

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: January 21, 2009

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

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

SUBJECT: DE 08-129, University of New Hampshire's Application for Class I Eligibility Pursuant to RSA 362-F
Staff Recommendation

TO: Chairman Thomas B. Getz
Commissioner Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner Clifton C. Below
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

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

Summary

On October 21, 2008, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) submitted an application requesting the Commission grant approval of its UNH Power Plant landfill methane gas plant (UNH Power Plant) to produce Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, I, Class I eligibility requires a facility to have begun the production of electricity after January 1, 2006 and to use certain sources to produce electricity, one of which is methane gas.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F, the Commission, in a non-adjudicative process, must issue a determination of whether a facility meets a particular classification within 45 days of a completed application. The UNH Power Plant is a 4.6 megawatt facility that was scheduled to begin commercial operation on January 1, 2009. However, the applicant notified Staff that this date has been postponed to July 2009. The applicant has another 7.9 megawatt methane gas plant located at the same address, UNH CHP Plant, and has applied separately for New Hampshire Class I eligibility. See Staff Memo for DE 08-133. The UNH Power Plant meets the Class I eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I and UNH has complied with the N. H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 2500 and has provided all the necessary information. Based on its review of the application, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the UNH Power Plant facility as eligible for Class I RECs.

Analysis

The UNH Power Plant facility is located at 22 Colovos Road, Durham, New Hampshire. The project's initial commercial operation date will be in July 2009. It has a gross nameplate capacity of 4.6 megawatts. The facility's ISO-New England asset identification number is MSS1529. The NEPOOL GIS facility code has not yet been obtained. UNH will provide the code to the Commission as soon as it is obtained from the GIS administrator.

Pursuant to Puc 2505.02 (b) (8), the applicant must submit proof that it 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 applicant submitted its interconnection agreement titled "Operating Agreement for Purposes of Wheeling and Power Sales" with Public Service Company of New Hampshire dated December 9, 2008 and has been reviewed by Staff.

Pursuant to Puc 2505.02 (b) (11), the applicant shall include a statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standards and proof thereof. The applicant stated that it submitted this application for eligibility under the Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Maine's renewable portfolio standard programs. Maine is the only state that has approved the facility to produce renewable energy certificates.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed UNH's application for its UNH Power Plant methane gas facility and can affirm it is complete pursuant to N. H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the UNH Power Plant methane gas facility as being eligible for Class I RECs effective December 23, 2008, the date on which Staff was able to make a determination that the facility met the requirements for certification as a Class I renewable energy source. However, the facility will not produce renewable energy certificates until it becomes commercially operational in July 2009.