

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
Inter-Department Communication

**DATE:** April 1, 2014  
**AT (OFFICE):** NHPUC

**FROM:** Barbara Bernstein   
Sustainable Energy Analyst

NHPUC 1APR14PM2:18

**SUBJECT:** DE 14-053, Brian Hill – Four Hills Farm Partnership, Application for Certification as a REC Eligible Facility  
**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 February 26, 2014, the Commission received an application filed by Brennan Punderson, PLLC on behalf of Brian Hill – Four Hills Farm Partnership (Four Hills Farm) requesting Class I certification for its 0.450 megawatt (MW) animal waste-derived, methane-fueled electrical generating anaerobic digester (AD), pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Staff has reviewed the Four Hills Farm certification request for the AD and has determined that the project 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 Four Hills Farm AD project as a Class I renewable energy source, effective as of February 26, 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 applicant's name is Brian Hill, Four Hills Farm Partnership; the address is 722 Burpee Road, Bristol, VT 05443.
- 2) *The name and location of the facility:* The Four Hills Farm AD project is located at the address listed in 1) above.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* An asset identification number was not provided.

- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL-GIS facility code for the Four Hills Farm AD project has been verified as NON 37210.
- 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.* Four Hills Farm operates a farm-methane electrical generating facility which uses methane gas derived principally from processed cow manure and secondarily from other farm-based feedstocks to fuel a biogas generator. The manure is processed in an on-site methane digester, and the methane gas is piped directly to the generator. The gross nameplate generation capacity is 0.450 MW. The initial commercial operation date was September 9, 2012.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* The following regulatory approvals, permits and study results were provided with the application:
  - a. State of Vermont Public Service Board, Certificate of Public Good Issued Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248, Docket No. 7845, dated April 9, 2012;
  - b. State of Vermont Public Service Board, Amended Certificate of Public Good Issued Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248, Docket No. 7845, dated May 18, 2012; and
  - c. Letter from Jay Hollingsworth, Environmental Engineer, Air Pollution Control Division, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, dated May 8, 2012, stating that Four Hills Farm was approved to install and operate the proposed biogas generator set.
- 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 Central Vermont Public Service Corporation (CVPS) and Four Hills Farm for the Biogas Electric Generating Project, effective April 30, 2012, was provided.
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* The Four Hills Farm AD generation project is interconnected with the CVPS 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.* A Decision Approving Class I Certification qualifying the Four Hills Farm AD generation project as a Class I Renewable Energy Source in Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-1(a)(26), was provided.

- 12) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.*  
The output from the Four Hills Farm AD project is not verified by ISO-New England. The output is verified by Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO), a certified third party meter reader.
- 13) *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO-New England.* The electrical output from the Four Hills Farm AD generation project 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 Brian Hill, duly authorized agent of Four Hills Farm, 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.* Brennan Punderson, PLLC provided all the information needed to complete the review of the Four Hills Farm application.

***Recommendation***

Staff has reviewed the Four Hills Farm application for Class I certification of its AD generation project and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Four Hills Farm AD generation project as a Class I renewable energy source, effective as of February 26, 2014.

**SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED**

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**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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Docket #: 14-053-1      Printed: April 01, 2014

**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  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NHPUC  
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10  
CONCORD NH 03301-2429

**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.**