

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: July 23, 2012
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein *BB*
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: **DE 12-192**, Enel Green Power North America, Inc.'s Eligibility Request for the Sweetwater Hydroelectric, Inc., Lower Valley Hydroelectric Facility to Produce Class IV New Hampshire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) Pursuant to RSA 362-F and Laws of 2012, Chapter 0272
Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted

TO: Chairman Amy L. Ignatius
Commissioner Robert R. Scott
Commissioner Michael Harrington
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

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



Summary

On July 09, 2012, Enel Green Power North America, Inc. (Enel Green Power) submitted an application requesting Class IV certification for the Sweetwater Hydroelectric, Inc., Lower Valley Hydroelectric Project (Lower Valley Hydro) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law and Laws of 2012, Chapter 0272. Staff has reviewed the Enel Green Power certification request for Lower Valley Hydro's 900 kilowatts (kW) of electrical production and has determined that it meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, as a Class IV hydro facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2505.02. Staff has determined that the application was complete as submitted and recommends Commission approval for Lower Valley Hydro as a Class IV renewable energy source effective July 09, 2012.

Analysis

Pursuant to Puc 2502.10, and Laws of 2012, Chapter 0272 Class IV (Existing Small Hydroelectric), facilities of one megawatt or less may apply for RECs if they are in compliance with applicable Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requirements and interconnected with an electric distribution system located in New Hampshire. To qualify as a facility eligible to produce RECs, Puc 2505.02 (b) requires the source to provide the following:

- 1) *The name and address of the applicant:* The applicant is Enel Green Power North America, One Tech Drive, Suite 200, Andover, MA 01810.
- 2) *The name and location of the facility:* Lower Valley Hydro is located on the Sugar River, 26,750 feet upstream from its confluence with the Connecticut River in the City of Claremont, NH.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The facility's ISO-New England asset identification number is 10406.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 10406.
- 5) *A description of the facility including fuel type, gross nameplate generation capacity, the initial commercial operation date, and the date it began operation, if different.* Lower Valley Hydro consists of a gravity dam (107 feet in length and 26.4 feet in height), a powerhouse containing two identical vertical Francis turbines directly coupled to synchronous generators, appurtenant controls, switchgear and transmission equipment. Water power facilities have been situated at the site since 1860; the current commercial operation date was May 28, 1992. The nameplate generation capacity is 900 kW of electricity.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* Lower Valley Hydroelectric has received a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Notice of Exemption from Licensing dated November 9, 1982, FERC Project Number 6756-000. No other regulatory approvals were submitted.
- 8) *Proof that the applicant either 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.* Pertinent pages of the Generation Interconnection Agreement between Central Vermont Public Service Corporation (CVPS) and Sweetwater Hydroelectric, Inc. for the Lower Valley Hydroelectric Project, dated May 28, 1992 were provided. Sweetwater Hydro is interconnected to distribution equipment that Public Service Company of New Hampshire acquired via the CVPS acquisition in 2004.¹
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* The output of the facility is delivered to a 46 kv transmission line operated by CVPS.

¹ Verified in an email from Richard Labrecque, Northeast Utilities dated July 19, 2012.

- 11) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non- federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* Lower Valley Hydroelectric is not currently certified as a renewable energy source in any other state.
- 12) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.* The facility's output has been verified by ISO New England and the facility is listed in the GIS database.
- 13) *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO- New England.* Not applicable.
- 14) *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application.* An affidavit signed by Marc Poirier, Enel Green Power was provided with the application.
- 15) *The name and telephone number of the facility's operator, if different from the owner.* The facility's operator is William Cardillo, 978-273-5120.
- 16) *Such other information as the applicant wishes to provide to assist in classification of the generating facility.* All information required to complete the application was provided.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Lower Valley Hydroelectric application for Class IV certification and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify Lower Valley Hydro as eligible for Class IV RECs effective July 09, 2012, the date Staff was able to make a determination that the facility meets the requirements for certification as a Class IV renewable energy source.