


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication


DATE: October 16, 2012

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Barbara Bernstein 
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: **DE 12-278**, Contoocook Hydro, LLC's Eligibility Request for the Hopkinton Hydro Project 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 
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney

Summary

On September 20, 2012, Contoocook Hydro, LLC (Contoocook Hydro) submitted an application requesting Class IV certification for the Hopkinton Hydro Project pursuant to RSA 362-F, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law and Chapter 272, Laws of 2012. Staff has reviewed the Contoocook Hydro certification request for Contoocook Hydro's .250 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 the Hopkinton Hydro Project as a Class IV renewable energy source effective September 20, 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 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 Contoocook Hydro, 113 Bartlett Road, Plainfield, VT 05667.
- 2) *The name and location of the facility:* The Hopkinton Hydro Project is located on the Contoocook River, in Contoocook, NH.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The facility's asset identification number is 919.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL GIS facility code has been verified as MSS 919.
- 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 Hopkinton Hydro Project is operated as a run-of-river facility that includes a 325-foot long and 11-foot high dam, a reservoir with negligible storage capacity; intake structures at the northern side of the dam, a powerhouse, tailrace and other appurtenances. The gross nameplate capacity generation is .250 MW of electricity. The project began commercial operation December 01, 1984.
- 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 5735-001), dated March 14, 1984, was provided for the Hopkinton Hydro Project.
- 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 Contoocook Hydro dated April 16, 2008 was provided.
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* The Hopkinton Hydro Project is interconnected with the PSNH electric distribution system.

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.

- 11) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* The Hopkinton Hydro Project is currently self-certified as a State of Maine Class II renewable resource.
- 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 Lori Barg, President, Contoocook Hydro 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 Timothy Sweatt; his telephone number is 603-724-0398.
- 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 Hopkinton Hydro Project 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 the Hopkinton Hydro Project as a Class IV renewable energy source effective September 20, 2012.