



**TENTH REGULAR SESSION
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Seventh Session
Cairns, Australia
30 November - 06 December 2013**

Solar Power for WCPFC Headquarters

**WCPFC10-2013-FAC7-11
12 November 2013**

Introduction

1. At WCPFC9 the Commission authorized the installation of a 20 kWp solar system at the Commission Headquarters to offset its annual electricity charges. As projected in WCPFC9-2012-FAC6-17 the initial 20 kWp solar system has reduced the Commissions monthly electric bill by over USD1,300 a month. At the current rate of electricity in Pohnpei, the system will pay for itself in under 4 years. The Secretariat proposes that the solar system be expanded to reduce future costs of the Commission's Headquarters.

Solar Power

2. Between 2006 and 2013 cost per kWh has increased by an average of 10.4% a year in Pohnpei. In addition, the cost of solar equipment has dropped in price over the last year. Based on these figures, a system installed now would pay for itself in less than 3 ½ years. The solar panels, which make up the vast majority of the cost of the system, have a 25-year lifespan if maintained properly.

3. It is proposed that the solar system is expanded by either 20 kWh or 40 kWh. The cost of expanding the system by 20 kWh would cost around USD59,000 and the cost to expand the system by 40 kWh would cost around USD111,000. This would offset the monthly electricity bill by around USD1,300 and USD2,600 respectively at the current cost of electricity in Pohnpei.

Funding Options

4. It is estimated that the 2102 Commission budget will be underspent by roughly USD650,000 (WCPFC10-2013-FAC7-15 Rev1). Part of these savings could be used to fund the project.

Recommendation

5. The Committee is invited to:
- a. note the proposal and make a recommendation to the Commission.