STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: March 28, 2012
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein BB
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: DE 12-015, La Capra Associates Application on behalf of Washington Electric Cooperative Inc. for New Hampshire Renewable Energy Class I Certification of the Coventry Clean Energy Landfill's Fourth and Fifth Methane Gas Engine-Generator Sets Pursuant to RSA 362-F **Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted.**

TO: Chairman Amy L. Ignatius
Commissioner Robert R. Scott
Commissioner Michael Harrington
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

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

Summary

Staff has reviewed the application for the Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. Coventry Clean Energy (Coventry Clean Energy) landfill's fourth and fifth methane-burning engine-generator sets and has determined that the facility meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, as a Class I facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2505.02. Staff recommends Commission approval for the electrical production from the fourth and fifth methane-burning engine-generator sets as eligible for Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) effective February 29, 2012.

Analysis

On January 12, 2012, the PUC received an application requesting that the 3.2 megawatt (MW) Coventry Clean Energy facility be granted eligibility as a Class I facility for the electricity generated from the burning of methane gas for the fourth and fifth engine-generator sets that came online January 1, 2007 and June 1, 2009, respectively. Staff reviewed the application and supporting documentation and requested additional information on February 17, 2012. A response was received February 29, 2012. Upon review of the application, Staff has determined that the application is complete as of February 29, 2012.

The Coventry Clean Energy facility consists of five engine-generator sets. This application addresses the fourth and fifth engine-generator sets that came online January 1, 2007 and June 1, 2009, respectively. The two additional engine-generator sets are

rated at 1,600 kilowatts (kW) each for a total installed gross generating capacity of 3.2 MW. To qualify Coventry Clean Energy's fourth and fifth methane-burning engine-generator sets as an eligible facility to produce renewable energy certificates (RECs), Puc 2505.02 (b) requires the source to demonstrate its eligibility by completing the following:

1.) *The name and address of the applicant:* The applicant is Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 8, VT Route 14N, East Montpelier, VT 05651

2.) *The name and location of the facility:* The Coventry Clean Energy is located at 21 Landfill Lane, Coventry, VT 05855. The applicant is the facility's operator.

3.) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The ISO-New England asset identification number is ISO-NE#: 12323.

4.) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 12323.

5.) *A description of the facility including fuel type, gross nameplate generation capacity, the initial commercial operation date, and the date it began operation, if different.* The Coventry Clean Energy facility consists of five engine-generator sets. This application addresses the fourth and fifth engine-generator sets that came online January 1, 2007 and June 1, 2009, respectively. These two engine-generator sets are rated at 1,600 kilowatts (kW) each for a total installed gross generating capacity of 3.2 MW.

7.)[1] *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources approvals were provided including approvals from the Fish & Wildlife Department, and the Department of Environmental Conservation as well as approvals from the Federal Aviation Authority for poles at the Coventry airport.

8.) *Proof that the applicant either has an approved interconnection study on file with the commission, is a party to a currently effective interconnection agreement, or is otherwise not required to undertake an interconnection study.* The 1191 TRANSMISSION AGREEMENT governing transmission service provided by Vermont Transco LLC to electric utilities furnishing service within the state of Vermont and to the Vermont Department of Public Service has been provided.

10.)[2] *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* Coventry Clean Energy facility's output is transmitted to the Irasburg substation and eventually into the Public Service of New Hampshire Littleton substation.

11.) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* Coventry Clean

[1] Puc 2502.02(b)(6) relates to biomass sources.
[2] Puc 2502.02(b)(9) relates to biomass sources.

Energy's fourth and fifth five engine-generator sets have been certified in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Class I Renewable Generation Unit and in Rhode Island as a Class I New Eligible Biomass Renewable Energy Resource.

12.) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.* The application includes a statement that the output of the facility is settled in the ISO-NE market systems and is therefore verified through the ISO-NE market system.

14.)[345] *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application.* An affidavit signed by Avram Patt, General Manager for Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. was provided with the original application.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Coventry Clean Energy facility application and can affirm it is complete pursuant to N. H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the electrical production from Coventry Clean Energy's fourth and fifth methane-burning engine-generator sets as eligible for Class I RECs effective February 29, 2012, the date on which Staff was able to make a determination that the facility met the requirements for certification as a Class III renewable energy source.

[3] Puc 2502.02(b)(13) requires a description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO New England. GIS has verified the facility's output.
[4] Puc 2502.02(b)(15) requires the name and telephone number of the facility owner if different from the owner. The facility owner is the operator.
[5] Puc 2502.02(b)(16) provides for other information the applicant wishes to provide to assist in classification of the generating facility. Coventry Clean Energy provided additional information to support their project.