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Please reply to: Concord Office

July 9, 2014

Ms. Debra A. Howland Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

RE: Docket No. 14-095, Proposed Amendments to Puc 2500 dated 4/10/2014

Dear Ms. Howland,

Below are our comments on behalf of Androscoggin Valley Hospital (AVH) with regard to the proposed revisions to Puc 2500 to incorporate useful thermal energy into the New Hampshire RPS program. Earlier this year, AVH installed a biomass-fired boiler to replace oil boilers as a source of steam heat in anticipation of the promulgation of these rules.

1. Air Testing and Reporting. The requirements for certification of biomass electric and biomass thermal projects in Puc 2505.04, in particular subsections (a) through (d), are written too broadly. In general, the commission's requirements for testing and certification for biomass useful thermal energy projects should incorporate the requirements of RSA 362-F and state or federal air permitting requirements applicable to the project, but should not require additional testing and reporting beyond those requirements. RSA 362-F distinguishes between biomass electric projects and biomass thermal projects, and between larger and smaller biomass thermal projects, placing different qualification and general reporting requirements on each. As drafted, subsections (a) through (d) of the draft rules, which may be appropriate for biomass electric projects but not for smaller thermal projects, appear to apply to all biomass electric and thermal projects and thus do not carry forward those distinctions.

We suggest that the requirements for certification of biomass thermal projects be placed in a different section or subsection of the rules than the requirements for certification of biomass electric projects. In addition, we suggest that the rules should not attempt to re-state department reporting requirements since these vary from unit to unit depending

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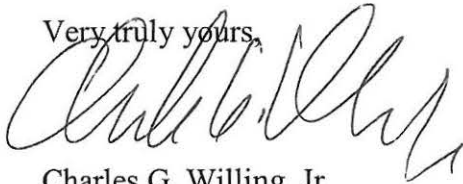
on the size of the unit. Instead, the rules could simply require a qualifying unit to comply with federal and state regulatory requirements applicable to the unit and the unit's air permit(s) in effect at the time, and to provide copies of any required filings to the commission as well as the department.

2. Independent Monitors. The proposed criteria for independent monitors who verify useful thermal energy for biomass projects at Puc 2505.09(d) are too narrow. Any engineer working in the environmental or energy field in New Hampshire should be eligible, not just professional engineers licensed in the state of New Hampshire. In addition, many of the professions listed under Puc 2505.09(c) for electric projects could also be listed under Puc 2505.09(d) for thermal projects.

We agree with the process by which prospective independent monitors will apply to the Commission for certification as independent monitors and the commission will keep a list of qualified IMs, though the application process could ask applicants to describe their qualifications whether or not they are licensed by the State.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. We commend Commission staff for their excellent work on the draft rules.

Very truly yours,



Charles G. Willing, Jr.