

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: September 12, 2012

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC



FROM: Barbara Bernstein 
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: **DE 12-259**, Hydro Management Group, LLC's Eligibility Request for the Rivermill Hydroelectric, Inc. – River Mill Hydroelectric Project to Produce Class IV New Hampshire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) Pursuant to RSA 362-F and Laws of 2012, Chapter 272
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 August 21, 2012, Hydro Management Group, LLC (Hydro Management) submitted an application requesting Class IV certification for the Rivermill Hydroelectric, Inc. (Rivermill Hydroelectric) – River Mill Hydroelectric (River Mill Hydro) project pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law and Laws of 2012, Chapter 272. Staff has reviewed the Hydro Management certification request for River Mill Hydro's .175 megawatts (MW) 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 2500. Staff has determined that the application was complete as submitted and recommends Commission approval for River Mill Hydro as a Class IV renewable energy source effective August 21, 2012.

Analysis

Pursuant to Laws of 2012, Chapter 272, 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.¹ 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 application was filed by Hydro Management Group LLC, 55 Union Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02108 on behalf of Rivermill Hydroelectric.
- 2) *The name and location of the facility:* River Mill Hydro is located on the Mascoma River, in Lebanon, NH.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The facility's asset identification number is 795.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 795.
- 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.* River Mill Hydro is operated as a run-of-river facility that includes a 285-foot long and 21.7-foot high dam, a 123-foot spillway, 17-inch high flashboards, a powerhouse containing one generator and other appurtenances. The gross nameplate capacity is .175 MW of electricity. The project began commercial operation June 01, 1989.
- 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 Granting Exemption From Licensing (FERC Project Number 9403-001) was provided for River Mill Hydro.
- 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 Interconnection Agreement between New England Power Company (NEP), Westborough MA and Rivermill Hydroelectric dated October 12, 1989 was provided.
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* River Mill Hydro is interconnected with the National Grid electric distribution system.
- 11) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non- federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* River Mill Hydro is

¹ On July 19, 2012, the Commission issued Order No. 25,394 which waives the requirements of Puc 2502.10 insofar as the requirements conflict with the certification of the new category of hydroelectric facilities created by the enactment of Chapter 272.

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 Scott Edwards, President, Rivermill Hydroelectric, Inc.; his telephone number is 978-265-2550.
- 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 River Mill Hydro 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 River Mill Hydro as a Class IV renewable energy source effective August 21, 2012.