

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: December 07, 2012

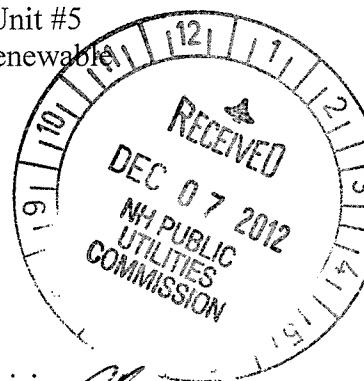
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein *BB*
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: DE 12-314, Vermont Public Power Supply Authority's Eligibility Request on behalf of the Swanton Village Electric Department for the Incremental Production Generated by the Highgate Falls Unit #5 Spillway Generator to Produce Class I New Hampshire Renewable Energy Certificates Pursuant to RSA 362-F.
Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted.

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

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



Summary

On October 25, 2012, the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) submitted an application on behalf of the Swanton Village Electric Department requesting Class I certification for the incremental new production from the Highgate Falls Unit #5's (Highgate Falls #5) spillway generator pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law and Chapter 272, Laws of 2012. Staff has reviewed the VPPSA's certification request for Highgate Falls #5's .572 megawatts (MW) of electrical production and has determined that it meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, as a Class I hydro facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff has determined that the application was complete as submitted and recommends Commission approval for Highgate Falls #5 as a Class I renewable energy source effective October 25, 2012.

Analysis

Puc 2505.02 (b) requires the source to demonstrate its eligibility by completing the following:

1. The name and address of the applicant: The application has been filed by VPPSA, 5195 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Ctr., VT 05677, on behalf of the Swanton Village Electric Department.

2. *The name and location of the facility:* The Highgate Falls #5 spillway generator is located on the Missisquoi River, in Swanton Village, Vermont.
3. *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The ISO-New England asset identification number is 35237.
4. *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as NON35237.
5. *A description of the facility including fuel type, gross nameplate generation capacity, the initial commercial operation date, and the date it began operation, if different.* Highgate Falls Unit #5 is a .572 MW hydroelectric spillway generator located in the spillway of the Highgate Falls generating station. The Highgate Falls #5 spillway generator began operation on March 13, 2012. The primary station, Highgate Falls, began operation in January 1928. The primary station has a nameplate generation capacity of 11.39 MW for a total plant nameplate capacity of 11.964 MW. Certification is requested only for the new incremental production represented by the .572 MW spillway generator. In addition, VPPSA has provided documentation of over \$199,450 in improvements to the Highgate Falls generation facility to demonstrate that the incremental new production is the result of capital investment and not operational changes pursuant to Puc 2502.07.
6. *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
7. *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Project # 2547-001, Attachment E, has granted certification for the operation of the Highgate Falls generating station.
8. *Proof that the applicant either 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 Swanton Village Electric Department is the owner of the Highgate Falls generating station. The generating station is within the electric service territory for the utility and does not need an interconnection agreement.
9. *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non- federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* Highgate Falls #5 has been certified as a Class I new renewable resource by the State of Maine.
10. *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.* The facility's output has been verified by ISO New England and the facility is listed in the GIS database.
11. *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO-New England.* Not applicable.

12. *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application.*
An affidavit signed by Reginald Beliveau, Jr., General Manager of the Swanton Village Electric Department was provided with the application.
13. *The name and telephone number of the facility's operator, if different from the owner.*
The facility operator is the Swanton Village Electric Department.
14. *Such other information as the applicant wishes to provide to assist in classification of the generating facility.* All information required to complete the application was provided.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the VPPSA's application for certification of the incremental new production of .572 megawatts of electricity from the Highgate Falls #5 spillway generator and can affirm it is complete pursuant to N. H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify Highgate Falls #5's incremental new production as being eligible for Class I RECs effective October 25, 2012, 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.