

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: June 10, 2010

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Maureen L. Reno *MCR*
Utility Analyst III

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation Re: DE 10-131 and DE 10-132, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. Certification Applications for Class II Eligibility Pursuant to RSA 362-F on behalf of homeowner Gary S. Lemay

TO: Chairman Thomas B. Getz
Commissioner Clifton C. Below
Commissioner Amy L. Ignatius
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director

CC: Jack K. Ruderman, Director, Sustainable Energy Division
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney



Summary

On May 11, 2010, the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) submitted applications on behalf of homeowner Gary S. Lemay requesting that the Commission grant approval of both photovoltaic facilities located at his residence to produce Class II Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, II, Class II eligibility requires that a facility produce electricity from solar technologies and that it began operation after January 1, 2006.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F, the Commission, in a non-adjudicative process, is required to issue a determination of whether a facility meets a particular classification within 45 days of receipt of a completed application. The two facilities are customer-sited rooftop photovoltaic facilities that began operation on April 27, 2010, one with a capacity of 1.95 kilowatts (kW) and the other with a capacity of 4.56 kW. The facilities meet the Class II eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, II. Based on its review of the applications, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the facilities as eligible for Class II RECs effective May 11, 2010.

NHEC also requests that the Commission issue a separate New Hampshire Certification Code for each facility for tracking purposes. Per the NHEC Renewable

Energy Certificate Member Agreement, Exhibit D, NHEC owns the RECs associated with output from the 1.95 kW facility pursuant to the NHEC Solar Rebate Program. However, NHEC must purchase the RECs associated with the output from the 4.56 kW facility. If the Commission were to certify the facilities as Class II sources, Staff recommends that the Commission also grant NHEC's request for separate NH Certificate Codes.

Analysis

Both facilities are customer-sited photovoltaic rooftop arrays located at Gary S. Lemay's residence in Meredith, New Hampshire that began operation on April 27, 2010.

Pursuant to the N. H. Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2505.08, the applicant is required to submit a complete list of the equipment used at the facilities and certain information regarding the installer, seller and independent monitor. Master Electrician, David Woodaman, installed the 1.95 kW facility in November 2008. See DE 10-131. Gary S. Lemay self-installed the 4.56 kW facility in two phases, three panels in July 2006 and 18 panels in June 2009, respectively. See DE 10-132. NHEC installed the REC meter on April 27, 2010.¹

The New England Independent System Operator asset identification numbers are not applicable as the facilities are customer-sited sources. Since the facilities are customer-sited sources, their output is not recorded in the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) Market Settlement System and, as a result, their output must be monitored and verified by an independent monitor pursuant to Puc 2505. The applications identify NHEC as the independent monitor. The Commission granted NHEC such status on May 12, 2009 in DE 09-006.

On April 9, 2010, the Commission also granted NHEC the authority to aggregate customer-sited sources pursuant to Puc 2506. See DE 10-060. Therefore, in addition to reporting each source's output to the Commission, NHEC will include the total output of these facilities when it reports the total output of all of its Class II eligible facilities, under the name *NHEC Class II Aggregation*, to the NEPOOL GIS.

The applicant is also required to provide a copy of the interconnection agreement, proof that the applicant's distribution utility approved the installation, and a signed attestation that the facility meets applicable building codes. NHEC provided a copy of the approved interconnection agreements with each facility and signed attestations that NHEC, as the distribution utility, approved the installation of each facility. Each application included a signed attestation that was originally provided to NHEC indicating that each project was installed and operating in conformance with any applicable building

¹ NHEC considers the operation date discussed above, and in Appendix E of each application, to be the date on which NHEC inspected the facility and installed a revenue quality meter to record the electricity that will be eligible for Class II RECs. The date listed in each interconnection application pertains to the installation and interconnection of the facility and may be different than the operation date.

codes. Staff recommends that the Commission find these signed attestations meet Puc 2505.08 (b) (7) and (8).

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed NHEC's applications for photovoltaic facilities located on Mr. Lemay's residence and can affirm that they are complete pursuant to Puc 2505.08. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Gary S. Lemay facilities as being eligible for Class II RECs effective May 11, 2010, the date on which Staff was able to make a determination that the facilities meet the requirements for certification as Class II renewable energy sources.