

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: October 16, 2009

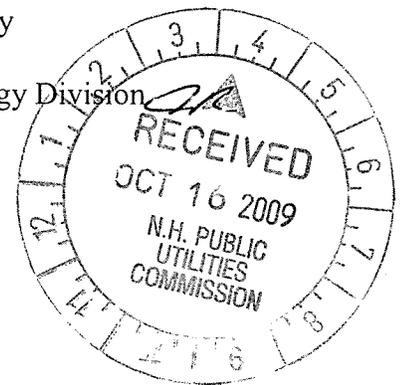
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

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

SUBJECT: DE 09-147, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. on behalf of PPL Renewable Energy, LLC; Certification Application for Class I Eligibility of the Colebrook Landfill Facility Pursuant to RSA 362-F; Staff Recommendation

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

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



Summary

On August 14, 2009, the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) submitted an application on behalf of PPL Renewable Energy, LLC requesting the Commission grant approval of its Colebrook landfill methane gas facility (Colebrook facility) 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 Colebrook facility application was completed on September 18, 2009. The Colebrook facility meets the Class I eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I. NHEC 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 Colebrook facility as eligible for Class I RECs effective September 18, 2009.

Analysis

The Colebrook facility is a landfill methane gas facility, has a gross nameplate capacity of 0.8 megawatts and began commercial operation on August 6, 2009. The facility is located at 88 Skyline Drive, Colebrook, New Hampshire. The NEPOOL generation information system (GIS) facility code is NON 32831. The facility does not have a NEPOOL asset identification number because the applicant does not intend to certify the facility with ISO New England. Due to the relatively small size of the facility, all of the power produced by the facility will replace some of the electricity used in operating the Colebrook substation. As a result, the power produced by the facility must be verified and reported by an independent monitor pursuant to Puc 2505. The application identifies NHEC as the independent monitor to which the Commission granted such status on May 12, 2009 in DE 09-006. NHEC has installed a revenue quality meter so that it can verify and report the facility's output to the NEPOOL GIS.

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." NHEC submitted and Staff verified an interconnection agreement between PPL Renewable Energy, LLC and NHEC effective May 5, 2009.

Pursuant to Puc 2505.02 (b) (11), the applicant must indicate whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof. The applicant has applied to the State of Massachusetts for certification as a Class I resource.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Colebrook facility application and can affirm it is complete pursuant to N. H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Colebrook facility as being eligible for Class I RECs effective September 18, 2009, 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.