

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication



DATE: March 2, 2011

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

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

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation Re: DE 11-027, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. Certification Application for Class II Eligibility Pursuant to RSA 362-F on behalf of the North Conway Water Precinct

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 *JKR*
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney

Summary

On February 11, 2011, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) submitted an application on behalf of the North Conway Water Precinct requesting that the Commission grant approval of a pole-mounted photovoltaic facility located at its Waste Water Treatment Center (NCWP facility) 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 October 21, 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 NCWP facility as eligible for Class II RECs effective February 23, 2011.

Analysis

The facility is a customer-sited photovoltaic array located at 104 Sawmill Lane, North Conway, New Hampshire and began operation on October 21, 2010.¹ The facility's gross nameplate capacity is 167.4 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 GroSolar and installed by Master Electrician, Frank Gardella.

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 applicant will provide the facility's NEPOOL Generation Information System facility code when it becomes available.

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 from David Bernier, the Superintendent of NCWP, indicating that the 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 the photovoltaic facility located at the North Conway Waste Water Treatment Center and can affirm that it is complete pursuant to Puc 2505.08. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the NCWP facility as eligible for Class II RECs, effective February 23, 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.