

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: November 22, 2011

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein *BB*
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: Re: **Docket No. DE 11-219**

- Americas' Wood Company's Application Requesting Class II Eligibility for Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) Generated by Its Photovoltaic Array Pursuant to RSA 362-F.
- Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted.**

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

Staff has reviewed the application for Americas' Wood Company's photovoltaic facility and determined that it meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, II as a Class II photovoltaic facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2505.08. Staff recommends Commission approval for this facility as eligible for Class II Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) effective November 10, 2011.

Background

On September 26, 2011, the PUC received an application requesting that the Americas' Wood Company photovoltaic array be granted eligibility for Class II RECs. Staff reviewed the application and supporting documentation and requested additional information on October 14, 2011. A response was received October 31, 2011. A second request for information was sent on November 2, 2011. A response to that request was received on November 10, 2011, thus completing the application.

The Americas' Wood Company's photovoltaic array began operation on July 08, 2011 and has a name plate capacity of 26.56 kilowatts of electricity. As a customer-sited source with a capacity of 100 kilowatts or less, the facility is required to meet the conditions of Puc 2505.08. The applicant is required to include:

(Puc 2505.08 (b)(1)) The name, address and contact information for the applicant: Americas' Wood Company, 598 Augusta Road, Washington, Maine, 04574-3216. The main contacts are Richard Simon, President and Steve Bowers, Office Manager.

(Puc 2505.08 (b)(2)) A complete list of equipment used at the facility. Americas' Wood Company has three separate areas with Solar panels. The equipment used on these solar systems includes:

- A roof-mounted system using Canadian Solar panels and a Fronius inverter;
- An awning over an office deck using BP Solar panels and Enphase inverters; and,
- A ground-mount system next to the building with Schueten Panels and SMA Inverters.

(Puc 2505.08 (b)(3)) The name, license number and contact information of the installer. The installing electrician, Charlie Squires, was listed as was his license number and contact information.

(Puc 2505.08 (b)(4)) The name and contact information of the seller of the generation equipment. Maine Energy Performance Solutions and their contact information were provided as the seller of the generation equipment.

(Puc 2505.08 (b)(5)) The name and contact information of the independent monitor. The application identifies Thomas Kelly, Natural Capital, as the independent monitor responsible for both monitoring and verifying the facility's output.¹

*(Puc 2505.08 (b)(6)) A copy of the interconnection agreement between the applicant and the distribution utility.*² The applicant submitted and Staff verified the facility's interconnection agreement dated September 16, 2011 between Central Maine Power Company and Americas' Wood Company.

(Puc 2505.08 (b)(7)) An attestation by the applicant that the project is installed and operating in conformance with any applicable building codes. Richard Simon, President, Americas' Wood Company provided a signed attestation verifying that the installation is installed and operating in conformance with applicable building codes.

(Puc 2505.08 (b)(8)) For an installation with electric output, documentation of the applicable distribution utility's approval of the installation. ARTICLE 11. SIGNATURES OF THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT AND NET ENERGY BILLING AGREEMENT provides the signatures of both Eric N. Stinneford, the Vice-President Controller, Treasurer & Clerk and Carol A. Purinton, Manager – Interconnection Services as well as the signature of Richard Simon, President, Americas' Wood Company.

¹ On September 26, 2011, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission approved Thomas Kelly as an independent third party meter reader pursuant to the NEPOOL GIS Operating Rule 2.5 (j).

² Pursuant to Puc 307.06.

Americas' Wood Company's NEPOOL GIS facility code number is NON33646. Class II eligibility requires a facility to produce electricity from solar technologies and to have initiated operation after January 1, 2006. The application indicates that Americas' Wood Company's installation began operation on July 08, 2011, and is a customer-sited photovoltaic facility.

Recommendation

Based on the foregoing analysis, staff recommends the Commission grant certification of the Americas' Wood Company photovoltaic facility as a Class II resource effective November 10, 2011.