due to extenuating circumstances.
- 2) Evidence that the facility has made progress toward completion, and the likelihood of timely and successful completion of the solar facility.

Extension Request Checklist

A **Cover Letter** explaining the reason for the delay in completing the solar installation.

Date-stamped **evidence that project representatives attempted to communicate with local code officials** (e.g., emails with the local code officials requesting an inspection); or, if the project has already passed local code inspections, include copies of permits.

Date-stamped **photographs of the solar equipment**

A copy of a **Complete Part I Interconnection Application approval** (Approval to Interconnect) from the EDC and/or evidence that the application to energize (Part II of the interconnection application) was submitted to the EDC.

Milestone Reporting Form must be submitted with the extension request. Timely submission of quarterly Milestone Reporting forms will be taken into consideration by the CSEP Program for projects seeking an extension.

Additional information may be requested by the CSEP Program Manager for purposes of determining a project's eligibility for an CSEP extension.

Co-Location

Co-Location defined at [N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.2](#) "siting two or more SuSI-eligible solar facilities on the same property or on contiguous properties, such that the individual facilities are eligible for a higher incentive value or different program than they would be if they were combined into one single facility. In the case of net metered projects, SuSI-eligible solar facilities shall not be deemed co-located if they serve separate net metering customers as defined at [N.J.A.C. 14:8-4](#).

Co-location is permitted for a community solar project with a net metered project if they serve separate customers.

Community Solar facilities are not considered co-located if they are located on rooftops of separate buildings on different properties with different owners.

If the review of the Post Construction Certification (Final As-Built) packet or project inspection reveal that the registrant failed to disclose co-located solar facilities, the Board may take enforcement action, including but not limited to adjusting the incentive downward by multiplying the aggregated project size by the lowest incentive level among the projects' qualifying market segments.

Co-location is not permitted in the CSEP, unless the Board grants a waiver to a petition [N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.4\(f\)](#).

Projects previously conditionally approved in the Community Solar Pilot Program and are reapplying in the CSEP are waived the prohibition for co-located systems.

Additional Resources

- CSEP Program Checklist and Forms: <https://njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/programs/susi-program/csep>
- CSEP FAQ: <https://njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/programs/susi-program/csep>
- CSEP Program Registration Online Portal can be found on the CSEP Homepage. Link will go live on November 15, 2023, at 12:01 am (EST)
- Solar Proceedings webpage: <https://njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/program-updates-and-background-information/solar-proceedings>
- Email us at NJREINFO@NJCleanEnergy.com

More Information

VISIT

<https://njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/program-updates-and-background-information/solar-proceedings>

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A photograph of a modern multi-story building with a glass facade. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image. The text 'THANK YOU' is written in a bold, dark grey font on the left side of the banner. On the right side of the banner, there is a yellow plus sign icon. The building's glass reflects the sky and surrounding environment. In the foreground, there are several young, rounded green trees and some white cylindrical bollards.

THANK YOU

