

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Intra-Department Communication

DATE: March 29, 2012
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein 
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: Re: DE 12-078, Vale Law for Energy and the Environment Request
for A. Quincy Vale to be Certified as an Independent Monitor Pursuant
to Puc 2502.09
Staff Recommends Approval

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

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

Summary

On March 27, 2012, Vale Law for Energy and the Environment (Vale Law) submitted an application requesting the Commission grant A. Quincy Vale independent monitor status pursuant to the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2505.09. As an independent monitor, Mr. Vale would provide monitoring services for New Hampshire-based, customer-sited sources qualifying for renewable energy certificates (RECs).

Staff recommends the Commission grant this request for A. Quincy Vale to be 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. According to the application submitted by Vale Law, Mr. Vale qualifies as an independent monitor pursuant to Puc 2505.09 (c) because he is a certified independent monitor through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' renewable portfolio standard program.

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)).

Mr. Vale currently provides monitoring services for two New Hampshire Class II photovoltaic facilities: DE 10-289 (Elysium¹); and, DE 10-290 (Phoenix Park²). Puc 2505.09 forbids Mr. Vale from being a member of the immediate family of the owner of the source he wishes to monitor. Mr. Vale will also be restricted from selling or installing the equipment used by the source. The RPS rules also prohibit Mr. Vale from receiving compensation that is a function of the number of RECs issued to any source. Mr. Vale's application indicates that he does not plan to install electrical renewable energy systems or solar water heating systems that he plans to monitor. Mr. Vale does not own the systems that he plans to monitor, and he is not an immediate family member of the owner of any systems he intends to monitor. Table 1 below outlines Vale Law's proposed rates.

Table 1: Rates for Renewable Energy Source Eligibility for Independent Monitoring		
Description	Unit	Rate
Assistance with preparation and submission of an application for certification as a source of Renewable Energy Certificates	Per hour	\$200.00
Initial Inspection of Customer-Sited energy Generation system & meter	Flat fee	\$300.00
Annual fee for independent monitoring services	Annual	\$300.00

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed Vale Law's application for Mr. Vale 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 that the Commission approve Mr. Vale'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).

¹ Elysium is an 82 kilowatt customer-sited photovoltaic rooftop array located at 100 University Drive, Amherst, Massachusetts that began operation on June 8, 2009.

² The Phoenix Park facility is customer-sited photovoltaic facility that is located at 2 Shaker Road, Shirley, Massachusetts. The facility includes five 101.2 kW systems, totaling a gross nameplate capacity of 506 kilowatts. The first three systems began operation on April 9, 2010, and the remaining two systems began operation on September 22, 2010.