

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: November 22, 2011

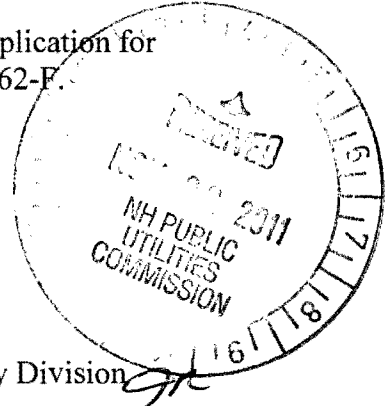
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein *BB*
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: **DE 11-182, Stetson Wind II, LLC's (Stetson II) Application for Certification for Class I Eligibility Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4. Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted.**

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 of the Sustainable Energy Division
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney



Summary

Staff has reviewed the application for Stetson Wind II, LLC's (Stetson II) wind facility and has determined that the facility meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, as a Class I facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2505.02. Staff recommends Commission approval for this facility as eligible for Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) effective November 14, 2011.

Analysis

On September 7, 2011, the PUC received an application requesting that the Stetson II facility be granted eligibility for RECs. Staff reviewed the application and supporting documentation and requested additional information on September 28, 2011. A response was received October 26, 2011. A second request for information was sent on November 8, 2011. A response to that request was received on November 14, 2011, thus completing the application.

To qualify as a facility eligible to acquire renewable energy certificates (RECs), Puc 2505.02 (b) requires the source to demonstrate its eligibility by completing the following:

- 1.) *The name and address of the applicant:* The applicant is Stetson Wind II, LLC, (an Affiliate of First Wind) 179 Lincoln Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA.

- 2.) *The name and location of the facility:* Stetson II is located on 4,800 acres on Stetson Mountain, 1650 Power Alley in an unorganized township in Maine and falls under the jurisdiction of the Land Use Regulation Commission. The area is identified as T8R3 NBPP.
- 3.) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The ISO-New England asset identification number is ISO-NE#: 16624.
- 4.) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 16612.
- 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.* The Stetson II facility is comprised of 17 GE 1.5 megawatt (MW) wind turbines that began operation on August 15, 2008. The nameplate capacity is 25.5 MW of wind-generated electricity.
- 7.)¹ *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* The State of Maine, Department of Environmental Protection has reviewed this project and determined that it is financially viable, technically achievable, not a noise hazard, will not impact scenic character, and will not create a nuisance for wildlife or fisheries.
- 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 Standard Large Generator Interconnection Agreement by and among ISO New England, Inc., and Bangor Hydro-Electric Company and Evergreen Wind Power V, LLC has been provided.²
- 10.)³ *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* Stetson II's output is transmitted to the Bangor Hydro Electric's substation in Chester, ME to bring the power from the wind farm to the electric grid.
- 11.) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* The Stetson II facility has been certified in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Class I Renewable Generation Unit and in the State of Maine as a Class I new, renewable resource.
- 12.) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.* Exhibit D (in response to Staff's request for additional information) states that Stetson Wind II, LLC, is a wind generator and its output is verified by ISO New England.

¹ Puc 2502.02(b)(6) relates to biomass sources.

² Evergreen Wind Power V, LLC and Stetson Wind II, LLC are affiliates of First Wind Holdings, LLC.

³ Puc 2502.02(b)(9) relates to biomass sources.

14.)⁴⁵⁶ *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application. A signed affidavit signed by Elizabeth Weir, Assistant Secretary, Evergreen Wind Power V, LLC, was provided with the original application in Exhibit D.*

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Stetson II facility application and can affirm it is complete pursuant to N. H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Stetson II facility as being eligible for Class I RECs effective November 14, 2011 the date on which Staff was able to make a determination that the facility met the requirements for certification as a Class I renewable energy source.

⁴ Puc 2502.02(b)(13) requires a description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO New England. GIS has verified the facility's output.

⁵ Puc 2502.02(b)(15) requires the name and telephone number of the facility owner if different from the owner. The facility owner is the operator.

⁶ Puc 2502.02(b)(16) provides for other information the applicant wishes to provide to assist in classification of the generating facility. Evergreen Wind Power provided confidential documentation that describes their project.