

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: February 20, 2013

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: **DE 13-023**, The Town of Sunapee's Eligibility Request for the Sunapee Hydro Facility to Produce Class IV New Hampshire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) 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 January 22, 2013, the Town of Sunapee submitted an application requesting Class IV certification for the Town of Sunapee Hydroelectric (Sunapee Hydro) facility pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Staff has reviewed the Town of Sunapee's certification request for Sunapee Hydro's .650 megawatts (MW) of electrical production and has determined that it meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, as a Class IV 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 Sunapee Hydro as a Class IV renewable energy source effective January 22, 2013.

Analysis

Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, Class IV existing small hydroelectric facilities of one megawatt or less may apply for RECs if they are in compliance with applicable Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) fish passage restoration requirements and interconnected with an electric distribution system located in New Hampshire.

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

- 1) *The name and address of the applicant.* The application was filed by the Town of Sunapee, 23 Edgemont Road, Sunapee, NH 03782.

- 2) *The name and location of the facility.* Sunapee Hydro is located on the Sugar River in Sunapee, NH.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The facility's asset identification number is 889.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 889.
- 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.*
Sunapee Hydro is operated as a run-of-river facility. Its principal components include a 15-foot high and 71-foot long dam with an intake structure and penstocks, a powerhouse, turbine and other appurtenances. The gross nameplate generation capacity is .650 MW of electricity. The project began commercial operation February 15, 1985.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* An Order Granting Exemption From Licensing (FERC Project Number 5985), dated July 01, 1982, as well as additional FERC updates dated October 19, 1994, and March 30, 2000 were provided for Sunapee Hydro, therefore, the facility is in compliance with applicable FERC requirements including those related to fish passage restoration.
- 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.* Pertinent pages of the Interconnection Agreement between Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) and the Town of Sunapee dated February 14, 2005 was provided.
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.*
Sunapee Hydro is interconnected with the PSNH electric distribution system.
- 11) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* Sunapee Hydro is not currently certified as a renewable energy resource in any non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard.
- 12) *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.

- 13) *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO-New England.* Not applicable.
- 14) *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application.*
An affidavit signed by Robert A. Collins, Department Head – Hydro, Town of Sunapee, was provided with the application.
- 15) *The name and telephone number of the facility's operator, if different from the owner.* The facility operator is Robert A. Collins; his phone number is 603-477-8894.
- 16) *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 Town of Sunapee – Sunapee Hydro application for Class IV certification and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify Sunapee Hydro as a Class IV renewable energy source effective January 22, 2013.