

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: June 3, 2010

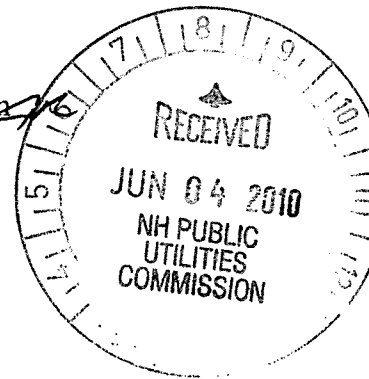
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

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

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation Re: DE 10-128, Paul L. Button's Request for Certification as an Independent Monitor Pursuant to Puc 2502.09

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 5, 2010, Paul L. Button submitted an application requesting the Commission grant him independent monitor status pursuant to the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2505.09. As an independent monitor, Mr. Button would provide monitoring services for customer-sited sources located in New Hampshire that qualify for New Hampshire renewable energy certificates (RECs).

According to his application, Mr. Button qualifies as an independent monitor pursuant to Puc 2505.09 (c) because he is an electrician licensed by the state of New Hampshire and is certified as a building analyst professional by the Building Performance Institute, Inc. As an independent monitor, Mr. Button would perform a series of tasks required under Puc 2505.09 (h) that includes performing the initial meter inspection, measuring the source's annual production, reporting annual production to the Commission and inspecting customer-sited projects.

Staff has reviewed Mr. Button's application to become an independent monitor and can attest that the applicant has provided the necessary certification demonstrating that he meets the requirements set forth in Puc 2505.09. Therefore, Staff recommends the Commission grant his request to become an independent monitor for customer-sited sources that qualify for New Hampshire RECs.

Analysis

Puc 2505.09 (c) states that an independent monitor shall be: a licensed electrician or engineer in New Hampshire; a certified building analyst; a certified energy manager; a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) home energy rater; or a certified independent monitor under another state's renewable portfolio standard program. Mr. Button provided documentation and Staff verified that he is a licensed Journeyman electrician in New Hampshire (License No. 7930 J). Mr. Button is also a certified Building Analyst Professional with the Building Performance Institute, Inc.

Mr. Button does not currently have an agreement to provide monitoring services for a New Hampshire-based REC qualified facility. When he does enter into such an agreement, Puc 2505.09 forbids Mr. Button from being a member of the immediate family of the owner of the source he wishes to monitor. Mr. Button will also be restricted from selling or installing the equipment used by the source. The RPS rules also prohibit Mr. Button from receiving compensation that is a function of the number of RECs issued to any source. Mr. Button proposes to charge \$100 per meter reading plus mileage at \$0.50 per mile two-ways from his business address of 85 Yvette Street, Manchester, New Hampshire.

Puc 2505.09 (h) requires an independent monitor to conduct the following tasks: (1) Perform initial inspection of the source's meter for accuracy and capability to measure the power produced (unless owned by a distribution utility that has already inspected it); (2) Measure the source's annual electricity production or displacement; (3) Report the annual production or displacement of electricity by January 31st for the preceding calendar year; and (4) Inspect customer-sited sources to demonstrate they are installed and operating in conformance with applicable safety, zoning and building codes and that the interconnection meets Puc 900 requirements. See Puc 2507.04(h).

Recommendation

Mr. Button meets the independent monitor requirements listed in Puc 2505.09 (c). Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission approve Mr. Button's request for independent monitor status provided that he meets the affiliation restrictions listed in Puc 2505.09 (f), has a compensation fee independent of the number of RECs produced and performs the duties listed in Puc 2505.09 (h).