

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: September 13, 2012

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein *BB*
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: Re: DE 12-264, Turn Cycle Solution's Request for Michael J. Turcotte 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 *JR*
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney

Summary

On August 30, 2012, Turn Cycle Solutions submitted an application requesting the Commission grant Michael Turcotte independent monitor status pursuant to the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2505.09. As an independent monitor, Mr. Turcotte 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 Michael Turcotte 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 professional (as certified by the Building Performance Institute, Inc., [BPI] of Malta, New York); 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 Turn Cycle Solutions, Mr. Turcotte qualifies as an independent monitor pursuant to Puc 2505.09 (c) because he is certified as a building analyst professional by BPI¹.

¹ The BPI confirmed Mr. Turcotte's status as a building analyst professional on September 7, 2012.

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)).

Puc 2505.09 forbids Mr. Turcotte from being a member of the immediate family of the owner of the source he wishes to monitor. Mr. Turcotte will also be restricted from selling or installing the equipment used by the source. The RPS rules also prohibit Mr. Turcotte from receiving compensation that is a function of the number of RECs issued to any source. Mr. Turcotte’s application indicates that he does not plan to install the electrical renewable energy systems or solar water heating systems that he plans to monitor. Mr. Turcotte 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 Turn Cycle Solutions proposed rates.

Table 1: Rates for Renewable Energy Source Eligibility for Independent Monitoring		
Description	Unit	Rate
Research background information, site investigation, measurements, sketches, photographs. Prepare report on findings. (Rate to include administration costs, toll calls, photocopying, correspondence.)	Per hour	\$49.50
Quarterly Reporting	Per quarter	\$40.00
Annual Reporting	Per year	\$125.00
Mileage	Per Mile	\$.41
Distribute copies of report to relevant parties. (Rate to include printing costs and postage.)	Per copy	\$.50

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed Turn Cycle Solution’s application for Mr. Turcotte to become an independent monitor and can attest that the applicant has provided the information necessary to demonstrate that he meets the requirements set forth in Puc 2505.09. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission approve Mr. Turcotte’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).