



GDS Associates, Inc.
Engineers and Consultants

RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES ELIGIBILITY
GDS TEAM RECOMMENDATION

For Consideration By The
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

(Version 10 – November 9th, 2016)

Date: 09/18/2020

Docket #: 5044

Application Received: 07/14/2020

Generation Unit Information:

Unit Name: Central Falls Hydroelectric Project

Unit Owner: Blackstone Hydro Associates, LLC

Unit Size (nameplate MW): 0.74 MW **Unit Size (max. demonstrated MW):** 0.74MW

Location (city, state): Central Falls, RI

Commercial Operation Date: ANTICIPATED DATE 12/31/2022

Type of Certification Requested:

- Standard Certification
 Prospective Certification (Declaratory Judgment)

Generation Type and Technology Information: *(check all that apply)*

- Repowered Project Incremental Generation Incremental Intermittent
 Customer-Sited or Off-Grid System (or associated aggregations)
 Generation Unit Located in Control Area Adjacent to NEPOOL: XXXX
 Solar Wind Ocean Thermal Geothermal Small Hydro
 Eligible Biomass Unlisted Biomass Biomass (fossil co-fired/multi-fuel) Fuel Cell (using an eligible renewable resource)

Recommendation:

- Approve (GIS Certification #: NON34498) Reject Public Hearing Needed
 Existing Renewable Energy Resource New Renewable Energy Resource
 Capable of Producing as Both Existing & New Renewable Energy Resource

Comments: Supplemental information was requested and received between 8/21/20 and 9/15/2020 providing an Appendix C, FERC re-license application documents, and clarification regarding anticipated increased annual production and total site efficiency of the repowered facility (verified 164% improvement) Evidence was also provided documenting plans to participate in the REGrowth program. Conditional approval should be granted with the following conditions: evidence of COD (currently targeted for 12/31/2022), evidence of the repowered project construction (showing complete removal of existing prime mover and replacement with new turbines and associated equipment) consistent with

specifications on approved application, evidence of actual project expenditures and compliance with at least 80% of tax base requirements, and updated excel spreadsheet showing anticipated energy output and percentage increase above pre-improvement conditions reflecting actual equipment and efficiencies installed.

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RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES ELIGIBILITY DETAILED
GDS TEAM APPLICATION REVIEW RESULTS

(Template V10 – November 9th, 2016)

Date of Final Review: 09/18/2020

Note: Depending on the type of application (project vintage, type, location, fuel source, etc.) not all of these data items will be applicable.

A. Renewable Energy Resource – Vintage (*see appropriate Sections of RES Regulations, Application Sections 3.1-3.9 and Appendix C*):

A.1 Generation Unit meets the definition of an Existing Renewable Energy Resource noted in RES Regulations Section 3.10 (first entering commercial operation before 12/31/1997).

Yes No N/A

Comments: This is a repowering of a facility that was operating under RI PUC eligible renewable energy resource facility certification number RI-3822-E12 as an eligible existing renewable energy resource (see Order #18998). Site first entered commercial operation with existing equipment 12/31/1983; anticipated date of commencement for repowered generation unit 12/31/2022.

A.2 Generation from the Unit meets one of the definitions of New Renewable Energy Resource in RES Regulations Section 3.23.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

A.2.1 If Generation Unit is at a new site, adequate documentation is provided to ensure that it first entered commercial operation after December 31, 1997.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

A.2.2 If Generation Unit is at the site of an Existing Renewable Energy Resource, adequate documentation is provided to ensure that it first entered commercial operation after December 31, 1997 and that the Existing Renewable Energy Resource has been retired and replaced with such new Generation Unit.

Yes No N/A

Comments: Attachment B – Project Description includes information of original construction, subsequent abandonment, repowering, and expiration of existing license in 2021.

A.2.3 If a Repowered Generation Unit (as defined in Section 3.29 of the RES Regulations – complete replacement of Prime Mover, material increase in efficiency or material decrease in air emissions, and demonstration that at least 80% of resulting tax basis of the entire Generation Unit’s plant and equipment is derived from capital expenditures made after December 31, 1997), adequate documentation is provided to ensure that the entire output of said unit first entered commercial operation after December 31, 1997 at the site of existing Generation Unit.

Yes No N/A

Comments: Attachment B – Project Description includes information of original construction, subsequent abandonment, repowering plans, and expiration of existing license in 2021. In addition, initial and supplemental documentation has been provided to recognize this facility as repowered generation, verified Rhode Island PUC – Required Excel Spreadsheet showing projected increase in annual power production and total site efficiency of 164%, and initial evidence of post-repowering project completion demonstrating more than 80% of resulting tax basis is derived from capital expenditures made after December 31, 1997.

