


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

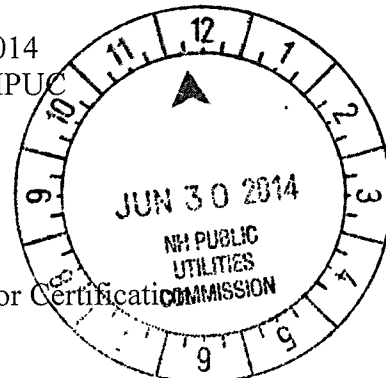
Inter-Department Communication

DATE: June 26, 2014


AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein 
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: DE 14-137, Gervais Family Farm, Inc., Application for Certification
as a REC Eligible Facility
Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted



TO: Chairman Amy L. Ignatius
Commissioner Robert R. Scott
Commissioner Martin P. Honigberg
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

CC: Jack K. Ruderman, Director of the Sustainable Energy Division 
David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney

Summary

On May 29, 2014, the Commission received an application filed by Brennan Punderson, PLLC (Brennan Punderson) on behalf of Gervais Family Farm, Inc. (Gervais Family Farm). Brennan Punderson is requesting Class I certification for Gervais Family Farm's 0.400 megawatt (MW) animal waste-derived, methane-fueled electrical generating anaerobic digester (AD).¹ Staff has reviewed the Gervais Family Farm certification request for the AD and has determined that the project meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I(e), as a Class I facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends Commission approval for the Gervais Family Farm AD project as a Class I renewable energy source, effective as of May 29, 2014.

Analysis

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 applicant's name is Gervais Family Farm, Inc. The address is 6001 Boston Post Road, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450.
- 2) *The name and location of the facility:* The Gervais Family Farm AD project is located at the address listed in 1) above.

¹ Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law.

- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* An ISO New England asset identification number was not provided.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL-GIS facility code for the Gervais Family Farm AD project has been verified as NON 32784.
- 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.* Gervais Family Farm operates a farm-methane electrical generating facility which uses methane gas derived from processed cow manure and other off-farm feedstocks to fuel a biogas generator. The manure is processed in an on-site methane digester, and the methane gas is piped directly to the generator. The gross nameplate generation capacity is 0.400 MW. The initial commercial operation date was February 10, 2010.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* Brennan Punderson provided the following regulatory approvals:
- A State of Vermont Public Service Board, Amended Certificate of Public Good issued pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248, Docket No. 7312, dated November 16, 2011, expanding the AD facility by an additional 0.200 MW;
 - A State of Vermont Public Service Board, Second Amended Certificate of Public Good issued pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248, Docket No. 7312, dated May 14, 2013, approving the AD project;
 - Two letters from the Air Pollution Control Division of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The first was dated May 4, 2007; the second was dated June 28, 2011. Both letters stated that an air pollution control permit is not required for the facility, provided that certain specified conditions are met. The application stated that Gervais Family Farm is in compliance with these conditions.
- 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 application included a copy of the Revised Generation Interconnection Agreement between the Village of Enosburg Falls Water & Light Department and Gervais Family Farm for the Gervais Family Farm, Inc. Renewable Electric Generating Project, effective May 1, 2012.
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* The Gervais Family Farm AD generation project is interconnected with Village of

Enosburg Falls Water and Light Department's transmission and distribution system at the West Enosburg circuit in Bakersfield, Vermont.

- 11) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non- federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* The Gervais Family Farm AD generation project has been approved by the State of Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority as a Class I renewable energy source, by decision dated September 29, 2010, and is listed as such in the NEPOOL-GIS database.
- 12) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.* The electrical output from the Gervais Family Farm AD generation project is not verified by ISO New England. The output is verified by Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (VELCO), a certified third party meter reader.
- 13) *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO- New England.* The electrical output of the Gervais Family Farm AD generation project is verified and reported to NEPOOL-GIS by VELCO, a certified third party meter reader. The Gervais Family Farm AD generation facility is not a customer-sited source because its electrical output does not displace any consumption of the end-use customer.
- 14) *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application.* An affidavit signed by Clement Gervais, duly authorized agent of Gervais Family Farm, 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 the same as the facility owner.
- 16) *Such other information as the applicant wishes to provide to assist in classification of the generating facility.* Brennan Punderson provided all information needed to complete the review of the Gervais Family Farm application.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Gervais Family Farm application for Class I certification of its AD generation project, and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Gervais Family Farm AD generation project as a Class I renewable energy source, effective as of May 29, 2014.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**

DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429

- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.**