

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: July 23, 2012

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein *BB*
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: DE 12-200, Hydro Management Group, LLC's Eligibility Request for the Powerhouse Systems, Inc., Weston Dam 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 *JKR*
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney

Summary

On July 10, 2012, Hydro Management Group, LLC (Hydro Management) submitted an application requesting Class IV certification for the Powerhouse Systems, Inc., Weston Dam Hydroelectric Facility (Weston Dam) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law and Laws of 2012, Chapter 0272. Staff has reviewed the Hydro Management certification request for Weston Dam's 524 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 Weston Dam as a Class IV renewable energy source effective July 10, 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) fish passage restoration 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 Hydro Management Group LLC, (Hydro Management) c/o Essex Hydro Associates LLC, 55 Union Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.
- 2) *The name and location of the facility:* Weston Dam is located on the Upper Ammonoosuc River, in the Town of Groveton, NH.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The facility's asset identification number is 933.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 933.
- 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.* Weston Dam is a run-of-river facility that includes stone/timber crib construction, a 15.5-foot high dam with three gates, a 115-foot spillway, a power canal, and a powerhouse. The facility generates 524 kW of electrical output; it began commercial operation February 19, 1987.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* An Order Issuing License (Minor) FERC Project Number 7883-001 was provided for Weston Dam. 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.* A copy of the Operating Agreement for Purposes of Wheeling and Power Sales between Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) and Powerhouse Systems, Inc. dated January 1, 2006 was provided. In addition, a PSNH Interconnection Report for Customer Generation, Weston Dam Hydro, SESD Site No 128, dated December 11, 1986 and revised November 9, 2005 was provided.
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* Weston Dam's 524 kW generating facility is connected to the PSNH distribution system in the Town of Grafton.
- 11) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* Weston Dam is not currently certified as a renewable energy resource in any non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard.

- 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 Andrew Locke, Vice President, Hydro Management was provided with the application.
- 15) *The name and telephone number of the facility's operator, if different from the owner.* The facility operator is Greg Cloutier, President, Powerhouse System, Inc.; his telephone number is 603-788-9892.
- 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 Weston Dam 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 Weston Dam as a Class IV renewable energy source effective July 10, 2012.