

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: December 14, 2012 *SB*

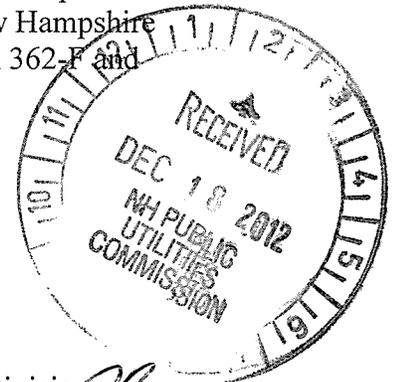
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: **DE 12-326**, The Cobbs at Noone Falls, LLC's Eligibility Request for the Noone Falls Hydro Facility to Produce Class IV New Hampshire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) Pursuant to RSA 362-F and Chapter 272, Laws of 2012
Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted

TO: Chairman Amy L. Ignatius
Commissioner Robert R. Scott
Commissioner Michael Harrington
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

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



Summary

On November 09, 2012, The Cobbs at Noone Falls, LLC (the Cobbs) submitted an application requesting Class IV certification for the Noone Falls hydro facility (Noone Falls Hydro) pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law and Chapter 272, Laws of 2012. Staff has reviewed the Cobbs' certification request for Noone Falls Hydro's .150 megawatts (MW) of electrical production and has determined that it meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, as a Class IV hydro facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff has determined that the application was complete as submitted and recommends Commission approval for Noone Falls Hydro as a Class IV renewable energy source effective November 09, 2012.

Analysis

Pursuant to Chapter 272, Laws of 2012 Class IV existing small hydroelectric facilities of one megawatt or less may apply for RECs if they are in compliance with applicable Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) fish passage restoration requirements and interconnected with an electric distribution system located in New Hampshire.¹

¹ On July 19, 2012, the Commission issued Order No. 25,394 which waives the requirements of Puc 2502.10 insofar as the requirements conflict with the certification of the new category of hydroelectric facilities created by the enactment of Chapter 272.

To qualify as a facility eligible to produce RECs, Puc 2505.02 (b) requires the source to provide the following:

- 1) *The name and address of the applicant.* The application was filed by The Cobbs at Noone Falls, LLC, 50 Jaffrey Road, Peterborough, NH 03458.
- 2) *The name and location of the facility.* Noone Falls Hydro is located on the Contoocook River in Peterborough, NH.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The facility's asset identification number is 15104.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 922.
- 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.* Noone Falls Hydro is operated as a run-of-river facility. Its principle components include manually operated waste gates, a head gate, a 25-foot by 200-foot long riveted steel penstock, two vertical turbines, two generators and other appurtenances. The gross nameplate generation capacity is .150 MW of electricity. The project began commercial operation May 11, 2005.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* An Order Granting Exemption From Licensing (FERC Project Number 4318NH), dated May 19 , 2005, was provided for Noone Falls Hydro.
- 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.* A copy of the Interconnection Agreement between Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) and Noone Falls Hydro dated June 01, 2005 was provided.
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* Noone Falls Hydro is interconnected with the PSNH electric distribution system.
- 11) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* Noone Falls Hydro is not currently certified as a renewable energy resource in any non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard.

- 12) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.*
The facility's output has been verified by ISO New England and the facility is listed in the GIS database.
- 13) *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO-New England.* Not applicable.
- 14) *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application.*
An affidavit signed by Dudley G. Cobb, Member, The Cobbs at Noone Falls, LLC, was provided with the application.
- 15) *The name and telephone number of the facility's operator, if different from the owner.* The facility operator is Charles M. Cobb; his phone number is 603-924-6361.
- 16) *Such other information as the applicant wishes to provide to assist in classification of the generating facility.* All information required to complete the application was provided.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Cobb's at Noone Falls, LLC – Noone Falls Hydro application for Class IV certification and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500 and Chapter 272, Laws of 2012. Staff recommends that the Commission certify Noone Falls Hydro as a Class IV renewable energy source effective November 09, 2012.