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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

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December 10, 2014

J. Matthew Davis, Ph.D.
Vice President, CTO
Ground Energy Support, LLC
2 Washington Street, Suite 217
Dover, NH 03820

- Re: DE 14-237, Rolling Dog Farm
- Application for Certification as a REC Eligible Facility – Class I Thermal
 - Waiver Request to Serve as Both the Seller of Metering Equipment and the Independent Monitor of Geothermal Systems

Dear Mr. Davis:

On September 16, 2014, the Commission received an application filed by Ground Energy Support, LLC (GES) on behalf of Rolling Dog Farm. GES is requesting interim Class I Thermal renewable energy certificate (REC) eligibility¹ for Rolling Dog Farm's 72,000 Btu/hr (0.021 megawatt (MW_t)) equivalent, geothermal facility. On October 20, 2014, Mr. Davis of GES submitted a waiver request to serve the independent monitor for the Rolling Dog Farm facility even though GES sold the metering equipment.

The Rolling Dog Farm geothermal facility is located at 44 Whitney Road, Lancaster, NH 03584. The primary contact for Rolling Dog Farm is Stephen Smith. The geothermal project began operation on October 11, 2013. The NEPOOL-GIS unit identification code for the Rolling Dog Farm has been verified as NON 42866.

Staff has reviewed the Rolling Dog Farm certification request and has determined that the project meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I(b), as an interim Class I Thermal facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends interim approval for the Rolling Dog Farm geothermal facility as a Class I Thermal renewable energy source, effective as of January 1, 2014.² This review reflects recommended changes to the interim Proposed Amendments to Puc 2500. Once the 2500 Rule is final, Rolling Dog Farm will be required to submit a request for final approval to obtain Commission final approval to generate geothermal RECs.

Rolling Dog proposes to use GES as the independent monitor. GES sold the metering equipment that another party installed. The application recognizes that Puc 2505.09(g) may preclude GES from serving as the independent monitor because the rule states: "No ... source producing useful thermal energy shall use an independent monitor ... who sold or installed the renewable energy system and

¹ Pursuant to Proposed Amendments to Puc 2500 as contemplated by Order No. 25,678 (June 19, 2014) issued in Docket No. DRM 14-095 effective as of July 23, 2014.

² Thermal sources approved during the interim period are eligible to be issued RECs retroactive to January 1, 2014.

associated equipment.” GES filed a memo with the application arguing that the rule only prevents those who sold or installed the energy producing equipment from serving as monitors and does not prohibit those, like GES, who sold just the metering equipment. GES argues that those who sell or install meters are not subject to the temptations that may affect system installers to, for example, exaggerate claims of system performance, lessening the need for the rule’s conflict of interest protections. Although that may be the case, the rule also protects against good faith mistakes. If the same person sells and installs the meter and serves as the independent monitor of that meter, there is no independent check of the meter’s accurate performance. The Commission finds that the metering equipment falls within the meaning of “the renewable energy system and associated equipment.”

GES alternatively asked for a waiver of Puc 2505.09(g) so that it may serve as the independent monitor. The Commission may waive any rule under Puc 201.05 if it finds a waiver serves the public interest and does not disrupt the orderly and efficient resolution of matters before the Commission. A waiver request requires consideration of whether compliance with the rule would be onerous given the circumstances or whether the purpose of the rule is satisfied by the alternative method proposed.

GES bases its waiver request on its expertise, its independence from the system installer, and on the fact that although GES sold the meter, it was installed by another independent party. GES claims it can thus provide the necessary independent check on how the meter is installed and operating. The Commission agrees that a waiver of Puc 2505.09(g) is appropriate in this case for a period of two years from the date of this letter. Before the expiration of two years, Rolling Dog Farm shall either explain why the waiver for GES to serve as the independent monitor should be extended or should obtain another independent monitor. Other sources seeking thermal REC certification and intending to hire GES as its independent monitor may cite this letter in support of a similar waiver request. The Commission will continue to review the number and quality of independent monitors for thermal facilities as this industry develops.

The Commission has reviewed the Rolling Dog Farm geothermal facility application and has determined that all necessary documentation has been provided to demonstrate that the geothermal facility meets all of the requirements of the Proposed Amendments to Puc 2500 as contemplated by Order No. 25,678 (June 19, 2014) issued in Docket No. DRM 14-095 effective as of July 23, 2014 and is eligible for interim certification as a New Hampshire Class I Thermal geothermal facility. Accordingly, the Commission hereby grants interim approval for the Rolling Dog Farm geothermal facility as a Class I Thermal renewable energy source, effective as of January 1, 2014.

Attached please find a copy of the notice of this certification provided to the NEPOOL-GIS administrator. The New Hampshire Renewable Portfolio Standard certification code for the Rolling Dog Farm geothermal facility is NH-IT-14-095.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Stephen Smith, Rolling Dog Farm

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December 10, 2014

James Webb
Registry Administrator
APX Environmental Markets
224 Airport Parkway, Suite 600
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: DE 14-237, Rolling Dog Farm – Application for Certification as a REC Eligible Facility – Class I Thermal
New Hampshire Certification Code NH-IT-14-095

Dear Mr. Webb:

Please be advised that the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission has granted interim certification for the Rolling Dog Farm's 72,000 Btu/hr (0.021 megawatt (MW_t)) equivalent, geothermal facility as a Class I Thermal renewable energy source, effective as of January 1, 2014, pursuant to N.H. RSA 362-F. Accordingly, Littleton Regional Healthcare is eligible to be issued New Hampshire Class I thermal RECs as of such date.

The Rolling Dog Farm geothermal facility is located at 44 Whitney Road, Lancaster, NH 03584. The primary contact for Rolling Dog Farm is Stephen Smith. The geothermal project began operation on October 11, 2013. The NEPOOL-GIS unit identification code for the Rolling Dog Farm has been verified as NON 42866. The New Hampshire Renewable Portfolio Standard certification code is **NH-IT-14-095**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra A. Howland/ael".

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: J. Matthew Davis, Ph.D., Ground Energy Support, LLC

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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Docket #: 14-237-1 Printed: December 10, 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
EXEC 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.