DE 10-195

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BEFORE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Petition for Approval of Power Purchase Agreement with Laidlaw Berlin BioPower, LLC DE 10-195

PETITION FOR INTERVENTION OF EDREST Properties LLC



NOW COMES EDREST PROPERTIES LLC and petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission for intervention in the above noted proceeding pursuant to RSA 541-A:32 and NH Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17. In support of its Petition for Intervention, Petitioner states the following:

- 1. On July 26, 2010, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a petition for approval of a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Laidlaw Berlin BioPower, LLC (Laidlaw) for the purchase of energy, capacity and renewable energy certificates (REC5) pursuant to RSA 362-F:9. According to the petition, the proposed Laidlaw facility is a biomass fueled renewable energy source and purchases by PSNH will help it meet obligations to purchase renewable power as required by RSA 362-F provided that the Laidlaw facility qualifies to produce Class I (new renewable facility) RECs.
- 2. According to the filing, Laidlaw is developing a 70 MW name-plate electric power generating station in Berlin designed to use whole tree wood chips as its fuel.
- 3. PSNH has demonstrated an unwillingness to negotiate power purchase agreements with other existing biomass companies and other proposed biomass companies that would otherwise enhance the role of the PUC in its regulatory responsibility to ensure that high quality service is provided by the utilities at rates that are just and reasonable for both the customer and the utility. While PSNH is negotiating a power purchase agreement with Laidlaw Berlin Biopower based on Schiller wood pricing, PSNH is demonstrating an unwillingness and in essence an apparent choking effect on all other currently operating north county biomass facilities by not working towards competitive bidding with these companies. This effectively can lead to monopolization by PSNH, and the effective ruin of significant jobs and tax base infrastructure within northern NH at the expense of fewer jobs. Testimony has been clear to

this impact on smaller biomass facilities within the EFSEC hearings on this matter and this testimony has been shown by third parties as well as company representatives. This can be construed as disorderly development within a region anywhere in America, let alone NH. Additionally, Edrest Properties LLC is concerned about rising electric rates that can be attributed to absence of competitive bidding.

- 4. Edrest properties LLC owns and/or leases properties with electric heat and services that can be substantially impacted by rate increases substantially triggered by competitive bidding absence.
- 5. Edrest Properties LLC recognizes testimony through the NHSEC from third party testimony that pass through costs inherent to this docket power purchase agreement can have significant threat to the continued operation of numerous north country biomass companies that support the backbone of Coos County. This in turn can lead to the downward spiral of significant tax revenue through closure of these facilities that provide a significant portion of north country revenue through taxes and jobs. This can lead to the downward spiral of existing real estate value which can directly impact Edrest Properties LLC in addition to rising electrical rates.
- 6. In view of these factors, Edrest Properties LLC has a substantial interest in the issues presented to the Commission in the proceeding.

WHEREFORE, Edrest Properties LLC respectfully requests the Commission to grant it intervener party status and to order such other and further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

Edrest Properties LLC,

Jonathan Edwards

Manager

**Edrest Properties LLC** 

P.O. Box 202

Berlin, NH 03570

Dated: 9/23/2010

Certification of Service

Pursuant to Rules PUC 203.02(2) and PUC 203.11, I have served copy of this petition on each person identified on the commission's service list for this docket.

Jonathan Edwards