

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: October 2, 2009

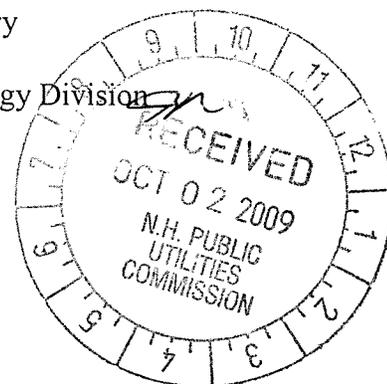
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Maureen L. Reno *MLR*
Utility Analyst III

SUBJECT: DE 09-149, Ridgewood Rhode Island Generation, LLC
Certification Application for Class III Eligibility of its Johnston
Landfill Expansion Phase I Facility Pursuant to RSA 362-F; Staff
Recommendation

TO: Chairman Thomas B. Getz
Commissioner Clifton C. Below
Commission Amy L. Ignatius
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

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



Summary

On August 20, 2009, Ridgewood Rhode Island Generation, LLC (Ridgewood) submitted an application requesting the Commission grant approval of its Johnston landfill expansion phase I facility (Johnston I facility) to produce Class III Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, III, Class III eligibility requires a facility to have begun the production of electricity prior to January 1, 2006 using either eligible biomass technologies having a gross nameplate capacity of 25 megawatts (MW) or less or methane gas.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F, the Commission, in a non-adjudicative process, must issue a determination of whether a facility meets a particular classification within 45 days of a completed application. The Ridgewood application was completed on August 20, 2009. The Johnston I facility meets the Class III eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, III.¹ Ridgewood has complied with the N. H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 2500 and has

¹ The applicant has another 6.4 megawatt methane gas plant located at the landfill, Johnston Landfill Expansion Phase II, and has applied separately for New Hampshire Class III eligibility for that facility. See Staff Memo for DE 09-150. Both the Johnston Phase I and Phase II facilities are located at the same

provided all the necessary information. Based on its review of the application, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Johnston I facility as eligible for Class III RECs effective August 20, 2009.

Analysis

The Johnston I facility is a landfill methane gas facility, with a gross nameplate capacity of 2.5 MW and is located at 65 Shun Pike, Johnston, Rhode Island. The facility entered commercial operation on February 28, 2004. The facility's NEPOOL generation information system facility code is MSS 10366.

Pursuant to Puc 2505.02 (b) (8), the applicant must submit proof that it 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." Ridgewood submitted a copy of the System Impact Study issued by Narragansett Electric and dated June 10, 2003. The report stated that the Johnston Landfill Expansion Phase I facility did not have an adverse impact on the Narragansett Electric – National Grid system and, as a result, a separate interconnection agreement was not necessary.

Pursuant to Puc 2505.02 (b) (11), the applicant must indicate whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standards and proof thereof. The Johnston I facility has been certified in Connecticut as a Class I source, in Massachusetts as a New Renewable Energy Generator and in Rhode Island as a New, Eligible Renewable Energy Resource.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Johnston I facility application and can affirm it is complete pursuant to N. H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Johnston I facility as being eligible for Class III RECs effective August 20, 2009, the date on which Staff was able to make a determination that the facility met the requirements for certification as a Class III renewable energy source.