

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: January 10, 2017

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein, Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: DE 14-237 Rolling Dog Farm and
DE 14-201 Ground Energy Support, LLC Request for Waiver of Puc
2505.09(g) Independent Monitor Rule Waiver Extension Request

TO: Martin P. Honigberg, Chairman
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner
Kathryn M. Bailey, Commissioner
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

CC: Karen Cramton, Director, Sustainable Energy Division *KFC*
David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney

On December 7, 2016, J. Matthew Davis, of Ground Energy Support, LLC (GES) filed a letter requesting that the Commission extend the rule waiver granted on December 10, 2014 in connection with Docket DE 14-237, Rolling Dog Farm¹, to allow GES to continue to provide independent monitoring (IM) services to individuals to whom GES has also sold equipment used for metering the thermal energy produced by geothermal sources, including Rolling Dog Farm.

GES sells geothermal metering equipment that is installed by another party. In Docket DE 14-237, GES requested a waiver of Puc 2505.09(g), so that it could serve as the IM for Rolling Dog Farm and other geothermal facilities. Puc 2505.09(g) provides that: "No... source producing useful thermal energy shall use an independent monitor... who sold or installed the renewable energy system and associated equipment."

GES based its waiver request on its expertise, its independence from the system installer, and on the fact that, although GES sold the meter, it was installed by an independent party. GES asserted it therefore could verify the meter is installed, operating, and performing accurately. For these reasons Staff recommended, and the Commission approved, a waiver of Puc 2505.09(g) as of December 10, 2014. At that time, Staff recommended that before the waiver expiration of two years, Rolling Dog Farm should either explain why GES should continue serving as the independent monitor or obtain another independent monitor.

¹ The waiver for Ground Energy Support, LLC (GES), to be both the seller of equipment and the Independent Monitor for geothermal systems was first addressed in DE 14-237 Rolling Dog Farm. Mr. Davis was approved as an Independent Monitor for geothermal systems in docket DE 14-201.

Staff recommends that Rolling Dog Farm should not have to explain why GES should continue to serve as its IM. GES is currently the only company that has applied for and been approved to be an IM for geothermal systems, and GES therefore currently serves as IM for all geothermal systems that have been approved for thermal RECs.

Based on its review of the GES rule waiver extension request, Staff recommends that the Commission extend the GES waiver of Puc 2505.09(g) for an additional two-year period or until such time, if any, as the Puc 2500 rules are modified to address the qualifications of independent monitors such that no waiver is required.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**
- DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.**