


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: April 22, 2014


AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

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FROM: Barbara Bernstein 
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: DE 14-070, Canandaigua Power Partners, LLC
Application for Certification of Cohocton Wind Plant as a REC
Eligible Facility
Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted

TO: Amy L. Ignatius, Chairman
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 March 13, 2014, the Commission received an application filed by First Wind Energy, LLC (First Wind). The applicant is requesting Class I New Hampshire Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) eligibility for the 125 megawatt (MW) Cohocton Wind Plant (Cohocton Wind) owned by Canandaigua Power Partners, LLC (Canandaigua Power Partners), pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard law.¹ The Commission, in a non-adjudicative process, is required to issue a determination of whether a facility meets a particular classification within 45 days of receipt of a completed application. The above-named facility meets the Class I eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I. Based on review of the application, Staff recommends Commission approval for Cohocton Wind as an eligible Class I facility, effective as of March 13, 2014, and quarterly verification and certification of its eligibility to produce Class I RECs.

Analysis

To qualify Cohocton Wind's electrical production as eligible to acquire RECs, Puc 2505.02 (b) requires the source to demonstrate its eligibility by completing the following:

- 1.) *The name and address of the applicant:* The application was filed by First Wind Energy, LLC, 179 Lincoln Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA, for Canandaigua Power

¹ Class I eligibility requires a facility to produce electricity from sources that began operation after January 1, 2006.

Partners, an indirect subsidiary of First Wind Holdings, LLC. The application was prepared by Carter Scott, Compliance Administrator, First Wind Energy.

- 2.) *The name and location of the facility:* The name of the facility is Cohocton Wind. The facility is located at 10535 Rynders Road, Cohocton, New York.
- 3.) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The ISO-New England asset identification number is not applicable for a facility located in New York.
- 4.) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code is IMP 32827.
- 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 Cohocton Wind project consists of 50 Clipper 2.5 MW wind turbine generators. Each of the 50 units is configured to operate at a fixed, nominally unity, power factor. Additional VAR capacity is available from 2 -15 MVAR switched capacitor banks connected to the 34.5 kV tertiary of the Brown Hill Collector Station. The initial date of operation and the date of initial commercial operation for the Cohocton Wind project was January 27, 2009.
- 6.) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7.) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* The applicant provided copies of the Town of Cohocton Planning Board State Environmental Quality Review Findings Statements for Cohocton Wind. The Planning Board has broad authority over the Project with discretion to approve or disapprove site plans or to impose appropriate conditions, including any conditions necessary to mitigate any potentially adverse environmental impacts associated with the 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.* The applicant provided a copy of the Amended and Restated Interconnection Agreement By and Among New York Independent System Operator, Inc. and New York State Electric & Gas Corporation and Canandaigua Power Partners, LLC, effective as of December 3, 2008.
- 9.) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10.) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* The Cohocton Wind facility is connected to NYSEG's 230 kV Line #68 between the Meyer and Avoca substations. It is connected via the Project's Brown Hill Substation which collects the power and steps it up to the 230 kV voltage.

- 11.) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* Cohocton Wind has met the requirements as a new renewable resource in the State of Rhode Island, the State of Maine, the State of New York, the State of Connecticut, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 12.) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.* The Cohocton Wind facility is located in New York, which is a synchronous control area adjacent to the New England control area. Therefore, the facility geographically qualifies to import power into the New England control area.²

Because the Cohocton Wind facility is located in an adjacent control area, the applicant must provide proof that the electricity produced by the facility was settled within the New England control area to receive New Hampshire Class I RECs associated with that electricity. Pursuant to Puc 2504.01(a)(2), a facility in an adjacent control area may be eligible to produce RECs, provided that the electricity is delivered within the New England control area and is verified by submitting to the Commission the following:

- a) Documentation of a unit-specific bilateral contract that is executed between the source owner, operator, or authorized agent and an electric energy purchaser located within the New England control area;
 - b) Proof of associated transmission rights for delivery of the source's electric energy to the New England control area;
 - c) Documentation that the electrical energy delivered was settled in the ISO New England wholesale market system;
 - d) Documentation that the source produced the amount of megawatt-hours claimed per hour, as verified by the GIS administrator; and
 - e) Confirmation that the electricity delivered received a North American Electric Reliability Corporation tag from the originating control area to the New England control area. If the originating control area utilizes a generation information system comparable to the GIS, this system may be used to support the documentation required in item d) of Puc 2504.01(a)(2).
- 13.) *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO New England.* The Cohocton Wind facility is located in the New York ISO balancing authority control area. Energy can be wheeled into the New England control area via an ISO New England Market Participant and verified as required by Puc 2504.01(a)(2).
- 14.) *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application.* An affidavit signed by Jennifer Lootens, Assistant Secretary, on behalf of Canandaigua Power Partners, LLC, was provided with the application.

² Pursuant to the NEPOOL GIS Operating Rule 2.7(c).

- 15.) *The name and telephone number of the facility's operator, if different from the owner.* Carter Scott is the primary contact for First Wind Energy, LLC and Administrator for Canandaigua Power Partners, LLC; his telephone number is 207-228-6864.
- 16.) *Such other information as the applicant wishes to provide to assist in classification of the generating facility.* The application for Cohocton Wind was complete as submitted.

Recommendation

Because Cohocton Wind is geographically located within the New York ISO control area, certification of its eligibility for Class I RECs is a two-step process. The first step requires the Commission to certify that the facility meets the eligibility criteria for a Class I source. Staff has reviewed Cohocton Wind's application for certification of the 125 MW of electrical production generated by the Cohocton Wind project and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify that the Cohocton Wind facility meets the eligibility criteria as a Class I source, effective as of March 13, 2014, the date on which Staff was able to make this determination.

The second step is on-going. It requires Cohocton Wind to verify that a unit-specific bilateral contract was in effect and that the electricity it produced for the prior quarter was actually settled within the ISO New England market system, as required by Puc 2504.01(a)(2). The nature of the documentation requires that Cohocton Wind provide verification immediately following the end of each quarter for which Cohocton Wind desires certification of its RECs.

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
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.**