STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: December 23, 2009
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Maureen L. Reno MLR
Utility Analyst III

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation: DE 09-240, William P. Short on behalf of Williams Stone Company, Inc. Certification Application for Class I Eligibility of the Williams Stone Wind Farm Facility Pursuant to RSA 362-F

TO: Chairman Thomas B. Getz
Commissioner Clifton C. Below
Commissioner 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 November 25, 2009, William P. Short III submitted an application on behalf of Williams Stone Company, Inc. (Williams Stone) requesting the Commission grant approval of the Williams Stone wind power facility (Williams Stone facility) to produce Class I renewable energy certificates (RECs) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, I, Class I eligibility requires a facility to have begun the production of electricity after January 1, 2006 and to use certain sources to produce electricity, one of which is wind power energy.

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 Williams Stone facility application was completed on November 25, 2009. The Williams Stone facility meets the Class I eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I. The applicant has complied with the N. H. Code of Admin. Rules Puc 2500 and has provided all the necessary information. Based on its review of the application, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Williams Stone facility as eligible for Class I RECs effective November 25, 2009.

Analysis

The Williams Stone facility is a 0.63 megawatt (MW) Vestas RRB PS wind power facility that began operation on June 1, 2009. The facility is located at 1158 Lee Westfield Road, East Otis, Massachusetts. Both the Williams Stone facility's output that is sold to Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO)[1] and the electrical output that is consumed by Williams Stone are verified and reported to the NEPOOL generation information system (GIS) by William P. Short III. [2] The NEPOOL GIS facility code is NON 32828.

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." The applicant submitted and Staff verified an interconnection agreement with WMECO effective February 10, 2009.

Pursuant to Puc 2505.02 (b) (11), the applicant shall include a statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof. The Williams Stone facility has been certified in Massachusetts as a Class I renewable generation unit and is awaiting certification in Connecticut as a Class I new renewable resource.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Williams Stone facility application and can affirm it is complete pursuant to Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Williams Stone facility as being eligible for Class I RECs effective November 25, 2009, 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.

[1] According to the applicant, WMECO refuses to register the Williams Stone Facility with ISO-New England, Inc. (ISO-NE) because the facility has less than a megawatt of gross nameplate capacity. As a result, the facility does not have an ISO-NE market settlement system identification number.

[2] The applicant provided a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources approving the Williams Stone facility as a Class I renewable generation unit. The letter, dated November 5, 2009, also identifies William P. Short III as the independent third party meter reader for the facility.