



Solar Installers of Washington

March 26, 2020

Dear SIW Members:

Many of you participated in a far-ranging discussion Wednesday afternoon on the challenges we are facing during the pandemic crisis. Much of it was focused on the essential question: Is it “business as usual” for us because solar is mentioned in the essential businesses document of the governor’s stay at home order? In light of Gov. Inslee’s further clarification that it was not the intent to include construction as “essential,” the overwhelming sentiment among SIW members is that “business as usual” would be counter to the spirit of the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” guidelines. The intent of the guidelines is to protect the health and safety of you, your employees and the public at large while keeping the critical infrastructure that supports our daily lives working.

Many SIW members are electrical contractors. During this crisis, it would be entirely appropriate to do repairs and replacements that make your customer’s homes inhabitable -- while following CDC infection protocols that protect you and your customers. The same goes for off-grid work critical for life safety that lacks a utility backup. However, it may not be appropriate at this time for ELECTIVE solar installs for sites already served by the electrical grid. It may be best to delay those projects until “stay at home” orders are eased or lifted.

If you have any further questions on how to continue working under the “essential business” guidelines or need further clarification, the Governor’s Office unveiled a new web portal Wednesday evening where you can submit questions directly. The link is here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d4c155fa930f4b848f95774d610c9708>

The website is designed for individual businesses to request clarification around their business activities, not for third parties like a trade association. SIW Board members have submitted clarifying requests for their own businesses and will be happy to share the responses when they come. Feel free to do the same for your business.

All of us at SIW are committed to seeing us through this challenging time. If you have any thoughts, suggestions or ideas on how we can help, please reach out. Thank you.

Dana Brandt, President
& Board of Directors
Solar Installers of Washington