A.2.4 If a multi-fuel facility, adequate documentation is provided to ensure that the renewable energy fraction of output from a Generation Unit in which an Eligible Biomass Fuel is first co-fired with fossil fuels after December 31, 1997.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

A.2.5 If Incremental Output from a non-Intermittent Existing Renewable Energy Resource, adequate documentation is provided to ensure that such output is attributable to capital investments for efficiency improvements or additions of capacity that were demonstrably completed after December 31, 1997 and that are sufficient to, were intended to, and can be demonstrated to increase annual electricity output in excess of ten percent (10%) over a Historical Generation Baseline as determined per Section 3.23.v of the RES Regulations.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

A.2.6 If Incremental Output from an Intermittent Existing Renewable Energy Resource, adequate documentation is provided to ensure that such output is attributable to capital investments for efficiency improvements or additions of capacity that were demonstrably completed after December 31, 1997 and that are sufficient to, were intended to, and can be demonstrated to increase annual electricity output in excess of ten percent (10%) over a Historical Generation Baseline as determined per Section 3.23.v of the RES Regulations.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B. Eligible Customer-Sited/Off-Grid Generation Facility:

(see appropriate Sections of RES Regulations, Application Section 5 and Appendix D)

Yes No N/A

B.1 Adequate documentation provided to ensure that NEPOOL GIS Certificates are created by way of an aggregation of Generation Units, physically located in the State of Rhode Island, using the same generation technology (see RES Regulations Section 6.8.i).

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2 Proposed Aggregation Agreement (as specified in Section 6.8.iii of the RES Regulations) is reasonable and complete.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.1 Aggregation Agreement includes name and contact information of the aggregator owner. (per Application Appendix D.2.a)

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.2 Aggregation Agreement includes name and contact information and adequate evidence of qualifications of the Verifier to ensure that the Verifier will accurately and efficiently carry out its duties. (per Appendix D.2.b)

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.2.1 Additional evidence of Verifier qualifications requested and provided. (per Appendix D.2.b)

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.3 Aggregation Agreement includes a declaration of any and all business or financial relations between aggregator and Verifier sufficient to ensure the independence of the Verifier in accordance with Section 6.8.iii.c of the RES Regulations (10% or more ownership in voting stock, or family officer/etc.). (per Appendix D.2.c)

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.3.1 Aggregation Agreement includes statement indicating under what circumstances the Verifier would not be considered sufficiently independent of the individual Generation Unit, and that Generation Units not meeting this independence test would not be allowed to participate in the aggregation. (per Appendix D.2.c.1)

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.4 Aggregation Agreement identifies the type of technology that will be included in the aggregation and provides a statement that the aggregation will include only individual Generation Units that meet all the requirements of the RES Regulations (physical location, vintage, etc.). (per Appendix D.2.d)

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.5 Aggregation Agreement provides an adequate description of proposed operating procedures for the aggregation, by which the Verifier shall ensure that individual Generation Units in the aggregation comply with all eligibility requirements and that the NEPOOL GIS Certificates created accurately represent generation (see Section 6.8.iii.e of the RES Regulations). (per Appendix D.2.e)

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.5.1 At a minimum the proposed operating procedures include reasonable and sufficient details for:

- Determining that the Generation Unit exists and is in compliance with RES Regulations and Commission-approved Aggregation Agreement.

Yes No N/A

- Meter reading procedure that allows the Verifier to verify these readings (manual or remote, via the aggregators own system or an independent system) in a manner fully compliant with NEPOOL GIS Operating Rules regarding metering.

Yes No N/A

- Specifying how generation data will be entered into NEPOOL GIS to create Certificates.

Yes No N/A

- Documenting a procedure to verify independently that the GIS Certificates created for the aggregation are consistent with the meter readings.

Yes No N/A

- Correcting discrepancies in NEPOOL GIS Certificate generation identified by the Verifier.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.6 Aggregation Agreement provides an adequate description of how the Verifier will be compensated for its services by the aggregator (in no instance is the Verifier is compensated in a manner linked to the number of NEPOOL GIS Certificates created by the aggregation). (per Appendix D.2.f)

Yes No N/A

Comments:

B.2.7 Aggregation Agreement provides an adequate confirmation and a description of how, no less frequently than quarterly, the Verifier will directly energy into the NEPOOL GIS the quantity of energy production in the applicable time period from each Generation Unit in the aggregation. The entry of generation data by the Verifier must be through an interface designated for this purpose by the NEPOOL GIS and in accordance with NEPOOL GIS Operating Rules applicable to Third-Party Meter Readers, and to which the Aggregation Owner shall not have access. (per Appendix

D.2.g)

Yes No N/A

Comments:

C. Generation Unit Location (see appropriate Sections of RES Regulations, Application Section 5 and Appendix E):

C.1 Generation Unit is located in NEPOOL Control Area.

Yes No

Coordinate Location: 41.89941°N/ 71.38977°W

C.1.1 Generation Unit is located in Rhode Island.

Yes No

Facility Address: 1485 High Street, Central Falls, RI 02863

C.2 Generation Unit is located in a control area adjacent to NEPOOL and, in accordance with Section 5.1.ii of the RES Regulations, will apply the associated Generation Attributes to the RES only to the extent that the energy produced by the Generation Unit is actually delivered into NEPOOL for consumption by New England customers.

