

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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December 16, 2013

Eric A. DeBarba
Director, New England Origination
GDF SUEZ Energy North America, Inc.
200 Glastonbury Boulevard, Suite 303
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: DE 13-265, GDF SUEZ North American, Inc. - Application for Certification as a
REC Eligible Facility - Pinetree Power-Fitchburg, Inc.

Dear Mr. DeBarba:

On September 25, 2013, the Commission received an application requesting Class III New Hampshire renewable energy certificate (RECs) eligibility for the 18 megawatt (MW) Pinetree Power-Fitchburg, Inc. (Pinetree Power – Fitchburg) biomass facility located in Westminster, Massachusetts. Staff reviewed the application, and on November 7, 2013 requested additional information.

RSA 362-F:11 III provides that the Commission may certify a biomass facility on a conditional basis, pending the verification of compliance from the New Hampshire of Department of Environmental Services (DES) of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM) emissions results. Staff also notified Pinetree Power – Fitchburg that DES would need to provide the Commission with a recommendation for conditional approval.

On November 27, 2013 staff received additional information from Pinetree Power – Fitchburg and on December 3, 2013, the Commission received a letter from DES recommending the Commission grant Pinetree Power – Fitchburg conditional approval for Class III REC eligibility based on the agency's review of PM and NO_x emission rates and monitoring requirements. Pinetree Power-Fitchburg has installed a continuous emissions monitoring system to record NO_x emissions as required by Massachusetts DEP Final Operating Transmittal No. 108009. Based on a review of third quarter 2013 data, DES anticipates that NO_x emissions from the facility will meet the requirements of Puc 2502.16 in the fourth quarter of 2013.

In addition, a PM emissions test was performed for Pinetree Power-Fitchburg on June 26 and 27, 2013. The emissions test was performed in accordance with Massachusetts DEP Final Operating Transmittal No. 108009. The results of the test

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indicate the actual PM emission in lb/MMBtu was 0.012 lb/MMBtu which meets the standard required in Puc 2502.16. Based on the results of the NO_x and PM emissions testing, Staff recommends that the Commission grant Pinetree Power – Fitchburg conditional approval for Class III eligibility effective December 3, 2013. This approval is conditioned upon the Commission receiving notice from DES on a quarterly basis that the facility complies with applicable emissions standards pursuant to RSA 362-F:12 and Puc 2505.04.

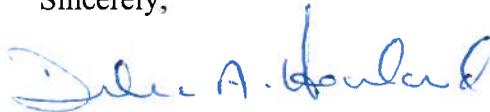
Pinetree Power – Fitchburg began operation on November 1, 1992. Electricity is generated from burning whole tree chips, derived locally from forest management and land clearing operations, making up 99% of fuel usage. The remaining 1% derives from natural gas used for startups, flame stabilization and emissions control. The electricity generated is delivered to Unitil (Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company) through underground transmission lines. The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 538.

In addition to DES conditional approval, Pinetree Power – Fitchburg provided a Final Air Quality Operating Permit issued by the Massachusetts, Department of Environmental Protection on April 23, 2013 and a Final Approval of a Limited Plan Application for Fuel Utilization Facility from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The Commission has reviewed the Pinetree Power – Fitchburg application and determined that all necessary documentation has been provided to demonstrate that the project meets all the requirements of Puc 2502.02. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Pinetree Power – Fitchburg conditional approval for Class III eligibility effective December 3, 2013 the date the Commission received the DES letter recommending conditional approval. This approval is conditioned upon the Commission receiving notice from DES on a quarterly basis that the facility complies with applicable emissions standards.

The New Hampshire Renewable Portfolio Standard certification code for the Pinetree Power – Fitchburg facility is NH-III-13-133.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Joseph Fontaine, NHDES

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with: DEBRA A HOWLAND
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21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
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- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.