

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: March 1, 2011

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NH PUBLIC
UTILITIES
COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation Re: DE 11-033, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. Certification Application for Class I Eligibility Pursuant to RSA 362-F on behalf of homeowner Michael Furbush

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

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

Summary

On February 22, 2011, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) submitted an application on behalf of homeowner Michael Furbush requesting that the Commission grant approval of his wind power facility located at his residence to produce Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, I, Class I eligibility requires a facility to have begun the production of electricity after January 1, 2006 and to use certain sources to produce electricity, one of which is wind energy.

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 Michael Furbush facility is a customer-sited wind power facility that began operation on September 22, 2010. The facility meets the Class I eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I. Based on its review of the application, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the facility as eligible for Class I RECs effective February 22, 2011.

Analysis

The facility is a customer-sited wind power facility located in Colebrook, New Hampshire and began operation on September 22, 2010.¹ The facility has a gross nameplate capacity of 3.7 kilowatts.

Pursuant to the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules 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 application includes a list of equipment purchased from Green Alternative Energy, LLC and installed by Master Electrician, Berkly Edwards.

Since the facility is a customer-sited source, its output is not recorded in the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) Market Settlement System and, as a result, its output must be monitored and verified by an independent monitor. The application states that NHEC will monitor the facility's output as required by Puc 2505.09.² The facility's total output will also be included in the *NHEC Class I Aggregation*'s total output reported to the NEPOOL Generation Information System as approved by the Commission on April 9, 2010.³

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. NHEC provided a copy of the approved interconnection agreement with the facility and a signed attestation that it, as the distribution utility, approves the installation of the facility. The application also included a signed attestation that was originally provided to NHEC indicating that the project was installed and operating in conformance with any applicable building codes. Staff recommends that the Commission find the signed attestation meets Puc 2505.08 (b) (7) and (8).

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed NHEC's application for the Michael Furbush wind power facility located at his residence and can affirm that it is complete pursuant to Puc 2505.08. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Michael Furbush facility as being eligible for Class I RECs effective February 22, 2011, the date on which Staff was able to make a determination that the facility meets the requirements for certification as a Class I renewable energy source.

¹ NHEC considers the operation date disclosed above, and in Appendix E of the application, 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 I 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.

² The Commission granted NHEC such status on May 12, 2009 in DE 09-006.

³ See DE 10-060.