Yes No

Comments:

C.2.1 Applicant acknowledges that satisfactory documentation (i.e., a report from neighboring Generation Attribute accounting system or an affidavit) must be provided to verify that Generation Attributes from a Generation Unit located in a control area adjacent to NEPOOL have not otherwise been, nor will be, sold, retired, claimed or represented as part of electrical energy output or sales, or used to satisfy obligations in jurisdictions other than Rhode Island (such assurances may consist of a report from a neighboring Generation Attribute accounting system or an affidavit from the Generation Unit).

Yes No N/A

Comments:

C.2.2 Applicant acknowledges that energy delivered from such Generation Unit into NEPOOL will be verified by the following:

- A unit-specific bilateral contract for the sale and delivery of such energy into NEPOOL
- Confirmation from ISO that the energy was actually settled in the ISO Market Settlement System, and
- Confirmation through the North American Reliability Council tagging system that the import of the energy into NEPOOL actually occurred, or such other requirements as the Commission deems appropriate

Yes No N/A

Comments:

D. Eligible Fuel Source – Solar, Wind, Ocean Thermal, Geothermal, or Fuel Cell (using an eligible renewable resource) (see appropriate Sections of RES Regulations and Application Section 2.4):

Yes No

Fuel Source: Hydro

E. Eligible Fuel Source – Small Hydro Facilities (see appropriate Sections of RES Regulations and Application Sections 2.5-2.6):

Yes No

E.1 Aggregate capacity does not exceed 30 MW.

Yes No N/A

Comments: Capacity is 0.74MW

E.2 If “New Renewable Energy Resource”, applicant acknowledges that facility does not involve any new impoundment or diversion of water with an average salinity of 20 parts per thousand or less.

Yes No N/A

Comments: This is a repowered facility, previously approved by the Rhode Island PUC as RI-3822-E12 (NEPOOL GIS NON34498).

F. Eligible Fuel Source – Biomass Facilities (see appropriate Sections of RES Regulations, Application Sections 2.7 and Appendix F):

Yes No

F.1 Generation Unit uses a biomass fuel source listed in RES Regulations Section 3.7.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.2 If source is other than RES Regulations Section 3.7-listed, said source has been designated as “clean wood.”

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.3 Fuel Source Plan can reasonably be expected to ensure that only Eligible Biomass Fuels will be used, and in the case of co-firing ensure that only that proportion of generation attributable to an Eligible Biomass Fuel be eligible.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.3.1 Fuel Source Plan specifies the type of Eligible Biomass Fuel to be used.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.3.2 If proposed fuel is “clean wood”, Fuel Source Plan provides adequate substantiation as to why the fuel source should be considered a clean wood.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.3.3 In the case of co-firing with a fossil fuel, Fuel Source Plan includes an adequate description of how such co-firing will occur and how the relative amounts of Eligible Biomass Fuel and fossil fuel will be measured, and how the eligible portion of generation output will be calculated (with such calculations based on the energy content of the proposed fuels used).

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.3.4 Fuel Source Plan includes an adequate description of what measures will be taken to ensure that only the Eligible Biomass Fuel is used (e.g., standard operating protocols or procedures that will be implemented at the Generating Unit, contracts with fuel suppliers, testing or sampling regimes).

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.3.5 Fuel Source Plan includes adequate assurance that the fuels stored at or brought to the Generation Unit will only be Eligible Biomass Fuels or fossil fuels used for co-firing.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.3.6 If proposed fuel includes recycled wood waste, Fuel Source Plan provides adequate documentation to ensure that such fuel meets the definition of Eligible Biomass Fuel and also meets material separation, storage, or handling standards acceptable to the Commission and furthermore consistent with the RES Regulations.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.3.7 Applicant certifies that it will file all reports and other information necessary to enable the Commission to verify the on-going eligibility of the renewable energy generators pursuant to Section 6.3 of the RES Regulations.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

F.3.8 A copy of the Generation Unit's Valid Air Permit or equivalent authorization has been attached and the effective date and issuing state or jurisdiction has been identified.

Yes No N/A

Comments:

G. Other Comments/Observations:

Supplemental information was requested and received between 8/14/20 and 9/15/2020 providing an Appendix C, FERC re-license application documents, and

clarification regarding anticipated increased annual production and total site efficiency of the repowered facility (verified 164% improvement) Evidence was also provided documenting plans to participate in the REGrowth program. Conditional approval should be granted with the following conditions: evidence of COD (currently targeted for 12/31/2022), evidence of the repowered project construction (showing complete removal of existing prime mover and replacement with new turbines and associated equipment) consistent with specifications on approved application, evidence of actual project expenditures and compliance with at least 80% of tax base requirements, and updated excel spreadsheet showing anticipated energy output and percentage increase above post-improvement conditions reflecting actual equipment and efficiencies installed.