


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: February 5, 2013

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein/Jack Ruderman 
Sustainable Energy Analyst/Director, Sustainable Energy Division

SUBJECT: **DE 12-343**, Solar Farm Bank, LLC's Requests Including:

- Class II Eligibility for the Photovoltaic Array at Applecrest Farm Orchards, LLC, 133 Exeter Road, Hampton, NH Pursuant to RSA 362-F; **Staff Recommends Eligibility be Granted; and**
- Approval and Registration as an Aggregator of New Hampshire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) Pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2506
Staff Recommends Registration Be Approved

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

CC: Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney



Summary

On November 28, 2012, Solar Farm Bank, LLC (Solar Farm Bank) submitted an application requesting Class II certification for the .042 megawatts (MW) of electrical production generated by the photovoltaic (PV) array at Applecrest Farm Orchards, LLC, (Applecrest Farm Orchards), Hampton, NH pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law. A cover letter and additional information was requested December 18, 2012 and information to complete the application was received January 08, 2012. Staff has reviewed the certification request for the Applecrest Farm Orchards' PV array and has determined that it meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, II, as a Class II facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends Commission approval for the Applecrest Farm Orchards' photovoltaic array as a Class II renewable energy source effective January 08, 2013.

In addition, Solar Farm Bank submitted a request to be registered by the Commission as an aggregator of RECs generated by customer-sited sources pursuant to

New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2506. Staff has reviewed the Solar Farm Bank request and has determined that it meets the eligibility requirements under Puc 2506 and recommends approval effective January 08, 2013.

Analysis – Applecrest Farm Orchards

To qualify as a facility eligible to produce RECs, Puc 2505.02 (b) requires the source to provide the following:

1. *The name, address, and contact information of the applicant.* The applicant is Applecrest Farm Orchards located at 133 Exeter Road, Hampton, NH 03844. The application was submitted by Solar Farm Bank, 205 Shaw Farm Road, Holliston, MA 01746. The mailing address for Solar Farm Bank is P.O. Box 24, Medway, MA 02053.
2. *A complete list of the equipment used at the facility, including the meter, and, if applicable, the inverter.* The Applecrest Farm Orchards PV array utilizes 156 Solar World SW255 solar modules, 6 SMA SB7000s inverters, Iron Ridge Racking, SMA Sunny WebBox Monitoring and a revenue grade electricity meter.
3. *The name, license number and contact information of the installer of the applicable generation or solar heating equipment, or a statement that the equipment was installed directly by the customer.* The installer is George Horrocks, Harmony Energy Works Incorporated, 10 Gale Road, Hampton, NH 03842. The license number is NABCEP PV Installer #032611-147.
4. *The name and contact information of the seller of the applicable generation or heating equipment.* The installer and seller of the equipment are one and the same.
5. *The name and contact information of the independent monitor of the source.* The independent monitor is Paul Button¹, pbutton@energy-audits-unltd.com. His phone numbers are 603-617-2469 (office), and 603-836-4402 (mobile).
6. *A copy of the interconnection agreement pursuant to Puc 307.06, if applicable, between the applicant and the distribution utility.* A copy of an interconnection agreement between Unitil Energy Systems, Inc., (Unitil) and Applecrest Farm Orchards dated September 28, 2012 was provided.
7. *An attestation by the applicant that the project is installed and operating in conformance with any applicable building codes.* An attestation was provided by George Horrocks, Harmony Energy Works Incorporated.
8. *For an installation with electric output, documentation of the applicable distribution utility's approval of the installation.* A copy of the interconnection agreement

¹ Paul Button was approved as an independent monitor by the Commission on June 14, 2010.

between Unitil and Applecrest Farm Orchards dated September 28, 2012 provides approval of the installation.

RSA 362-F:6 requires the renewable portfolio standard program to utilize the regional generation information system (GIS) of energy certificates administered by ISO-New England. The GIS facility code assigned to Applecrest Farm Orchards is NON 35889.

Recommendation – Applecrest Farm Orchards

Staff has reviewed Solar Farm Bank’s application for Class II certification of the Applecrest Farm Orchards PV array and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code Admin. Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Applecrest Farm Orchards PV array as being eligible for Class II RECs effective January 08, 2013, the date on which Staff was able to make a determination that the facility met the requirements for certification as a Class II renewable energy source.

Analysis – Solar Farm Bank, LLC’s Request to Be Registered as an Aggregator of New Hampshire RECs

Pursuant to Puc 2506.01 (a), a person not otherwise qualified to obtain certificates as a provider of electricity may purchase, combine, and re-sell whole or fractional certificates issued to customer-sited sources² by registering as an aggregator. To qualify as an aggregator, the following must be provided:

- 1) *The name of the aggregator:* The applicant is Solar Farm Bank.
- 2) *The address and telephone number of the aggregator:* The office address provided for Solar Farm Bank is 205 Shaw Farm Road, Holliston, MA 01746. The mailing address for Solar Farm Bank is P.O. Box 24, Medway, MA 02053.
- 3) *Identification of the independent monitor or monitors responsible for verifying the production of energy from the applicable customer-sited sources.* Solar Farm Bank intends to work with Paul Button and other Commission approved independent monitors.
- 4) *A disclosure of whether there is any family or business relationship between such independent monitor and the aggregator:* Stephen Hirsh, President, Solar Farm Bank, provided a statement that there is no family or business relationship between any of the approved independent monitors and Solar Farm Bank.
- 5) *A description of how the monitor will be compensated for its services:* Mr. Hirsh stated that the independent monitor is compensated by the customer-sited sources for generating an independent production report for each system within the aggregation, and the submission of these individual reports to both NEPOOL-GIS and NH PUC.

² Pursuant to RSA 362-F:2, V, and Puc 2502.13 “Customer-sited source” means a source that is interconnected on the end-use customer’s side of the retail electricity meter in such a manner that it displaces all or part of the metered consumption of the end-use customer.

At this time, Applecrest Farm Orchards is the only facility that Solar Farm Bank has submitted for REC eligibility. Mr. Hirsh stated that additional facilities will be added in the near future.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Solar Farm Bank request for Commission approval as an aggregator for RECs generated from customer-sited sources and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2506. Staff recommends that the Commission approve Solar Farm Bank's registration request to be an aggregator of customer-sited sources in New Hampshire effective January 08, 2013.