

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## Inter-Department Communication

**DATE:** March 6, 2014  
**AT (OFFICE):** NHPUC

**FROM:** Barbara Bernstein <sup>BB</sup>  
 Sustainable Energy Analyst

NHPUC 6 MAR '14 PM 2:45

**SUBJECT:** DE 14-038, Monument Farms Three Gen, LLC, Application for  
 Certification as a REC Eligible Facility  
**Staff Recommends that Eligibility be Granted**

**TO:** Chairman Amy L. Ignatius  
 Commissioner Robert R. Scott  
 Commissioner Martin P. Honigberg  
 Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary

**CC:** Jack K. Ruderman, Director of the Sustainable Energy Division <sup>JK</sup>  
 David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney

**Summary**

On February 6, 2014, the Commission received an application from Monument Farms Three Gen, LLC (Monument Farms) requesting Class I certification for their 0.155 megawatt (MW) animal waste-derived, methane-fueled electrical generating anaerobic digester (AD) pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law. Staff has reviewed Monument Farms' certification request for the AD and has determined that the project meets the eligibility requirements under RSA 362-F:4, I(e), as a Class I facility and complies with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends Commission approval for the Monument Farms' AD as a Class I renewable energy source effective as of February 6, 2014.

**Analysis**

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 Cliff Carpenter, Project Coordinator, Monument Farms, 2107 James Road, Weybridge, VT 05753.
- 2) *The name and location of the facility:* Monument Farms' AD is located at 2107 James Road, Weybridge, VT 05753.
- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* The facility's ISO New England asset identification number is 14867.

- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL-GIS facility code for Monument Farms' AD has been verified as NON 33712.
- 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.* Monument Farms' 0.155 MW AD project began commercial operation on September 13, 2011. Unprocessed cow manure is collected, along with milking parlor wastewater, in a receiving pit and pumped directly into the AD vessel. The mixture is heated to 100 degrees F. The next stage of the process allows methanogenic bacteria to convert volatile fatty acids and acetic acids into a biogas. The methane biogas collected from the first two stages is utilized as fuel for a combined heat and power generation set. After the twenty-day second stage of the AD system is completed, treated wastes flow into an effluent collection pit for further processing and eventual land application.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* The following regulatory approvals, permits and study results were provided with the application:
- a. State of Vermont Public Service Board, Amended Certificate of Public Good Issued Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248, Docket No. 7592, August 31, 2011;
  - b. State of Vermont Public Service Board, Amendment to Certificate of Public Good, Docket No. 7592, August 31, 2011;
  - c. A letter signed by Stephen W. Dvorak, P.E., President, GHD, Inc., dated September 14, 2010, stating that the flare for the Monument Farms Digester project will meet EPA 40 CFR, Part 60, Subpart A, 60.18 and will combust the biogas not consumed in the internal combustion engine;
  - d. A letter signed by Richard Valentinetti, Director, Air Pollution Control Division, State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, dated September 24, 2010, stating that the Monument Farms biogas-fueled generation set does not require an air permit;
  - e. A letter of support for the Monument Farms AD project from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, dated July 7, 2009;
  - f. The cover page from the GHD, Inc., Monument Farms Three Gen, LLC Anaerobic Digester Commissioning Report, dated September 13, 2011, stating that GHD certifies that the Monument Farms AD project has been installed and tested and is operating as intended for the generation of electricity; and
  - g. A letter from Andrew P. Seibel, P.E., Excel Engineering, Inc., dated July 26, 2010, certifying that the technical requirements for the digester and cogeneration system are adequate and appropriate for a project of the size and complexity and should satisfy Central Vermont Public Service Corporation's (CVPS) technical requirements for interconnection of a generating facility.
- 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 Generation Interconnection Agreement between CVPS and Monument Farms dated January 26, 2011 was provided.

- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* The Monument Farms AD generation project is interconnected with the CVPS 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.* The Monument Farms' AD generation project is certified as a Class I Renewable Energy Source as defined in Connecticut General Statutes §16-1(a)(26).
- 12) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.* Monument Farms provided an attachment that states that the facility's output is not verified by ISO-New England. The output is verified by Vermont Electric Power Producers (VEPP).
- 13) *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO-New England.* The electrical output from Monument Farms' AD generation project is reported to the GIS by VEPP, a certified third party meter reader. The generation facility is not a customer-sited source because its electrical output does not displace any consumption of the end-use customer.
- 14) *An affidavit by the owner attesting to the accuracy of the contents of the application.* An affidavit signed by Jonathon J. Rooney, Partner, Monument Farms was provided with the application.
- 15) *The name and telephone number of the facility's operator, if different from the owner.* The facility is owned and operated by three partners: Jonathan Rooney; Robert James; and, Peter James.
- 16) *Such other information as the applicant wishes to provide to assist in classification of the generating facility.* Monument Farms provided all the information needed to complete the review of its application.

#### **Recommendation**

Staff has reviewed the Monument Farms application for Class I certification of its AD generation project and can affirm it is complete pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 2500. Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Monument Farms AD generation project as a Class I renewable energy source, effective as of February 6, 2014.

**SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED**

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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  
EXECUTIVE 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.