

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: January 16, 2014

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein 
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: DE 13-316, Green Mountain Power - Application for Certification as a
REC Eligible Facility - Chaput Family Farms
Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted

TO: Chairman Amy L. Ignatius
Commissioner Robert R. Scott
Commissioner Martin P. Honigberg
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

CC: Jack K. Ruderman, Director of the Sustainable Energy Division 
David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney

Summary

On November 4, 2013, the Commission received an application from Green Mountain Power on behalf of Chaput Family Farms requesting Class I certification for their 0.3 megawatt (MW) animal waste-derived methane-fueled electrical generating project pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Staff requested additional information on December 17, 2013. A response, which completed the application, was received on January 10, 2014.

Staff has reviewed Green Mountain Power's certification request for Chaput Family Farms' methane-fueled electrical generating project and has determined that it meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I(e), as a Class I facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends Commission approval for the Chaput Family Farms' methane-fueled electrical generating project as a Class I renewable energy source effective as of January 10, 2014.

Analysis

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 Marcia R. Fischer, Green Mountain Power, 163 Acorn Lane, Colchester, VT 05446-6611 on behalf of Chaput Family Farms, 2473 Route 105 East, North Troy, VT 05859.

- 2) *The name and location of the facility:* The Chaput Family Farms' animal waste-derived methane-fueled electrical generating project is located at 2473 Route 105 East, North Troy, VT 05859.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The facility does not have an ISO New England asset identification number.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL-GIS facility code for the Chaput Family Farms animal waste-derived methane-fueled electrical generating project has been verified as NON 32976.
- 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.* The Chaput Family Farms' 0.3MW animal waste-derived methane-fueled electrical generating project began both initial operation and commercial operation on August 3, 2010. The project consists of the following components:
 - a. A circular concrete manure digester tank, 98 feet in diameter and 16 feet high;
 - b. A 30'x50' utility building and a 40'x70' building to house a separator and for storage of post-digester solids;
 - c. An effluent tank and two scrubber tanks;
 - d. One new power pole;
 - e. A Guascor MGG-475 combustion engine designed specifically to burn biogas.
 - f. A .3MW generator; and,
 - g. Interconnection hardware to connect the generator to the grid.The digester holds various types of substrate, but mostly unprocessed cow manure from the farm. The substrate is pumped directly from a receiving pit into the enclosed digester, where it is mixed and heated to a temperature of about 100° F. In a two-stage process, lasting about 24 days, the degradation of the substrate produces methane biogas and biosolids. The methane is used to fuel the generator to produce electricity; the biosolids are pumped to a mechanical separator and prepared for farm and commercial functions.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* A State of Vermont, Public Service Board Certificate of Public Good Issued Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248 certified the Chaput Family Farms' animal waste-derived methane-fueled electrical generating project.
- 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 Generation Interconnection Agreement Between Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Chaput Family Farms for the Chaput Family Farms Cow-Methane Electric Generation Project dated July 26, 2010 was provided.

- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.*
The Chaput Family Farms' methane-fueled electrical generating project is interconnected with the Vermont Electrical Cooperative 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.* The Chaput Family Farms' methane-fueled electrical generating project is certified as a Class I Renewable Energy Source as defined in Connecticut General Statutes §16-1(a)(26).
- 12) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.*
The facility's output is not verified by ISO New England.
- 13) *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO-New England.* The electric energy output of the Chaput Family Farms methane-fueled generation facility is reported to the GIS by VELCO, a certified third party meter reader. The generation facility is not a customer-sited source because its electrical output does not displace any consumption of the end-use customer.
- 14) *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application.*
An affidavit signed by Reg Chaput, Chaput Family Farms, and Maria Fischer, Green Mountain Power, was provided with the application.
- 15) *The name and telephone number of the facility's operator, if different from the owner.* The facility 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.*

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Chaput Family Farms application for Class I certification and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Chaput Family Farms animal waste-derived methane-fueled electrical generating project as a Class I renewable energy source, effective as of January 10, 2014.