

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: February 10, 2011

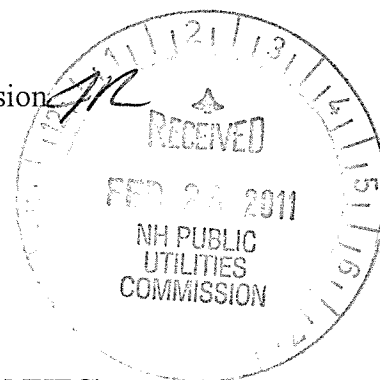
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

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

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation Re: DE 11-005, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. Certification Applications for Class II Eligibility Pursuant to RSA 362-F on behalf of homeowners Lea and Michael Koester

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 January 13, 2011, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) submitted an application on behalf of homeowners Lea and Michael Koester requesting that the Commission grant approval of a photovoltaic facility located at their residence to produce Class II Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, II, 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. The above-named facility is a customer-sited photovoltaic array that began operation on December 29, 2010. The facility meets the Class II eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, II. Based on its review of the application, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Lea and Michael Koester facility as eligible for Class II RECs effective January 13, 2011.

Analysis

The facility is a customer-sited photovoltaic array located in Nottingham, New Hampshire and began operation on December 29, 2010.¹ The facility's gross nameplate capacity is 7.7 kilowatts.

Pursuant to the N. H. Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2505.08, the applicant is required to submit a complete list of the equipment used at the facility and certain information regarding the installer, seller and independent monitor. The application includes a list of equipment purchased from Talmage Solar Engineering, Inc. and installed by Master Electrician, Michael Sanborn.

Since the 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, its output must be monitored and verified by an independent monitor. The application states that NHEC will monitor the facility's output as required by Puc 2505.09.² The facility's total output will also be included in the *NHEC Class II Aggregation*'s total output reported to the NEPOOL Generation Information System as approved by the Commission on April 9, 2010.³

The applicant is also required to provide a copy of the interconnection agreement, proof that the applicant's distribution utility approved the installation, and a signed attestation that the facility meets applicable building codes. NHEC provided a copy of the approved interconnection agreement with the facility and the signed attestation that NHEC, as the distribution utility, approved the installation of the facility. The application also included a signed attestation that was originally provided to NHEC indicating that each project was installed and operating in conformance with any applicable building codes. Staff recommends that the Commission find these signed attestations meet Puc 2505.08 (b) (7) and (8).

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed NHEC's application for a photovoltaic facility located at the above-named homeowners' residence and can affirm that it is complete pursuant to Puc 2505.08. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Lea and Michael Koester facility as eligible for Class II RECs, effective January 13, 2011.

¹ NHEC considers the operation date disclosed above, and in Appendix E of the application, to be the date on which NHEC inspected the facility and installed a revenue quality meter to record the electricity that will be eligible for Class I RECs. The date listed in the interconnection application pertains to the installation and interconnection of the facility and may be different than the operation date stated above.

² The Commission granted NHEC such status on May 12, 2009 in DE 09-006.

³ See DE 10-060.