


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: August 26, 2014


AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

NHPUC 26AUG14PM4:38

FROM: Barbara Bernstein 
Sustainable Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: DE 14-189, Riverview Farm, 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 
David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney

Summary

On July 16, 2014, the Commission received an application filed by Brennan Punderson, PLLC (Brennan Punderson) on behalf of Michael and Denna Benjamin (Benjamin) of Riverview Farm. Brennan Punderson is requesting Class I certification for the Riverview Farm's 0.189 megawatt (MW) animal waste-derived, methane-fueled electrical generating anaerobic digester (AD).¹ Staff has reviewed the Riverview Farm 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 Riverview Farm AD project as a Class I renewable energy source, effective as of July 16, 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 applicants' names are Michael and/or Denna Benjamin. Their address is 4654 Middle Road, Franklin, Vermont 05457.
- 2) *The name and location of the facility:* The Riverview Farm AD project is located at 4420 Lake Road, Franklin, Vermont 05457.

¹ Pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard law.

- 3) *The ISO-New England asset identification number (if available).* An ISO New England asset identification number was not provided.
- 4) *The GIS facility code if available.* The NEPOOL-GIS facility code for the Riverview Farm AD project has been verified as NON 42525.
- 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.* Riverview Farm operates a farm-methane electrical generating facility which uses methane gas derived from the anaerobic digestion of animal waste and other agricultural products to fuel a biogas generator. The manure is processed in an on-site methane digester, and the methane gas is piped directly to the generator. There are two generators with a total gross nameplate generation capacity of 0.189 MW. The initial commercial operation date was December 27, 2013.
- 6) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 7) *All other necessary regulatory approvals, including any reviews, approvals or permits granted by the department.* Brennan Punderson provided copies of the following regulatory approvals:
- A State of Vermont Public Service Board Certificate of Public Good (CPG), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248(j), dated September 7, 2012, authorizing the installation and operation of a 189 kW agricultural-methane electric generation facility at the Riverview Farm, Docket No. 7886.
- 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.* The application included copies of the following generator interconnection documents:
- Generation Interconnection Agreement between Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Riverview Farm for the Riverview Farm Renewable Electric Generating Project, dated December 3, 2013;
 - Interconnection Technical Requirements between Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Riverview Farm for the Riverview Renewable Electric Generating Project; and
 - Generation Operation Protocol between Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Riverview Farm for the Riverview Renewable Electric Generating Project, dated December 3, 2013.
- 9) *(N/A – pertains to biomass sources).*
- 10) *A description of how the generation facility is connected to the distribution utility.* The Riverview Farm AD generation project is interconnected with Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s distribution system in the vicinity of 4420 Lake Road, Franklin, Vermont.

- 11) *A statement as to whether the facility has been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard and proof thereof.* The Riverview Farm AD generation project has not been certified under another non-federal jurisdiction's renewable portfolio standard.
- 12) *A statement as to whether the facility's output has been verified by ISO New England.* The electrical output from the Riverview Farm AD generation project is not verified by ISO New England. The output is verified by Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (VELCO), a certified third party meter reader.
- 13) *A description of how the facility's output is reported to the GIS if not verified by ISO-New England.* The electrical output of the Riverview Farm AD generation project is verified and reported to NEPOOL-GIS by VELCO, a certified third party meter reader. The Riverview Farm AD 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 Denna Benjamin, duly authorized agent of Riverview Farm, 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 the same as the facility owner.
- 16) *Such other information as the applicant wishes to provide to assist in classification of the generating facility.* Brennan Punderson provided all information needed to complete the review of the Riverview Farm application.

Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the Riverview Farm 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 Riverview Farm AD generation project as a Class I renewable energy source, effective as of July 16, 2014.

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
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.**