

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: January 27, 2011
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

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

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation Re: DE 10-266 and DE 10-267, Tioga Solar Westborough, LLC 's Certification Applications for Class II Eligibility Pursuant to RSA 362-F on behalf of BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.

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

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



Summary

On October 7, 2010, Tioga Solar Westborough, LLC (TSW) submitted two applications on behalf of BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. requesting that the Commission grant approval of photovoltaic facilities located at their Attleboro and Leominster, Massachusetts retail stores to produce Class II Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Class II eligibility requires that a facility produce electricity from solar technologies and that it began operation after January 1, 2006.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F, the Commission, in a non-adjudicative process, is required to issue a determination of whether a facility meets a particular classification within 45 days of receipt of a completed application. Both applications were completed on December 23, 2010. The facilities meet the Class II eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, II. Based on its review of the applications, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the BJ's facilities as eligible for Class II RECs, effective December 23, 2010.

Analysis

The facilities are customer-sited photovoltaic arrays located in Massachusetts and began operation on July 8, 2010. The facilities' gross nameplate capacities are 262.74 kilowatts (kW) and 292.60 kW. The details for each facility are listed in the following table.

Commission Assigned Docket #	Facility Owner	Facility Location	NEPOOL GIS Facility Code	Operation Date	Effective Date to Produce RECs	Total kW listed in application (DC Arrays)
DE 10-266	BJ's Wholesale Club 58	Leominster, MA	NON 32984	07/08/10	12/23/10	262.74
DE 10-267	BJ's Wholesale Club 55	Attleboro, MA	NON 32983	07/08/10	12/23/10	292.60

Since each facility is a customer-sited source, its output is not recorded in the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) Market Settlement System and, as a result, each facility's output must be monitored and verified by an independent monitor pursuant to Puc 2505. The applications identify National Semiconductor as the independent monitor.¹ Each facility's NEPOOL GIS facility code is listed in the table above.

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 each facility's interconnection agreement between Massachusetts Electric Company and BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc., effective June 1, 2010.

Pursuant to Puc 2505.02 (b) (11), the applicant is required to include a statement as to whether each facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standards and proof thereof. The applicant indicates that each facility is certified as a Class I renewable energy source under Massachusetts' renewable portfolio standard program.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed NHEC's applications for photovoltaic facilities located at the above-named retail stores and can affirm that they are complete pursuant to Puc 2505.08. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the BJ's Wholesale Club facilities as eligible for Class II RECs effective December 23, 2010.

¹ On November 24, 2010, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources certified National Semiconductor as a third party meter reader.