

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: April 29, 2013
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein 
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: **DE 13-109**, Ashuelot River Hydro, Inc.'s Eligibility Request for the Minnewawa Hydroelectric Facility to Produce Class IV New Hampshire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) Pursuant to RSA 362-F
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 April 12, 2013, Ashuelot River Hydro, Inc. (Ashuelot River Hydro) submitted an application requesting Class IV certification for the Minnewawa Hydroelectric (Minnewawa Hydro) project, pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Staff has reviewed Ashuelot River Hydro's certification request for Minnewawa Hydro's one (1) megawatt (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 Minnewawa Hydro as a Class IV renewable energy source effective April 12, 2013.

Analysis

Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, 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 application was filed by Robert E. King, PE, President, Ashuelot River Hydro, Inc., 42 Hurricane Road, Keene, NH 03431.

- 2) *The name and location of the facility.* Minnewawa Hydro is located on the Minnewawa Brook in Marlborough, NH.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The facility's asset identification number is 794.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 794.
- 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.* Minnewawa Hydro includes a 200-foot long by 60-foot high dam, a 5,750 foot-long penstock, an impoundment, powerhouse and other appurtenances. The gross nameplate generation capacity is one MW of electricity. The project began commercial operation October 30, 1991.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* A FERC Order Issuing License (Project #7887-001), qualifying Minnewawa Hydro was issued July 14, 1986; therefore, the facility is in compliance with applicable FERC requirements including those related to fish passage restoration.
- 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 between Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) and Marlborough Hydro Associates was provided. An Order Approving Transfer of License from Marlborough Hydro Associates to Ashuelot River Hydro was also provided.
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* Minnewawa Hydro is interconnected with the PSNH 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.* Minnewawa Hydro is currently certified as a Class II renewable energy resource in Connecticut and as a Class II eligible resource in Maine.

- 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 Robert E. King, President, Ashuelot River Hydro, was provided with the application.
- 15) *The name and telephone number of the facility's operator, if different from the owner.* The owner and operator are one and the same.
- 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 Minnewawa 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 Minnewawa Hydro as a Class IV renewable energy source effective April 12, 2013.