

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: October 8, 2008
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: SEM
Henry J. Bergeron (14)
Utility Analyst III

SUBJECT: Docket Number DE 08-109, Beaver Ridge Wind, LLC's Application of the Beaver Ridge Wind project for Class I Certification pursuant to RSA 362-F
Staff recommendation

TO: Chairman Thomas B. Getz
Commissioner Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner Clifton C. Below
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

CC: Tom Frantz, Director of the Electric Division
Steven E. Mullen, Assistant Director of the Electric Division
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney

Summary

On September 2, 2008 Beaver Ridge Wind, LLC (BRW) submitted an application requesting the Commission grant approval of its Beaver Ridge Wind project to produce Class I renewable energy certificates pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, I, Class I eligibility requires that a facility began operation after January 1, 2006, and produces electricity from wind energy, among other means.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F, the Commission, in a non-adjudicative process, shall issue a determination of whether a facility meets a particular classification within 45 days of a completed application. The Beaver Ridge facility application was completed on September 2, 2008. The Beaver Ridge facility meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I as a Class I facility and complies with the N.H Admin Code Rule Puc 2500. BRW has provided all the necessary documents to receive certification as a Class I facility except for its ISO-New England asset identification number and the GIS facility code number, both of which are currently unavailable. BRW will provide those to the Commission when obtained. Based on Staff's review of its application, Staff recommends that the Commission approve Beaver Ridge Wind, LLC's wind project as a Class I facility.

Analysis

The Beaver Ridge Wind facility is a wind turbine project consisting of three GE 1.5 MW wind turbines with a gross nameplate capacity of 4.5 MW. Beaver Ridge Wind has a target commercial operation date of November 1, 2008, but anticipates some prior generation during its commissioning period. As of August 28, 2008, 2 of the 3 towers are fully erected. The third tower is due for completion the first week in September. Central Maine Power Company (CMP), the local distribution utility, is upgrading an existing distribution line to handle 34.5 kV and expects to have all of its work completed by mid-October. The facility's NEPOOL generation information system facility code is unavailable at this time but will provide it to the Commission when obtained.

Since the facility is located outside of New Hampshire, it does not require approvals or permits from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. It has submitted an interconnection study executed June 1, 2008 with Central Maine Power Company. This interconnection study also contains a description of how it is connected to CMP. The facility is not currently certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewal portfolio standard.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Beaver Ridge Wind facility application and believes it is complete pursuant to Puc 2505.02. Staff recommends that the Commission certify, effective September 2, 2008, Beaver Ridge Wind, LLC's wind project as a Class I renewable energy source pursuant to RSA 362-F.