## THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAIRMAN Thomas B. Getz

COMMISSIONERS Clifton C. Below Amy L. Ignatius

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY Debra A. Howland

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION** 

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

June 14, 2010

\_ .....

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX (603) 271-3878

TDD Access: Relay NH

1-800-735-2964

Website:

www.puc.nh.gov

Robert A. Bersak Public Service Company of New Hampshire P.O. Box 330 Manchester, NH 03105-0330

Re:

DE 09-067, Clean Power Development

Complaint Against Public Service Company of New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Bersak:

The Commission is in receipt of the attached complaint from Clean Power Development dated June 8, 2010 alleging refusal by PSNH to consider a request for an easement along Shelby Street in the City of Berlin.

PSNH is directed to provide the Commission with a written response to the Clean Power June 8<sup>th</sup> complaint as well as providing an explanation of the PSNH letter dated May 17, 2010 attached thereto by June 18, 2010.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Howland

Executive Director

Encl.

D'AMANTE COUSER PELLERIN & ASSOCIATES,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
NINE TRIANGLE PARK DRIVE
P.O. BOX 2650
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03302-2650
TELEPHONE: 603-224-6777
FAX: 603-224-6696

EMAIL: damante@damantelaw.com www.damantelaw.com

RAYMOND P. D'AMANTE \*
BRYAN L. PELLERIN \*\*
ROY S. McCANDLESS \*\*\*
BRUCE J. MARSHALL
KATHRYN M. BRADLEY

\* ALSO ADMITTED IN NY AND CA \*\* ALSO ADMITTED IN MA \*\*\* ALSO ADMITTED IN ME AND MA

RICHARD B. COUSER

June 8, 2010

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director and Secretary
State of New Hampshire
Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: Complaint of Clean Power Development, LLC
Against Public Service of New Hampshire
Docket No. DE 09-067

Dear Ms. Howland:

I am writing as counsel to Clean Power Development, LLC.

Clean Power Development, LLC ("Clean Power") received approval from the City of Berlin, including the Berlin Planning Department, for the construction of a 29 megawatt Biomass Plant in Berlin, NH (the "Project"). Following the approval by the City of Berlin, Clean Power obtained other required permits, such that the Project is fully permitted and construction is ready to proceed.

On April 9, 2010, the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee issued a Final Order in SEC Docket 2009-03 finding by a unanimous vote that "CPD is not required to obtain a Certificate of Site and Facility prior to the siting, construction and operation of the [Berlin] Facility."

Clean Power is trying to bring to the North Country a major green energy project, to deliver green power that would provide considerable employment and support additional business investment and tax base in Berlin. The efforts of Clean Power are in support of the plans for the City of Berlin to increase its investment base, tax base and employment, the plans of the State of New Hampshire regarding redevelopment of the northern portion of New Hampshire, the energy policy of the State of New Hampshire and the energy goals of the federal government.

Debra A. Howland Executive Director and Secretary June 7, 2010 Page -2-

As a part of its approvals, the Berlin Planning Board included a condition relating to the widening of Shelby Street. Shelby Street is a substandard public street. It currently serves the Berlin waste water treatment facility and provides access to other properties abutting the street. See Supplemental Testimony of Bill Gabler (January 29, 2010) in SEC Docket 2009-03. In its current condition, the existing right of way for Shelby Street is inadequate to properly serve the public purposes of the City street.

With all approvals in hand, Clean Power is ready to proceed with final compliance with the conditions and to start construction of the Project. Time is of the essence regarding this Project.

Public Service Company of New Hampshire ("PSNH") is one of the abutting property owners to Shelby Street. The PSNH property along Shelby Street in unimproved. To widen the street, a narrow strip of additional right-of-way is needed from the abutters along the street, including PSNH. The improved street will benefit all property owners, including PSNH. Clean Power has initially agreed to rebuild the road as a part of its project, if the right-of-way can be obtained.

The improvement of Shelby Street will serve the Berlin community, as well as the PSNH property, which will be a benefit to PSNH's ratepayers. Beyond this, the improved access will be constructed at no cost to PSNH such that the benefit to the PSNH property, will, in turn, benefit its ratepayers.

Clean Power requested that PSNH provide an easement along Shelby Street to the City of Berlin for the widening of Shelby Street. PSNH's response is set forth in its letter dated May 17, 2010, a copy of which is attached hereto.

In its letter, PSNH refuses to even consider Clean Power Development's request for an easement until the Complaint in this proceeding is concluded, one way or another. This appears to be a case of retaliation by PSNH against Clean Power Development during the pendency of an open Complaint proceeding where the Commission has determined that "further action is warranted." <u>Transcript</u> at 95 (November 3, 2009).

PSNH is demanding that Clean Power give up its lawful and constitutional rights to be heard before the PUC on a matter where the PUC has found that "further action is warranted" before it will even consider granting the easement to the City of Berlin for improvement of Shelby Street.

These are separate matters that should not be linked as PSNH has attempted to do.

Debra A. Howland Executive Director and Secretary June 7, 2010 Page -3-

It is easy to conclude that PSNH is trying to block the Project for its own business purpose.

This Complaint of Clean Power Development, LLC to the PUC against Public Service of New Hampshire, Docket No. DE 09-067, is based upon the above actions by PSNH.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond P. D'Amante

RPD/mlb

Enc.

cc:

Clean Power Development, LLC Mel Liston, President William Gabler, Vice-President

James T. Rodier, Esq.

Counsel to Clean Power



780 N. Commercial Street, Manchester, NH 03101

Public Service Company of New Hampshire P. O. Box 330 Manchester, NH 03105-0330 (603) 669-4000 www.psnh.com

The Northeast Utilities System

Paul E. Ramsey Vice President, Energy Delivery

May 17, 2010

Mr. Bill Gabler, Project Manager Clean Power Development, LLC 130 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Mr. Gabler:

Recently, you made inquiries regarding certain real property rights desired by Clean Power Development, LLC ("CPD") in Berlin, New Hampshire from Public Service Company of New Hampshire ("PSNH"). I am responding to those requests.

As you are aware, CPD has initiated litigation against PSNH alleging certain civil and criminal misconduct. In its complaints, CPD has sought, amongst other things, adjudicative proceedings and the payment of unspecified reparations from PSNH.

PSNH is not in a position to consider your inquiries regarding the real estate issues in Berlin until the litigation initiated by CPD against PSNH has concluded.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Ramsey