

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: January 12, 2010
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Maureen L. Reno *MLR*
Utility Analyst III

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation: DE 09-260, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Certification Application on behalf of Camp Merrowvista for Class II Eligibility Pursuant to RSA 362-F

TO: Chairman Thomas B. Getz
Commissioner Clifton C. Below
Commissioner Amy L. Ignatius
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

CC: Jack K. Ruderman, Director, Sustainable Energy Division
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney



Summary

On December 11, 2009, the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) submitted an application on behalf of Camp Merrowvista requesting that the Commission grant approval of its 3.0 kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic facility (Camp Merrowvista facility) to produce Class II Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, II, Class II eligibility requires that a facility produce electricity from solar technologies and that it begins operation after January 1, 2006.

Pursuant to RSA 362-F, 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 Camp Merrowvista facility is a customer-sited photovoltaic facility that began operation on September 24, 2009. The facility meets the Class II eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, II. Based on its review of the application, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Camp Merrowvista facility as eligible for Class II RECs effective December 11, 2009.

Analysis

The photovoltaic facility began operation on September 24, 2009, when NHEC installed the facility's revenue quality meter to record electricity produced by the facility.¹ The facility has a gross nameplate capacity of 3.0 kW and it is located at Camp Merrowvista in Center Tuftonboro, New Hampshire.

Pursuant to Puc 2505.08, the applicant is required to submit a complete list of the equipment used at the facility and certain information regarding the installer, seller and the independent monitor. The applicant provided a list of equipment purchased from Seacoast Energy Alternatives and installed by Dana D. Doyon. The N. H. Code of Admin. Rules Puc 2505 requires a customer-sited source's output be verified by an independent monitor. The application identifies NHEC as the independent monitor. The Commission granted NHEC such status on May 12, 2009 in DE 09-006.

The applicant is also required to provide a copy of the interconnection agreement, proof that the applicant's distribution utility approved the installation and a signed attestation that the facility meets applicable building codes. The NHEC provided a copy of the interconnection application with Camp Merrowvista and the signed attestation that NHEC, as the distribution utility, approved the installation of the facility indicating that the project was installed and operating in conformance with any applicable building codes. Staff recommends that the Commission find this signed attestation meets Puc 2005.08 (b) (7) and (8).

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed NHEC's application for the Camp Merrowvista customer-sited photovoltaic facility and can affirm it is complete pursuant to Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Camp Merrowvista facility as eligible for Class II RECs effective December 11, 2009, the date on which Staff was able to make a determination that the facility met the requirements for certification as a Class II renewable energy source.

¹NHEC considers the operation date stated above, and in Appendix E, to be the date on which NHEC inspected the facility and installed a revenue quality meter to record the electricity that will be eligible for Class II RECs. The date listed in the interconnection application pertains to the installation and interconnection of the facility and may be different than the operation date stated above.