

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: September 22, 2009

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

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

SUBJECT: DE 09-148, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Certification Application on behalf of Timothy Van Blommestejn for Class II Eligibility Pursuant to RSA 362-F; Staff Recommendation

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 *JKR*
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney

Summary

On August 17, 2009, the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) submitted an application on behalf of Timothy Van Blommestejn requesting the Commission grant approval of his 3.6 kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic facility (Blommestejn facility) at his residence 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 provide 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 a completed application. The Blommestejn facility is a customer-sited solar photovoltaic facility that was installed on May 15, 2009 and passed the NHEC's initial start-up test required by the N.H. Code Admin Rule Puc 905.04 on August 10, 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 Blommestejn facility as eligible for Class II RECs effective August 17, 2009.

Analysis

The facility's initial start-up test date was August 10, 2009 and the unit has a gross nameplate capacity of 3.6 kW. The solar photovoltaic facility is located at Mr. Blommesteyn's residence, 88 Stone Bridge Road, Wilmot, 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 and installed by Alteris Renewables. Puc 2505 requires a customer-sited source's output be verified by an independent monitor. The application identifies NHEC as the independent monitor, which the Commission granted 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 applicant provided a copy of the approved interconnection application with NHEC that identified the facility's initial start-up test date as August 10, 2009. Since the interconnection application stated that the start-up was successful, Staff recommends the Commission find the applicant has met the requirement that the installation be approved by the distribution utility.

The applicant submitted a signed attestation by John L. Mauchly of Mauchly Electric LLC stating that the facility was installed in accordance with State of New Hampshire and National electrical codes. The applicant also submitted 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 the Commission find this signed attestation has met Puc 2005.08 (b) (8).

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed Mr. Blommesteyn's application for his customer-sited solar photovoltaic facility and can affirm it is complete pursuant to N. H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Blommesteyn facility as being eligible for Class II RECs effective August 17, 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.