

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: May 15, 2008

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM:

Maureen L. Reno,
Utility Analyst

MLR
TCF

SUBJECT:

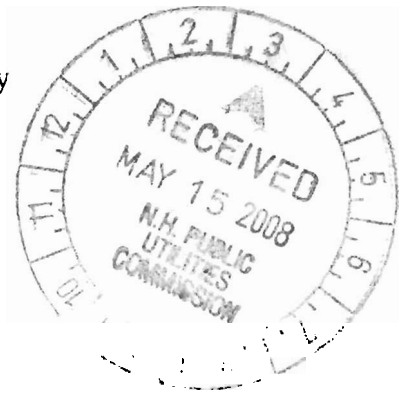
Docket Number DE 08-059, A&D Hydro, Inc.
Application for Class IV Certification pursuant to RSA 362-F
Staff recommendation

TO:

The Commissioners and
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

CC:

Tom Frantz, Director of the Electric Division, and
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney



Summary

On April 07, 2008 A&D Hydro, Inc. submitted an application requesting the Commission grant approval of its West Springfield Massachusetts Hydroelectric Facility (West Springfield facility) to produce Class IV renewable energy certificates pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard Law. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, IV, Class IV eligibility requires that a facility began operation prior to January 1, 2006, has a nameplate capacity of 5 MWs or less, has installed upstream and downstream diadromous fish passages that have been required and approved under the terms of its license from FERC or received an exemption from FERC, and when required, has documented applicable state water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F, the Commission, in a non-adjudicative process, shall issue a determination of whether a facility meets a particular classification within 45 days of a completed application. The West Springfield facility application was completed on May 3, 2008. The West Springfield facility meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, IV as a Class IV facility and complies with the Interim N.H Admin Code Rule Puc 2500. A&D Hydro, Inc. has provided all the necessary documents to receive certification as a Class IV facility. Based on my review of its application, I recommend that the Commission approve the West Springfield facility as a Class IV facility.

Analysis

The West Springfield facility is a run-of-river hydroelectric facility located on the Westfield River at One Front Street West Springfield, MA 01089-3113. The facility includes two turbine generators (T-G). T-G One is 800 kilowatts (kW) and T-G Two is 400 kW, for a combined nameplate capacity of 1,200 kW. The facility entered commercial operation in May 1931 and holds a forty year operating license that was re-issued by the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC) on October 24, 1994. *See* FERC Order No. 62,068 issued October 24, 1994. The facility's NEPOOL generation information system facility code is MSS10770.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F: 4, IV, the hydroelectric facility shall have upstream and downstream diadromous fish passages that have been required and approved under the terms of its license from the FERC or it received an exemption from FERC. Pursuant to FERC Order No. 62,068, the facility has a full upstream anadromous fish passage, including a fish ladder system, guidance screens and a downstream fish passage that includes hinged inclined screens. The fishway and associated bypass facilities were constructed in the fall of 1995. An eelway for upstream passage of catadromous fish species was constructed in August of 2001.¹ Therefore, the West Springfield facility fish passages meet the requirement of upstream and downstream diadromous fish passages under RSA 362-F.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4,IV, the applicant must demonstrate that it has the respective state water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act for hydroelectric projects. The applicant provided a copy of a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection dated August 12, 2005 which states that the facility meets water quality standards.

Pursuant to Puc 2500, the applicant is also required to provide proof of an approved interconnection study. The West Springfield facility has been interconnected with Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECo)'s distribution system since the initial date of commercial operation in May 1931. Subsequent to its acquisition of the facility, in the summer of 2004, A&D Hydro, Inc. entered into a new interconnection service agreement with WMECo on October 27, 2004. The applicant submitted a copy of that interconnection agreement upon request by Staff.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the West Springfield facility application and can affirm it is complete pursuant to Puc 2505.02. Staff recommends that the Commission certify, effective May 3, 2008, the West Springfield facility's Class IV eligibility pursuant to RSA 362-F.

¹ The applicant submitted a "Fish Passage Facilities-Job Performance Report" by the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Game, dated February 28, 2008..